



"Yes, Mr. President, everybody here on Wall Street is wearing a button...."



to the editor

Dear Editor,

It is quite important for the student body to evaluate the education that this University provides. Such an evaluation, however, cannot fully realize the academic quality of our education because it does not consider the attitude, aptitude and initiative of the students themselves.

The "Superpoll" (*Daily Nebraskan*, Dec. 10) seems to indicate a general acceptance by the students of the University's educational performance. This is an example of the malaise which seems to have swept this campus, as well as most of the nation.

Most students are neither ecstatic about the quality of UNL, nor disillusioned by its failures. They simply accept the education that is offered and call it a day.

The primary motive for attending UNL is not the academic excellence or programs here, but that the price is right and it is close to home. Those happen to be my motives as well.

This is to be expected at a large land-grant university, which is primarily interested in providing the populace ample opportunity to obtain higher education and in providing services to the state which supports it. Admission requirements are low, and students are not scrutinized for scholastic ability.

With such a shying away from scholarly pursuits, it seems almost natural that the initiative of students toward academic excellence is inconsistent and often absent. The prevalent attitude is one of merely getting by and getting through.

I am concerned with this atmosphere on campus and many student's apparent disregard for the purposes of seeking a college education. It is not to have a good time, to get away from home or to find a partner in matrimony. These needs can be provided elsewhere.

A college education should not be looked at with the obsessive lust for money, which gleams in the greedy eyes of some students.

A university is a resource center of knowledge. If it is used with any other intention than to learn, the time is wasted.

Our stay at this university is relatively short and is a transitory stop to educate and prepare us for the future. This is an opportunity not to be squandered. I urge each student to re-evaluate and analyze his academic goals during the Christmas break. Consider: What was learned this semester or any semester? Can my education be improved? Am I doing my part to make it a success.

Students may not attend UNL for its academic excellence, but that is no reason to deny ourselves a quality education.

Don Wesely

Dear Editor,

On the front page of the Dec. 5 edition of the *Daily Nebraskan*, Randy Gordon's story was headlined "Private cleaners save UNL money, ease labor shortage."

The story concerned UNL's use of private contract cleaners to do the custodial work in Nebraska Hall. According to Gordon the part-time custodians hired by the contractor at Nebraska Hall start at \$1.60 to \$1.80 an hour and earn up to \$2.50 an hour.

Gordon's story also quotes Asst. Director of Business and Finance Ron Wright as saying the contractors were hired because UNL couldn't fill all the custodial openings that it had.

Wright is quoted as saying "we (the University) went out and bought labor that we couldn't otherwise obtain."

Wright did not mention the unjustly low wages and inadequate benefits that don't attract lots of applicants for UNL custodial positions. Rather than honestly looking at the exploitation of UNL workers, Ron Wright prefers to go out and "buy" even cheaper laborers. How dare Ron Wright and UNL "buy" labor—people for sale, people bought, and bought cheaply, too? What gall, what greed!

A more truthful, more courageous headline would have been, "Private cleaners exploit laborers, undercut already exploited UNL custodians."

When's the *Daily Nebraskan* going to stop doing P.R. for the UNL administration and begin to help organize for the democratic control of the University (and elsewhere, for that matter).

I must say that some of the reporting and editorials in the *Daily Nebraskan* are admirable, but, more often than not, I'm deeply disappointed in the sterile (so-called "objective") journalism of the *Daily Nebraskan*. It overlooks people crying for help. It's terribly boring also.

Ron Kurtenbach
UNL Custodian

Dear Editor,

I don't wish to garner the ire of my fellow inmates or any civilian who may choose to read this. My only wish is to clear my mind during this holiday season and possibly, to cause someone, somewhere, to ponder the human race.

Much remains before we shall have peace on earth and good will towards all mankind. Man's individual attitudes and goals must be modified. In turn, our social and political systems must advance along with the developments of cultural and scientific technology.

Man's brain and the consequences of its use make him unique among all animals. Although man's hands and intellect have endowed in him an ability to conceive and create, man also has become subject to certain infirmities—specifically, moral weakness.

His guilt becomes tolerable if it is shared with others, or if the blame for an event of events is distributed and leaves him somewhat untouched.

I believe each and every one of us, black and white, as fellow brothers, must study ourselves and the reasons for our aggressions, then plan means of controlling our excesses.

We must deflect our hostile desires into more productive and creative channels.

Together we can, and must create a more attractive world by giving up certain selfish objectives for the good of mankind.

To know oneself, and one's fellow man, is a great aid, yet more is needed.

We must learn each others ways and eccentricities. We must put this knowledge together in an orderly way toward a definite goal.

If each of us, within ourselves, can maintain an attitude of love and action based upon a benevolent theme, we shall be fulfilling our obligations to society. Peace on earth, good will toward man.

Richard Christensen
#23553 Waupun, Wisc.

Committee urges halt to non-UFW purchases

Editor's note: The Lincoln Boycott Committee organized to support the United Farm Worker boycott. This opinion was written by three of its members—Sam Zeleski, Harry Richardson, and Mona Usasz.

Picket lines are back in place in the United Farm Worker (UFW) struggle against California growers. Cesar Chavez, head of the UFW, contends that the nationwide boycott in support of the UFW effort "is stronger now than at any previous time".

The Lincoln Boycott Committee urges Nebraskans to stop buying Gallo, Franzia and other wines bottled in Rippon and Modesto, Calif. We also encourage boycotting table grapes and iceberg head lettuce.

Don't be comfortable with your grocer's claim that he supplies "union" lettuce. We want to be sure which union we are supporting. Remember "Black Eagle" or United Farm Workers - AFL-CIO, if you want to check on your grocer's claim.

guest opinion

The farmworker struggle began in May 1965 with a strike in California's Coachella grape fields.

That confrontation resulted in the growers signing a contract with the UFW calling for a minimum hourly wage of \$1.75 and a union hiring hall. The key point to hiring halls is to protect workers' hard-won rights under the contracts.

Otherwise, the labor contractors take a large percentage of the workers' pay for "finding" them jobs, transportation and various other "services."

This was the first farm labor contract negotiated in the continental United States. A few elections were held that year and the UFW won, but the struggle continued until 1970. Then, with the aid of the boycott, the United Farm Workers gained grape and wine contracts with all the major growers.

Later the UFW lost the lettuce and grape contracts to the Teamsters Union. Probably the major disadvantage of the Teamsters Union is the almost complete lack of representation of the workers themselves in the decision making processes and the signing of contracts.

Another fault is the Teamsters tendency toward stormtrooper tactics in conjunction with the Kern County Sheriff's Dept. and other law enforcement personnel. Two UFW strikers have been murdered in confrontations that Teamsters "goons" have turned into violent outbursts.

The boycott is succeeding, especially on Gallo wines. Their sales are down 16 to 19 per cent, according to the May 16 *Wall Street Journal*. The California Department of Agriculture also has said Gallo is being hurt by the boycott. Meanwhile, the sale of UFW wines, such as Italian Swiss Colony, Almaden and Christian Brothers is growing.

In the future we hope that UNL students help the farmworkers by forming a support committee to educate and involve other students. Those interested in learning more about the farmworker struggle are invited to a workshop at 1:00 p.m. on Monday in the basement of UMHE—Commonplace, 333 N. 14th St.