

Budget ax should cut fingers, toes— not neck



There is little to say about salary levels at NU that has not already been said. Salaries are low, so low that some faculty members are being lured away to universities where the salaries, if not the pastures, are greener.

That little has been done about salaries may be because the wrong people have been doing the talking. Faculty members have for too long let the administration and an occasional *Daily Nebraskan* editorial speak in their favor. It's time they let the Legislature know they are more than harmless lines in a budget that can be cut at will.

As if the governor and the fiscal staff weren't enough, it seems some senators must also cross the line from fiscal responsibility to educational suicide. To hear Lincoln Sen. Harold Simpson describe NU's Areas of Excellence program as "just window dressing" is to hear, perhaps, the first death knoll for quality education in this state.

The Areas of Excellence program is a well-conceived means of using a little money to help a few departments make the big jump from good to excellent. When the Legislature approved the concept, it made a great leap forward. Now it is trying to take two steps back.

If this week's Appropriations Committee hearings on the NU budget have revealed anything, it is that, when it comes to financing

education, the governor is bad and the legislative fiscal analysts are worse.

Or maybe they just appear that way. The governor has recommended a \$71.6 million budget for NU; the legislative fiscal staff is seeking \$74.3 million. Exon's budget proposal is in a lump sum; the fiscal analysts have itemized theirs.

The result is that Exon has the advantage of cutting NU's \$86.3 million request without telling anyone who got cut—a move that is, if not constitutional, at least clearly political.

The fiscal analysts, on the other hand, have had to reveal where the ax fell: no \$1.2 million to improve general UNL professional staff salaries, no \$296,000 to bring the agriculture faculty up to third in the Big 8, no \$480,321 to designate five new areas of excellence, no \$352,934 to bring UNO faculty into parity with other Big 8 schools.

The ax, it seems, always falls right where it hurts most.

The Appropriations Committee, during its deliberations on NU's budget, should treat faculty salaries, the Areas of Excellence program and the SUN program as virtually sacred territory. The ax, when it falls, should hit something besides vital nerves.

Wes Albers



to the editor



Dear editor:

The Concerned Pro-Life Constitution has been ratified by ASUN. We are now a recognized student organization.

Our group is based on the pro-life philosophy of a concern for all life, and its protection. We are drawn together by a common concern for human beings and their welfare.

This group has been formed to take action for the sake of people. We encourage student involvement.

The Concerned Pro-Life Students

Vending machine questions

Dear editor:

Subject: Nebraska Union vending machine policies.

Many people I know who frequent the Union are asking the questions privately. I would like to ask them publicly and ask for a reply from the appropriate party/parties.

1. Why was the chocolate removed from the 10-cent machine in the South Crib? Is it to force the chocolate drinkers to spend 25 cents in the Crib for almost the same size cup?

2. Why is the 10-cent coffee and tea vender set so that it gives about two-thirds of a cup?

3. Since the Crib is closed Saturday and Sunday, why is there no hot water outlet for tea drinkers who come here to study on weekends? (There used to be, in years past.) Why is hot water 10 cents for a two-thirds cup (where the hot chocolate used to be)?

4. Why are cigarettes 55 cents in the South Crib machine?

One fact should be realized in considering the four questions: the private, profit-making company that has machines in places like Andrews and Oldfather sells full cups of coffee and chocolate for a dime and cigarettes for fifty cents.

Why does a private company do these things for us better than our own Nebraska Union? Whose decisions are nickle-and-diming us out of more than the commercial company (name please)? Any chance our (?) Union will match the competition in price and service? Whose lethargy (or larceny) has allowed the machine to only partially fill cups, despite numerous complaints? Why should complaints have to be aired to the public forum as an alternative to their being ignored?

Answer please.

Broke and Thirsty

ASUN—excercise in futility

It's time once again for the "exercise in futility." Candidates have been selected. Petitions have circulated. Students are preparing to elect the "campus leaders" for the 1975-76 school term.

This year, as in the past, a number of assorted people believe themselves capable of representing the student body.

From the dreamer to the prankster, everybody enters the race. The only thing these people hold in common, besides being candidates, is that they are all wasting their time.

John, for one, is a starry-eyed idealist who believes something can be done to improve the sorry state of student government. At night, he lies awake, dreaming about taking on the administration and the regents.

He envisions the student body, under his guidance, throwing off the yoke of oppression and claiming their rights and powers.

"If only we try," he says, "we can make student government effective and worthwhile."

Unfortunately, John's dreams fast become nightmares. After being elected, he finds out there is no such thing as "effective and worthwhile" student government. Instead, John spends his time at boring and worthless meetings, deciding whether there are enough toilets in the Nebraska Union.

Mary is running for the ASUN Senate because she is popular. Her sorority friends have urged her to enter the race. They admire and look up to Mary. She knows something about everything—except student government.

Mary thinks it would look good on her record if she were elected senator. If you ask her what a senator is or does, she is hard-pressed for an answer. Mary is probably better off if she stays at home and does some knitting.

Steve is the jokester. He belongs to one of the many nonsensical parties that spring up at election time. To Steve, the election is a farce and nothing more.

Candidates such as Steve provide us with

laughs and entertainment. They turn a dull and sterile election into a circus. The jokesters, if they don't become too serious, are the most credible candidates of all.

And after the election? Well, John becomes disillusioned when he realizes his idealism will never become reality. Thus, he stops attending the senate meetings.

Mary improved her "record." As for the senate, she's forgotten it. Nobody told her that she would have to go to any meetings or do any work.

joe dreesen

smiling grimly

And Steve—if he did, by some miracle, get elected—is unlikely to treat student government any differently than he did before the election. A farce it was and a farce it still is.

And so it goes every year. A few students make it to the polls and elect one or more of the above. Most of the students wisely stay home.

The non-voters, if they're not just lazy, realize the worthlessness of it all. To them, it doesn't make sense to elect somebody to do nothing. And nothing is what the ASUN Senate usually does.

So that nobody will think student government is all that hopeless, there is one worthwhile thing the senate is capable of doing.

At their next meeting, if they can get a quorum, the senators should all resign. Disband the senate and leave its trivial and drudging tasks to the administration and the regents.