

# editorial/opinion

## Salary decision double-edged for NU

A federal appeals court in St. Louis has ruled against the university for paying male employees less than female employees. The decision seems double-edged.

The ruling Tuesday by the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals stated the university acted illegally when it developed a special salary schedule for female employees in the colleges of Agriculture and Home Economics in 1972.

The revised pay schedule was part of an effort by NU to comply with the federal Civil Rights Act. Male employees' pay was not considered in this effort, apparently only because the minority whose equality was at issue here was women.

The salary schedule was complicated, but when it was completed, its makers were confident it would satisfy the provisions of the Civil Rights Act.

What no one seems to have foreseen was that the new pay scale, while complying with one federal law, might violate another.

After the schedule went into effect, extension agriculturalist A. Neil Dawes of Fairbury filed suit against the university on behalf of extension employees at the College of Agriculture. Dawes' suit claimed the salary schedule violated the Fair Labor Standards Act because it was applied only to women.

A U.S. District Court judge in Lincoln decided the suit in favor of the university, but the appellate court overturned that decision on grounds that, under the new schedule, males with equal education and experience were being paid less than the minimum salary for females.

If the university chooses to pursue the matter, it may find itself in what one attorney for NU called "a legal never-never land."

Apparently no happy medium has been found between the two federal acts in this case, so if NU complies with one law, it violates the other.

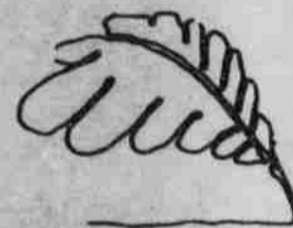
Both the university's original effort to compensate women, and the Circuit Court's decision that men were being discriminated against, are commendable. What is working against both sexes in this instance is the law.

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Double takes: The Omaha World-Herald reports that a national research group has rated Boston's mass transit system the best in the nation. That's quite an achievement for the city where "bus" is a dirty word.

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### to the editor



Dear editor,  
Even in this hour of enlightenment, I have blundered.

To all who received invitations to the official release of the 1975-76 Builders' Calendar and took offense at the phrase, "Gentlemen of the press are invited," as chairman of the Calendar and Directory Committee of Builders, publisher of both the calendar and the invitations, I take full responsibility for our hasty choice of words and would like to take this opportunity to apologize.

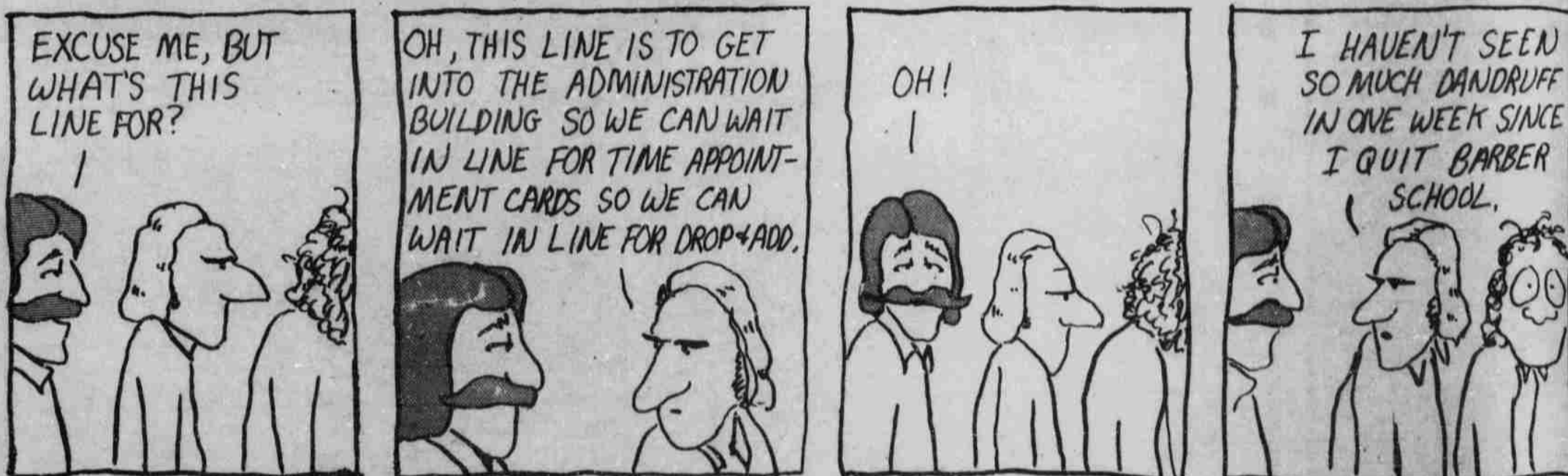
Having no good excuse, I offer none. I might point out, however, that Builders is as endowed with women as is the Daily Nebraskan. I wouldn't like to think that our PR sheet was announcing our possible close-mindedness toward women of the press, but rather was announcing that Builders has once again made available a pocket calendar to our campus.

Clay Statmore

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes letters to the editor and guest opinions. Choices of material published will be based on timeliness and originality. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, but may be published under a pen name if requested. Guest opinions should be typed, triple-spaced, on nonerasable paper. They should be accompanied by the author's name, class standing and major, or occupation. All material submitted to these pages is subject to editing and condensation, and cannot be returned to the writer.

## RALPH

by *R. Wheeler*



## innocent bystander

### Diseases renamed, effects still the same



By Arthur Hoppe

"Good evening, sir," said the young man on my doorstep, holding forth a can. "I am collecting for The Mothers' March on Tertiary Cineraria."

"Tertiary cineraria?" I asked suspiciously. "What are the symptoms?"

"What've you got?" he said.

"Well," I said, "I've got an aching back, a stiff shoulder and an itchy elbow."

"By George, you've got it!" he said, happily rattling his can. "Anything you'd care to give..."

"Hold it," I said. "Tertiary cineraria is a new one on me."

"Of course," he said with dignity. "Do you think I'd be collecting for any old disease? They just invented it."

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I inquired politely as to what fiends would go around inventing new diseases.

"Please," he said, offended, "you are speaking of half the pioneers of modern medical science."

"I thought pioneers were supposed to be discovering cures not diseases."

"That's the other half," he said. "One half discovers cures for old diseases, the other half does its part by discovering new diseases to replace them with. For example, that's how we cured the common cold."

"We did?"

"Where have you been?" he said. "Have you run into anyone lately with a common cold? Not a chance. Precisely 98.2 per cent of those who used to have a cold now have a virus. The other 1.8 per cent suffer from allergic reactions. Or take the gripe."

"No, thank you."

"Don't worry, we cured the gripe. It wasn't easy. But after years of painstaking research we managed to replace it with 17 different kinds of influenza."

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"Amazing!"

"Oh, that's nothing. Thanks to smashing breakthroughs, we've also cured sore throats, yellow jaundice and tired blood, all of which once plagued millions. Today, we have instead strep throats, hepatitis and mononucleosis, all of which now plague millions."

"It's good to know our scientists are keeping up."

"Actually," he said proudly, "they're drawing further and further ahead. Fifty years ago, who ever worried about emphysema, high cholesterol or psychosomatic dermatological dysfunctions?"

"Not I," I said.

"Of course, we've lost a few, like infantile paralysis which we replaced with polio which we unfortunately cured. That's why I'm forced to collect for tertiary cineraria."

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I asked what it replaced. "In your case," he said, "arthritis, bursitis and the heartbreak of psoriasis."

"It is fatal?" I inquired nervously.

"Death is inevitable," he said gloomily, "sooner or later."

"I'll give!" I cried. "I'll give! But, tell me, is it widespread?"

"It will be," he said confidently, "as soon as we can crank out enough press releases." (Copyright Chronicle Publishing Co. 1975)