

editorial

NU budget—you get what you pay for

Which of us... is to do the hard and dirty work for the rest—and for what pay? Who is to do the pleasant and clean work, and for what pay?

John Ruskin

Pass the hat for your credit's sake, and pay—pay—pay!

Rudyard Kipling

You get what you pay for.

Ancient Axiom

In some cases, as with many University of Nebraska employes, for example, you get more than you pay for. But NU employes, be they faculty members, administrators or staff, should not be doing champagne work for beer salaries.

Students who are supporting themselves should not be spending their inflation-era wages for a deflated education.

Teachers should not be facing too-full classes with too-little teaching material and supplies.

Researchers should not be exploring exciting new fields in old, unsafe buildings or with ancient-history equipment.

Monday we cited Gov. J. James Exon's sentiment that NU should be competitive with other Big 8 institutions. We took issue with that, saying this school should top the Big 8 in all areas.

But that takes money, and NU's current financial resources are combining with other factors to push us closer to the bottom than to the top.

Determining the areas covered in the ranking takes some guesswork, but we'd include salaries, equipment and buildings, as well as such hard-to-define areas as academic atmosphere, chance for advancement, professional standing and prestige.

Yet every year at budget time, NU's corners get cut a bit more; the Legislature puts "cash ceilings" on as many parts of the budget as possible, and Exon walls in the rest of it with line-item mortar.

What Exon, the legislators and the state's taxpayers don't seem to realize is that the quality of NU directly affects almost every facet of Nebraska life: agriculture, environment, urban development, criminal justice, social services, the arts, professional communities... all of these and many more depend on NU.

Nebraska now is rated high in various surveys examining standards of living throughout the United States. That rating is being endangered by the state's miserly approach toward the university budget.

All members of the NU community should begin lobbying now for higher priority to be placed on the university's next budget request to the state.

If we do not, we may have to change our slogan to, "Nebraska—The Average Life."

Rebecca Brite

vine street irregulars Law and graduate students share library policy plight



By Michael Hilligoss

Yossarian suggested that we meet for lunch at the Palms, where he expected, from all reports, that a tasty meal would be expertly served in a genuinely charming atmosphere.

Although the service was terrible and the fried rice a disaster, the delightful decor of the place did inspire Yossarian to dash off the following note of greeting to his comrades in the College of Law while we waited 25 minutes for our orders to be taken:
Dear Law Students,

Welcome to the library system at the University of Nebraska. As students within the university library family, you are now learning what most graduate students at UNL have always known—that the library system cares little about your particular needs or study habits.

It was warming to see at least a token demonstration of your dissatisfaction with the change in library policy which drastically affects your study and research patterns. You made enough noise that even the Lincoln Journal took notice and sided with your cause.

The Journal was at a loss to understand how a library system could deny the requests of students who wanted only the opportunity to study and do research.

The Journal may not understand, but those of us who have lived with the UNL libraries as graduate students were not surprised.

It is unfortunate that our library system does not plan for or take notice of variations in user needs.

The opposite attitude is recommended in a Purdue University study by Philip Rzasa and John Moriarty which appeared in the November 1970 issue of College and Research Libraries.

In their study, "Types and Needs of Academic Library Users," the authors suggest, "It is desirable to identify functionally different user groups, not only to gauge library effectiveness but also to guide its programs."

Although graduate students and undergraduates now are lumped together in the UNL library lending code, there is evidence that these two groups have quite different library needs, just as law students have different needs.

In the study cited above, the authors reported, "The graduate student group and the undergraduates were not homogeneous with respect to their reasons for coming to the library, nor in the library materials which they used."

What is needed at UNL is the identification of special user groups combined with imaginative and comprehensive planning for their needs.

The VSI is sympathetic with your library plight and lends its support. You are to be congratulated for bringing the issue of special library needs to the surface.

However, we hope the special requirements of the much larger group of 3,600 graduate students are not forgotten during the search for a solution to the needs of 470 law students.

Keep up the good fight! And again, welcome to the system.

Yossarian

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.



guest opinion

"Majority's" sense of humor questioned

Editor's note: Art Alexander, a former ASUN senator and Abel Hall student assistant, is a senior in political science and English.

I wonder if people in this country have learned anything in the last 15 years. I speak to Jim Fisher and all those who consider themselves part of his "majority" (letter to the editor, Sept. 20).

Many people seem to think black people were "paranoid" and "hypersensitive" in their reactions to Ron Wheeler's Sept. 11 cartoon. I disagree.

While it is true that many other groups have been stereotyped in "Ralph," it must also be noted that they had every right and opportunity to respond to the jibes.

Black people responded because, unlike with the other

cartoons, there is justifiable concern over whether the Sept. 11 "Ralph" was a blanket racial stereotype or the stereotyping of a segment of the black population.

Unfortunately, the benefit of the doubt is not easily given. Two centuries of wholesale abuse, often bordering on genocide, are at least 200 good reasons not to give anyone the benefit of the doubt. It was not paranoia, but reasonable fear, that prompted the black community's response to Wheeler's cartoon.

The fact that the concerns of black people (as voiced both peacefully and violently throughout the sixties and seventies) have seemingly gone unrecognized, misunderstood or ignored by Fisher and his "majority" attests to the continued misconception that the problem is a black problem.

It is a problem with the white community and will continue to be so as long as the white community deludes itself about its black racist tendencies.

Fisher's comment about what minorities would "do well" to stop doing had the disturbing air of a threat about it. It is my belief that this country was founded by a "vociferous" minority which didn't seem to think that becoming a part of the majority was a "positive goal." To me, Ms. Brite's apology was indicative of the courage to admit an error in judgment. I guess Fisher can't identify with that.

Perhaps I lack a "keen sense of humor," but I can laugh at myself. My question is whether Fisher is laughing with me or at me. I fear that, at best, he and his majority don't really know.