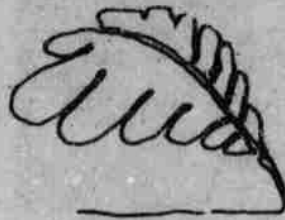


# editorial

## to the editor



Dear editor:

In response to the letter of Oct. 22, concerning the "no-show senator," I believe it is only fair to clear ASUN's name.

The intent of senator speaking engagements, started by this year's senate, is to reach students who are being represented by the senate and explain what it is doing.

The mistake I made as the "no-show" senator was unintentional and a slip for which I am personally responsible; I would like to apologize for this action.

However, to label all senators as "no-show" and apathetic is a grave error. Most senators have spent many hours this year reaching out to the student body. I have yet to see anyone attempt to evaluate what students think about this program.

If there is apathy on the senate, I have yet to see a display of it this year. ASUN has been a very active body, engaging in much more than what has appeared in the Daily Nebraskan.

Did you know, for instance, that the ASUN Senate has been striving for more student input and more responsibility to the student in such areas as the health center, student fees and their distribution, and the book store?

Did you realize the senate has worked on the inter-campus bus fee, and is trying to strive for policies to insure academic excellence at UNL?

The average person could probably not even name one, much less all, of the senators from their college, and where does that fault lie?

I apologize for my mistake, but in turn believe due credit should be given for what ASUN has undertaken this year. Further, I would like to see more involvement by the rest of the student body.

If the tables may be turned, I would like to suggest that any apathy in individual senators might arise from the lack of interest shown in ASUN elections.

If anyone wants to become involved, there are many committee openings. The ASUN office, on the third floor of the Nebraska Union, is open to everyone and will gladly accept committee applications.

Senate meetings are open to all and are held at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday evenings, in the Union. We would be glad to see anyone on matters of interest to the student body, and we urge your participation.

Scott Cook  
ASUN Senator

### Gay and glad

Dear editor,

To the Honkie Taxpayer:

Character? Morals? Brains? Stability? Guts?

It seemed in your letter in Thursday's Daily Nebraskan that you were professing to possess these traits in comparison to the perversity, sick-mindedness, lack of character and immorality that you apparently believe are traits inherent to all homosexuals.

Well, I am a "homo," as you call it, as are many of my friends. To my friends, myself and anyone else possessing character, morals, brains, stability and guts, it's evident that you and those who think like you have none of these virtues. Your lack of such virtues is evidenced in your attitude towards homosexuals.

Without a doubt, hate (lack of love), ignorance (lack of brains), lack of character and fear make you feel this way. These are the basis for prejudice, something I think is immoral. (And what could be more perverse than hatred?)

Even instability is a cause of prejudice. The most vocal opponents of homosexuality usually feel threatened (afraid) and/or are unsure of their own masculinity or femininity.

I'm gay and I'm glad, as I probably would not have the awareness, sensitivity and sense of fairness that I have today had I grown up under different circumstances. You see, we gays have had to associate with people like you all of our lives, so we've experienced hate, prejudice and unfairness from the inside.

Any intelligent person can tell you that what someone does in bed is not nearly as important in life as that person's attitude toward, and how he treats, his fellow man. I don't need any help. Thank you.

A fellow taxpayer

Confidential note to Wes, Tom, Loren, John and Ed, re: tables. It is our policy not to print nonsense letters, especially when they are addressed: "Dear Sir."

More letters, p. 5

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.

# Lobby against budget cut

Perhaps we are belaboring the subject, but we would like to stress again the need for members of the university community to lobby this week against legislative action that might cut \$2.3 million out of the University of Nebraska's budget.

The ASUN Government Liaison Committee tonight is sponsoring a meeting to organize such lobbying efforts. That meeting should have bumper attendance.

Several days ago ASUN sponsored an information session about the Sherdell Lewis shooting that was attended by more than 500 persons. Twice that number, at least, should be at tonight's meeting.

The Lewis case touches students only marginally, through principle and precedent. Cutting the NU budget would affect students directly, perhaps dramatically, in all parts of their lives—in the classroom, in residence halls, at recreation, at studying.

Concern about the situation is not enough. Student concern about the university budget will not change a senator's mind when a vote is called

for on cutting the budget.

Students who are concerned about the university must act on their concern.

Attend that meeting tonight in the Nebraska Union.

\* \* \*

A decision is expected this week on the life of Karen Anne Quinlan, the 21-year-old Roxbury, N.J., woman whose parents have petitioned in court for the right to disconnect the respirator that has kept her alive—with only remnants of a human brain—for six months.

If Superior Court Judge Robert Muir decides to deny the parents' petition, he closes the door on "judicious neglect," the already existing practice of removing life support from hopeless patients, with their relatives' consent.

He also mandates the state of New Jersey, through Medicaid funds, to continue paying the expensive maintenance of a body that can no longer be said to contain the essence of a human being.

Rebecca Brite

### Guest Opinions: Money matters

## NU funding efforts need support

Editor's note: Don Wesely is chairman of the UNL Fees Allocation Board and president of the Nebraska University Public Interest Research Group.

By Don Wesely  
Problem: Money—what this university and state run on and what our state government seems to be running out of.

Result: Gov. Exon called a special session of the Legislature to deal with Nebraska's cash flow problems.

Solution: Cut three per cent across the board from state tax budgets.

If the Unicameral adopts that solution, the University of Nebraska must pare away a total of \$2.3 million.

What can students expect? No one really knows yet, but options include curtailment of summer session programs, delayed opening of newly-constructed buildings, and other service and program cutbacks.

What can faculty members expect? Some could be discontinued and others have pay increases withheld. Does that bother you? It should. We all lose when the university loses money.

Among the many problems with which this university must deal is its funding. Yet as the university works through the budget process requesting state support, it does so without benefit of good public relations.

The university attempts to defend its budget request before cost-conscious legislators, but does not take time to justify its fiscal needs to Nebraskans.

University administrators stand before guardians of the public purse without encouraging students and faculty members to stand alongside, demanding the funding needed to provide quality education at NU.

Always a concern of mine is our quest for mediocrity.

## FAB contradicts American way

Editor's note: Jim Wefso, a student in the College of Business Administration, is an ASUN senator.

By Jim Wefso  
We are fast approaching our nation's 200th birthday. We should examine the beliefs of our founding fathers and the principles that lie at the base of our system of government.

One of these principles is taxation.

Americans elect executives and representatives to run their government. Americans pay taxes, which then are (or are supposed to be) spent as our representatives decide. It is a simple democratic principle used by all levels of American government.

More than 200 years ago, Boston citizens demonstrated over the issue of taxation without representation.

One wonders if Tom Paine would be pleased by the way UNL allocates its taxes—student fees. He might see our Fees Allocation Board as disregarding American principles.

What would Paine see if he attended an FAB meeting? First, representatives of the university administration whom he would find out were elected by the vice chancellor for student affairs.

Second, Paine would see some faculty members, and after questioning their qualifications, he would discover they were recommended by the Faculty Senate. To whom were they recommended? The vice chancellor for student affairs.

Finally, Paine would see some students on the board, who also were appointed—by five major fee users or by the Council on Student Life. They were not elected by the students.

Old Tom still might not be too concerned about the FAB, because he would assume that the board's decisions

are subject to final approval by elected members of the student senate.

Not so. Paine would be very disappointed.

The FAB contradicts the American way. Therefore it should be abolished. But what should take its place?

Not the abolition of student fees themselves. It is also the American way for citizens to pay taxes for services that may not directly benefit them.

But student fees allocation should be under an elected board, or, if not, subject to final approval by an elected body.

If the allocation of student fees were controlled by the elected student senate, two things could be accomplished.

First, students would have more say on how their fees are spent, because they could (in the American way) elect students who best represent their views.

Second, valid concerns about the senate's power, usefulness and credibility could be alleviated by giving the senate an important responsibility.

Can it be done? Can the same group who can't decide how to pay for newsletters or choose the Yell Squad allocate student fees?

The University of Colorado student senate has allocated their student fees for some time now, and the Rocky Mountains haven't crumbled. Details need to be considered, but the basic idea is clear. Students should be able to elect the persons who spend their money.

Anyone concerned about this matter should make his or her opinions known to Ken Bader, vice chancellor for student affairs, or to the ASUN executives or senators, or to the American Bicentennial Commission.