

editorial

guest opinion

Senators protest decision on Center

Editor's note: The following guest opinion was written by ASUN Senators Frank Thompson and Robert Simonson, both graduate students in economics.

While the Daily Nebraskan reserves its opinion on the matters discussed by Thompson and Simonson, we encourage students to respond on the issue, either by signing ASUN's petition against construction in the Nebraska Union, or by voicing approval of the construction to Union officials.

For more information on the proposed construction project discussed below, see the Daily Nebraskan, Nov. 20, page 5 ("ASUN asks hold on construction").

By A. Frank Thompson Jr. and R.D. Simonson

Are you in favor of the construction plans scheduled to take place in the Nebraska Union during Christmas break?

If you were unaware that construction will occur in your Union, you have been deprived of your right to be aware of such construction and to voice your opinion on management of your student fees and alterations of your Union.

On Nov. 12, 1975, plans for construction of a Campus Assistance Center in the Union were presented to the ASUN Senate for the first time. Construction will replace the existing TV lounge area with the Campus Assistance Center, which would offer services similar to Outreach, Helpline and the Ombudsman.

The center will offer students no new services, but will act as central "walk in" office for existing services offered by the above organizations. However, the necessity for, and location of, the center have never been subjected to the approval of UNL students.

On Nov. 19, Union Director Allen H. Bennett appeared before ASUN to answer questions concerning the center's construction.

When asked whether this project was brought before the Union Board, he said it had been discussed and approved in a May meeting of the board.

However, he added, minutes of that meeting had been lost. In a hastily called meeting Nov. 19, the Union Board reaffirmed Bennett's position to continue with plans to build. Due to the haste with which the meeting was called, the Daily Nebraskan was unable to print its agenda. This information comes from the Daily Nebraskan.

In the first instance there is at least one Union Board member, who sat on the board in May, who claims the project was discussed but never voted on in May. In the second case the student body was unable to voice objection because they were never informed that this issue was to be discussed at the Nov. 19 meeting.

The issue's importance is manifested in the fact that, each semester, Nebraska Bookstore receives book orders placed originally with the University Bookstore by faculty members who want to keep profits internal to the univer-

sity so the money can be placed in a student scholarship fund, set up at the suggestion of former Chancellor James Zumberge.

Yet these orders are transferred to Nebraska Bookstore by the University Bookstore partly because of the Union's lack of space to handle orders. One reason given last spring by Ron Wright, business manager for the vice chancellor of business and finance, for not expanding the University Bookstore's operations was lack of space in the Union.

This was reiterated in separate conversations this fall with the University Bookstore manager and with Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Miles Tommeraasen.

Yet Bennett has leased space to Gateway Bank and a barber shop, and construction plans are underway for a retail bakery outlet and the Campus Assistance Center.

As students and financial contributors to the Union, we need not necessarily contest leasing of Union space, but should demand a voice in decision-making process pertaining to Union alterations. At present, it seems the Union's communal atmosphere is being invaded by new construction plans, uncontested by students because of lack of knowledge about them.

Students must consider the following questions: Why were students not polled on necessity of and proper location for a Campus Assistance Center? Why, when budgets are being cut within academic colleges, would the administration elect to take on a Union building project that may have little or no student backing?

Why has the Union director refused to delay construction of the center in the TV lounge area despite growing opposition as expressed by ASUN in its Nov. 19th meeting, when it unanimously approved Resolution No. 39? This resolution asks for a hold on Union construction until student views could be heard.

If this project has been in existence for the last three years, as Bennett has said, why are students just now begin-

ning to learn about it, particularly as the proposed construction date draws near?

If the Union director has waited three years to put the Campus Assistance Center into the TV lounge area, why is he unwilling to wait until students have opportunity to voice their opinions about the center's location?

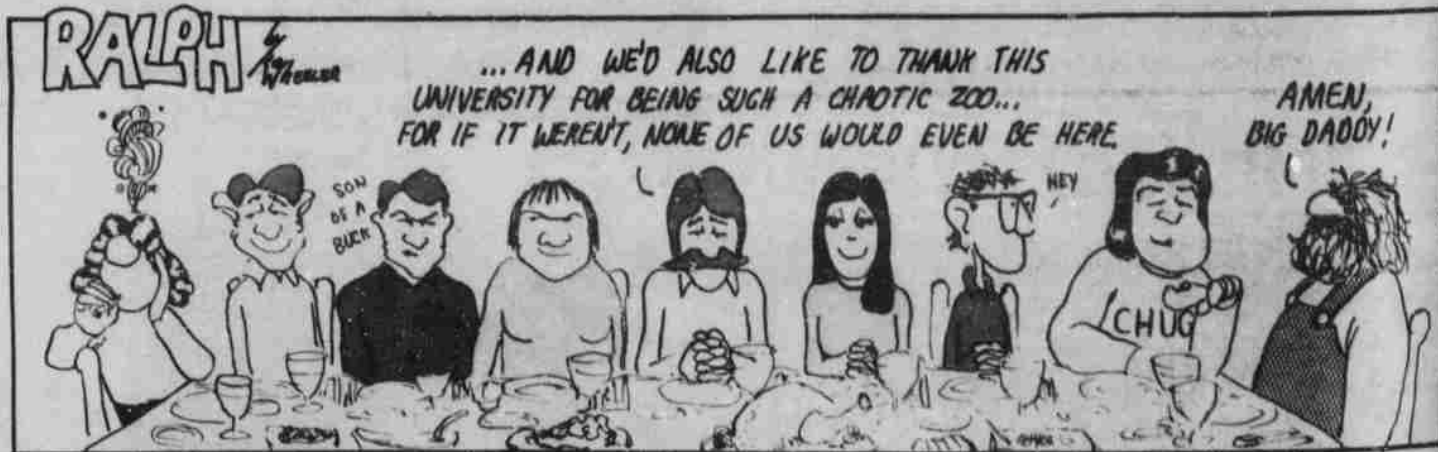
Why would the TV lounge area be selected as the center's site without considering other areas? When the vice chancellor for student affairs has announced an estimated student fees increase of \$4 per semester for East Union construction, why is the Union director interested in possibly increasing student indebtedness by building in the already existing Union on City Campus?

If this project can be approved by the administration without approval of the NU Board of Regents, why has the Union director said he will not delay construction unless ordered by the regents?

In response to Bennett's statement that he will not delay present Union construction plans until more student input is obtained, ASUN has implemented a petition drive. This petition calls for delaying construction until research and student input can determine both necessity and alternative locations for the Campus Assistance Center.

Since Bennett holds himself accountable only to the regents, this petition drive must be completed by Dec. 13, date of the next regents meeting and the last opportunity to stop construction before Christmas break.

As ASUN senators and concerned students we strongly urge everyone to give prompt and full support to this petition drive. Petition signatures and circulators are being solicited by ASUN in its third floor Union office. Your help is greatly needed and would be appreciated.



at least within this state.

If I were a student or parent considering the choice of a university, I would be convinced—Big Red or no Big Red—that I should invest my time and money in the university of another state, after reading that my own university's Faculty Senate thinks so little of its teachers.

It is for these reasons that I feel I must demand either an apology for and retraction of Eldridge's remark, or proof that what he has said about both tenured faculty members and graduate teaching assistants is true.

Suzanne Bouchard-Hill

Experience talks

Dear editor,

The statement which I made at the latest Faculty Senate meeting, widely reported in the news, was based on several years' experience as associate dean of the College of Agriculture.

During that time, when cases of instructors missing classes were called to my attention, I reported these to the appropriate dean or department chairman and in a number of such cases I received reports in return.

In all of those cases the person who did not meet the classes was a new instructor or a graduate assistant. Therefore my statement represented the facts as I had them. Since making the statement I have also checked this with UNL Ombudsman Allen Dittmer. He checked his records and found six cases where students had reported instructors that had not attended their classes.

In this list were two graduate students, one instructor, one assistant professor, one associate professor and one full professor.

Therefore we now have a record of some persons with the rank of assistant professor or higher who have not met their classes.

Adding those two samples together, however, I believe the number of graduate assistants and young instructors who missed meeting their classes was larger than would be expected when compared with the total proportion of classes that are met by graduate assistants.

The concern expressed over the explanatory statement about classes not being met by graduate assistants skirts the main issue of the Faculty Senate resolution. The resolution emphasizes the fact that no person responsible for teaching classes at UNL should miss classes without making adequate

provision for those classes.

I know many conscientious graduate students and faculty members of all ranks. It is unfortunate that irresponsibility on the part of a very limited number of persons casts aspersions on the great majority of responsible persons.

Generalizations are almost always inaccurate to some degree and the emphasis which I placed on the graduate assistants was probably stronger than should have been made.

Franklin E. Eldridge
Faculty Senate President

Chairman erred

Dear editor,

It is my opinion that Lyle Young, chairman of the Council on Student Life (CSL), made several technical errors in handling the Nov. 20 CSL meeting.

Young contended that there were some procedural irregularities stemming from the rescission of six "old" ASUN appointees and their replacements by seven ASUN senators. Mr. Young questioned the legality of the action taken by ASUN.

As outlined in the CSL bylaws, eight of the 15 members on the council are students to be appointed by ASUN. The seven ASUN senators were duly appointed after a resolution calling for the rescission of the former appointees was passed.

If challenged, the legality and constitutionality of the rescission should be decided in the Student Court and not by the CSL chair. Until the court decides otherwise, duly enacted legislation of ASUN should remain valid.

It should further be noted that CSL Rules for Procedure provide for a parliamentarian, appointed by the chairman, to advise the council on proper procedure (Sec. I.B.2.b).

Also, Sec. I.B.2.d and Sec. IV.A of the rules allow the interpretation of rules by the chair be challenged and that at any time on any issue, the chairman may be overruled by a majority vote of council members. No vote was taken at the meeting and Young got up and left when an attempt was made to challenge the chair.

The result of these errors on the part of the chairman was that the CSL meeting was not called to order.

Art Chan

to the editor



Dear editor,

I applaud the letters written by my colleagues criticizing Faculty Senate President Eldridge's irresponsible pigeonholing of graduate teaching assistants.

I have been a teaching assistant in the Modern Languages Dept. since 1971. I am presently working toward a Ph. D. and have full course responsibilities for two courses in introductory French.

This is a teaching load of 10 credit hours, two hours less than the load of a full instructor. In addition to my classroom duties and all they entail, I am enrolled in two 900-level courses.

I am not the only T.A. in this situation. If this is not "the world of work," I don't know what is.

Two points must be made here. The first is that I have never met a T.A. who was not completely devoted to his or her teaching activities—perhaps we are even too dedicated, considering the proportion of responsibilities to salary.

Certainly most of the incentive for remaining a T.A. rests on a love of teaching, as the material rewards are minimal.

I could not repress a chuckle when I read that now the tenured faculty members are going to do their best to find replacements for themselves in the classroom should they be unable to meet with their classes. The T.A.s in my department, at least, have been doing this since I've been here, if not before then.

My second point is in the form of a question. Doesn't the university know it is simply bad business to degrade its teachers?

In addition to the fact that many T.A.s think that we have had insult added to injury, we cannot help feeling disgusted with Eldridge's gross overgeneralization for other reasons.

His statement was not only published in the Daily Nebraskan, but in the Lincoln city papers as well. We can, at any rate, assume that it received widespread publicity