

Vision of UNL unionization is unsettling one

Envision collective bargaining at UNL.

It is late summer. Management (university administration) and labor (faculty members) sit deadlocked in contract negotiations.

A series of unresolved salary questions cause the negotiations to cease and the faculty members to call a strike on the eve of the date school would start.

Where would that leave students?

There is no doubt that the example is extreme, yet it shows how directly university faculty collective bargaining could affect students.

Delayed school openings are not the only possibility. Collective bargaining also could hamper or alter curriculum, class size, student services, academic standards and campus governance, not to mention possible tuition increases to cover the cost of instituting collective bargaining procedures. That figure has been estimated to be as high as one per cent of faculty salaries.

All of this does not mean that collective bargaining would be completely bad for students. It is possible that academic quality would increase when faculty salaries assumed a competitive stance among major universities.

It also depends on whether the chairs around the bargaining table include one for student representatives.

Student observers have been present at about 20 schools with the permission of management and labor. In only one case, though, were they allowed to help negotiate a second contract.

Legislation has been necessary to ensure student representation at the bargaining table in Montana and Oregon and similar proposals

are planned this year in Massachusetts, Minnesota and Washington.

Since legislation was needed to grant Nebraska students a nonvoting place on the NU Board of Regents, it is believable that a similar legislative effort would be needed to secure bargaining representation for students.

Greater dangers for students lie in their representative's command of budgetary information and tactics. At a Denver conference in December sponsored by two neutral university associations, "Students and Collective Bargaining: Third Party Pressures on a Two Party Process," students came away shaking their heads.

According to Neil Klotz of College Press Service, "students face a real catching-up in their institutional smarts. Most student representatives at Denver couldn't decipher and interpret a university budget, evaluate a faculty department for student course hours generated or figure out the financial implications of various tenure and promotion items—all necessary skills to the issues being discussed at the table."

The prospect of UNL students being involved in a collective bargaining process raises considerable doubt when one considers the organizational split in UNL's student government.

Student representatives would have to spend much less time haggling over petty power struggles and spend more time in the library boning up for the bargaining onslaught.

Representatives would only be as effective as their public, the student body, would demand. How many students could correctly name the amount UNL has requested for its budget next year? How many students pass over any story

involving administration or university business?

Important questions, yes, and there are no easy answers.

Students need to insure that they get their piece of the pie and not, instead, get wedged underneath it.

Of course there always is the possibility of a student union for some distant day...

(Monday: The bargaining wrapup.)

Vince Boucher

letters to the editor

I was very touched by the Spaghetti Dinner on Jan. 25 sponsored by the International House. Miss Barbara Kim is responsible for idea and I am indebted to her for her planning, organizing and managing this event. I commend the students of International House, who undertook this dinner as a project, worked hard and carried it through successfully. Their genuine concern is very important to me at this time when I am facing pain, helplessness and dependency.

Living in the International House has helped accustom me to the academic routine once again. Further, it has helped build a defense against disorientation, depression and hopelessness, as there are always friends around to respond to my reply for help.

My humblest thanks to all of my friends who sacrificed their time and put in so much effort in preparing the dinner. My sincerest thanks to all those who supported the event by attending the dinner.

Raja Kirumakki

Competitive banking spirit

I have finally come to the conclusion that either I am grossly uninformed, or the ASUN Senate is running out of decisions to make. Wednesday, Sen. Dale Sobotka presented a resolution to "strongly urge UNL to terminate its lease agreement with Gateway Bank and seek an alternate banking agency." This resolution passed without opposition. It is one thing to ask for the lease to be terminated, but has anyone checked with other banks in Lincoln to see if they are interested? My understanding was that when bids were taken by the Union, Gateway Bank was the only one willing to pay a rental fee (\$15,000). In the end, the Union comes out \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year ahead. Sen. Sobotka, do you realize what your resolution could cost? Obviously not, however, I'm sure the Union will.

I suggest that the Union leave things alone, as Sen. Welch suggested. The competitive spirit of banking will solve this issue without any intervention.

Vince Boucher stated: "Better offers for students lie downtown, only a few steps away."

Mark L. Buckley

No banking conspiracy involved

I must come to the defense of the beleaguered Gateway Bank. Gateway Bank is presenting a service to students here at the University of Nebraska. It is only good business sense to make adjustments when the need arises, and apparently the bank sees a need to change things a bit.

No one forced Gateway Bank to come on campus for the servicing of college students, faculty members and staff. Gateway Bank came to the university because of a good opportunity to expand banking services and also to be of help to students who wanted a handy place to cash checks, deposit money, etc.

I think the Gateway Bank has good intentions and others probably will be charging for check service in the near future. So let's get off the bank's back and realize how good we have it. What's the big stew? Common sense,

prudent banking and free enterprise is all that is involved. No conspiracy!

Clifford Collins

Oust the moneychangers!

It is our considered opinion that the Gateway Bank has exhibited a clear intent to exploit the students of the University of Nebraska—by virtue of its strategic location in the Nebraska Union. The excuses offered by the officers of the bank regarding the bank's alleged need to shore up its dwindling profits (it was a 22 per cent loss they said) are not valid. The students have no responsibility to compensate for the bank's losses. No other bank in Lincoln reported such losses; nor, incidentally, did any other bank in Lincoln express any interest in saddling its customers with an "activity charge."

It has been pointed out by those who favor retaining the Gateway branch that the bank saves the university some \$15,000 annually. This, however, does not mean that the Gateway Bank saves the students \$15,000 per year. Considering that there are over 21,000 students enrolled at the university, and that most of these individuals frequent the Lincoln campus daily, and that a fair percentage of these occasionally cash checks at the Gateway Bank; it quickly becomes clear that students will end up paying many times as much subsidizing the Gateway Bank as if there were no bank.

Look at it this way. If another 50 cents or so was tacked on to student fees to compensate for the "loss" incurred by ousting the Gateway Bank—it'd be the same as paying four bits to cash all the checks you wanted all year long. That's a lot cheaper than coughing up 25 cents every time you cash a check.

Let's drive these money changers out of our temple of learning! It'll save us money.

Cal Worthington, Mark Buffington, Benito Davali, Teddy Rippen, Roy Jackson, Robert French, Judy Hokom and Lucy Kruger.

Let women athletes wait

I would like to respond to Jim Zalewski's article of last week on women's sports at the university. I do not understand why all of these women want everything so fast. It doesn't seem to me that they are really willing to work hard enough on their own for success.

All they want is handouts all the time. Many male athletes on campus belong to teams that receive less money than the women's teams, even though the men's teams have been around longer. Many male athletes on this campus would like a chance at getting new uniforms, competitive schedules, more funds and nice road trips. But everything is going to Big Red football and now the women! I think that the athletes who have been struggling the longest should get the first available funds. The women should be willing to wait; it's only fair!

Men do not have any legislation to protect them. Just the same, many males also practice hard and have done so for a long while. They have virtually nothing to show for it because the women are snapping up the necessary funds for at least adequate programs for the male teams that have begged for more money since the beginning of their existence.

The women have waited this long and I wish they would wait a little longer. Men have sacrificed more and are presently getting less. Now it is time for the women to sacrifice and to do some hard work on their own!

Hard work and sacrifice first, funds later. The men are the "forgotten many."

D.C. Johnson

Coaches, athletes deserve praise

My family and I attended the Nebraska-Iowa State gymnastics meet, as well as the Nebraska-Missouri basketball game. I enjoyed both contests and we really enjoyed the gymnastics meet as well as the basketball game. It was the first gymnastics meet that our family has witnessed. I wonder how many people in Nebraska realize the calibre of the gymnastics team. Also, how many Nebraskans realize that all of these superb athletes come from Nebraska? I think the coaches and athletes deserve more recognition than they have been receiving.

Jim Berryman

Survey must be honest

I agree with the editor that the "Faculty Activities Survey" will very well raise more questions than it will answer. Not only are "teaching," "public service" and "scholarship" very flexible and manipulable criterion for instructor "efficiency," but it is difficult to imagine how the categories will be analyzed and gauged.

The instructors will be rating themselves, and being only human and in need of defense in their bids for higher salaries, I think many professors will be tempted to secure themselves more firmly in their positions by being less than candid about their professional habits and daily routines.

If the survey is to be useful, it will certainly have to be an honest effort at self-examination. The teachers will have to be put under pressure to make themselves look better than they actually are, at the tragic expense of fellow academicians, students, tax payers and themselves.

I wish I could say that they'll all be truthful about the evaluation, but in the final analysis this survey cannot be valid or scientifically reliable so the truth could only hurt those who need the help of a good profile the most, and the only people who give us the truth we should desire.

Paradox

Uterior motives in ticket proposal

I couldn't believe the proposal for student football ticket prices next fall. In the first place, who wants transferable tickets? We students who buy our tickets and go to the games couldn't care less about the other students who sell their tickets to other people. Out of 17,000 student football ticket holders last year, I would say that at least 12,000 went to the games and didn't sell their tickets. Isn't the important thing really that the stadium is full, regardless of who sits in the seats? The students shouldn't be forced to pay \$12.50 more for their tickets because of a minority.

Could it be that the ticket office has some other motive in mind other than the transferable tickets? Could it be that they are trying to reduce the number of low profit student ticket holders to increase the number of high profit general admission tickets? UNL football tickets should go to the students at a low as possible cost because it's our team and our campus. The students are getting ripped off every time they turn around. When is all this going to stop? As for myself, I wouldn't pay that price for a student football ticket, but then that's the whole purpose of raising the price.

Doug Lienemann

d.n.
soapbox