

d.n. soapbox

ralph by ron wheeler



The Daily Nebraskan welcomes letters to the editor and guest opinions. Choices of material to be published will be based on timeliness and topic.

Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, but use of a pen name for publication is acceptable.

Brevity in letters is preferred and letters may be edited to fit space limitations. Guest opinions should be typed and accompanied by the author's name, class and major or occupation. Submissions cannot be returned to the writer.

letters to the editor

I hate to pick nits, but enough is enough. I am presently a junior at the University of Nebraska. Since I've been a freshman, there has been increasing use of the term "UNL," rather than "University of Nebraska," or "NU," (which is shorter than UNL, anyway.)

Not only is the term used by administrators, but also our own beloved newspaper. Nothing is particularly wrong with the term, except that it seems to equate NU with UNO, which is a gross inaccuracy. Or is it?

Maybe we want to forfeit funds, teachers, lab equipment, TAs and teachers' salaries at the expense of trying to make UNO equal to NU. That's what is happening down on 15th St. at the Capitol.

If the Daily Nebraskan staff doesn't want to turn out like Berkley (remember the University of California?), I suggest they help everyone along by using "NU" or "University of Nebraska," or just "the University," rather than degrading UNL.

The issue is not the use of the term, but the power of the Omaha voting block of state senators. Why should this block ruin a great institution? I say let's drop UNO from the NU system and let it become the University of Omaha once more. After all, the University of Nebraska desperately needs the funds.

Tim Roesler

Walpurgisnacht appreciated

May I take this opportunity to thank the Nebraska Union Board staff of the Nebraska Union and all others involved for a wonderful evening of entertainment provided on "Walpurgisnacht."

I, my two children and other friends who attended this event had a fun evening of variety, conversation and culture.

After attending last year's "Walpurgisnacht" my children kept asking me when it was going to be held again. Their wish came true last week and now they're looking forward to next year's event.

Students may get giant valentine

Students may receive hearts and flowers from the NU Board of Regents at its meeting Saturday, Valentine's Day.

The regents will be asked to approve the UNL Differentiated Housing Study. It calls for "slight modifications" in the current guest hour rules, including a limited 24-hour option. Passage of this part of the proposal is expected by many.

But that is only half of the Valentine. The second part is a proposal to allow alcoholic beverages in residence hall rooms.

Rather than dwell on the issue of adult responsibility, which should have been recognized and acted upon by the passage of similar plans in the past, several points about this specific proposal can be made.

First, it is very cautious. It calls for limited use, evaluation after one semester and a concurrent program of alcohol education.

Second, it applies only to individual student rooms. It can not be used in floor or building lounges, or for parties in a student room. Large containers, such as kegs of beer, are not allowed.

Third, provision is made for those students who would choose not to live in an environment where alcohol is permitted.

Fourth, all legal strictures about legal age will be enforced. No sale of alcoholic beverages in a residence hall and no purchasing of libations with hall funds will be permitted.

The proposal is sane, workable and long overdo. Scores of students on scores of college campuses have shown that they can handle liquor responsibly.

As the proposal is designed to be a test, with the above-mentioned evaluation, it seems unreasonable that the regents would not approve it. Hours of work on this and previous proposals deserve to be rewarded by serious consideration and passage of the alcohol option of the Differentiated Housing Study.

Another Valentine note of sweetness and light: The Wall Street Journal recently printed a feature on America's favorite sugar bomb—the Twinkie. The story told, among other things, that the University of Northern Iowa at Cedar Falls launched a crusade when the student union stopped selling Twinkies (after a fast-food chain had taken over their food service.)

Rochester Community College in Rochester, Minn., also got into the Twinkie act by sponsoring a three day First Annual Twinkie Festival last April. It included a Twinkie treasure hunt, a Twinkie sculpture contest and a Twinkie derby. As a grand finale, students launched a twinkie with 300 helium-filled balloons. It landed some 120 miles away.

Twinkie, Twinkie, little star.

Vince Boucher

vine st Choice of new chancellor irregulars warning to duff draggers

By Michael Hilligoss

Leonik motioned me to a booth in a darkened part of Brannigan's Restaurant. We sat down under the reproachful gaze of two dizzy, blonde secretaries who obviously were out for a sophisticated night on the town.

"Two coffees," ordered Leonik. "Now, Hilligoss," he said, "I have work for you."

"Wait a minute!" I replied.

"Don't interrupt!" Leonik cut in. "Do you recognize this man?" he said, pushing a faded photograph under my nose.

"I guess so," I said, thinking that it looked somewhat like the dean of the Graduate College although I wasn't absolutely certain of his identity.

"We've got to get to him," Leonik clipped. "It must be done."

"Hey, look," I said, "I'm a columnist, not a hit man."

"That's just the point," replied Leonik. "We don't want you to do him any harm. We just want you to get a message to him. It may help."

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"We think he ought to be told that they're just about ready to pick a new chancellor for UNL."

"But everybody knows that," I said. "Don't be so silly."

Leonik retorted, "But the one they're thinking about is all hot and bothered about the low amount of grant

money that the university is able to attract each year! That has direct implications for the graduate program. It means a lot of people are going to have to get off their collective duffs and get to work. The VSI just thinks that our man in the administration ought to be prepared for all the activity."

"O.K.," I said, "I suppose you've got some suggestions on how to help get things under way?"

"Of course," he said. "Here are a few ideas that would get the lines of communication open and ready for use."

"First, we need a Graduate College advocate. His job, unlike that of an ombudsman, would be to seek out trouble spots, review specific departmental policies, and generally try to see that each department gets the help it needs to keep its graduate program in the best possible health.

"Second, we need a Student Advisory Board for the Graduate College modeled on the program which now exists in the College of Arts and Sciences. This would help keep the Graduate College directly informed about graduate student needs. In fact, it wouldn't be a bad idea if each college, especially Arts and Sciences, established a Graduate Student Advisory Board.

"Finally, we need a little comradeship and esprit de corps. How about some convocations, sponsored by the Graduate College, which speak directly to the goals and direction of graduate education.

Again, my thanks and keep up the good work.

Dan Steller
Director of Recreation

Less talk, more action

I noticed an article about former Secretary of State Dean Rusk's visit to Creighton University last week. It is obvious to me that Mr. Rusk has sold out to the weak-kneed intellectuals who are controlling our shabby foreign policy.

Mr. Rusk urged that we work to "avoid World War III". Why avoid it? Everyone is always talking about it, but that's all it is—talk! I for one think it is time that all the people of the free world get together and finally decide once and for all, who is the supreme power on this planet of ours.

I think the sooner we have a confirmation, the better off we will be. America must assert itself in the affairs of the world, once and for all. We could have won in Vietnam with the simple dropping of one nuclear bomb. But the government sold out to a bunch of left-wing sensationalists.

Let's put up or shut up, democracy and the American way of life hang in the balance. If we're the best country on the face of the earth, let's prove it.

1776 was the American Revolution, how about 1976 as the year of a world revolution of Americanism?

Lenord Ross Smith

Rational consideration of alternatives

The AAUP Collective Bargaining Committee believes we have addressed the issues before the voters carefully and with real evidence. We see no need now to reiterate the real problems facing the UNL faculty, much less to respond to each item on that emotionally charged list of substantial fears and threats published yesterday.

One item bears examination, however. "Concerned Faculty" wish to retain their "advisory role" so only the administration and the Board will carry "responsibility risks" and the faculty will be free of any "blame for program or operational failure." AAUP stands for the principle that the voice of the faculty should be dominant

in areas where the faculty has primary responsibility—and that real responsibility carries commensurate burdens. What else is professionalism?

We end this campaign as we began it, urging a rational consideration of the alternatives. The choice is between retaining the current situation or undertaking to create a new one under collective bargaining. Which will better support an authoritative Faculty Senate, real collegiality, quality programs responsibly administered, and the professional status of the faculty?

Donald C. Haack

For the Executive Committee of The Collective Bargaining Committee, AAUP.

Editor's note: The above-mentioned published material from the "Concerned faculty" concerns the paid advertisement on pg. 12, not editorial matter printed.

Wrestling ignored?

As UNL students who enjoy athletics of all types, we would like to compliment your sports staff for the excellent job in covering the rise of the UNL men's gymnastics team to national prominence. We feel, however, that as you continue to overlook the university's wrestling team, so do the fans.

We get articles on basketball nearly every day, when it's a recognized fact that Big 8 basketball is just about on a level with Little League baseball in Peoria, Ill.

We find it very disillusioning that so few fans go to the wrestling meets and even more disappointing that the ones who do go find it so hard to vocally support the team. We all cheer for an exceptional lay-up, so why not a take-down or reversal? At the recent match with the UNO Mavericks, they must have felt like they were the home team. We feel that Tony Jennings, Bob Johnson, Bruce Conger, and our favorite, Bill Hoffman, are all top national competitors. They deserve the support of the paper and UNL fans.

So come out and see a match— you'll enjoy it. We'll be there. You'll see us in the press section and I guarantee you'll hear us.

Hoffman's Honchos
Ninth Floor Abel