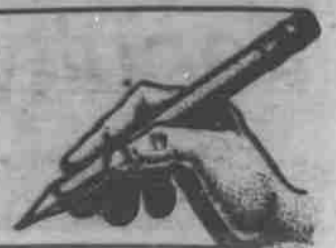


opinion



Roskens, parity likely here to stay

On his appointment as NU's interim president, UNO Chancellor Ronald Roskens was called "an excellent choice" for the job and one which persons from all three campuses can work with. We sincerely hope this is true. If there's one thing this university doesn't need, it's another internal rift.

But the facts that the regents still had not chosen Roskens on the morning of the day they named him president and that Roskens did not know of his selection until it was announced to the public makes us suspicious that some of those concerned were not easily convinced the choice was excellent.

There also is some question whether Roskens is a choice all can cooperate with. Surely he won't have much sympathy for those who are reluctant to recognize UNO's position as a financial underdog. Some opponents of parity, in fact, are counting on Rosken's appointment being "only temporary." These types should be prepared to resign themselves to the likelihood that both Roskens and parity are here to stay.

If Roskens is indeed an excellent choice, why ask the search committee to submit a second-string-candidates list?

Roskens said dealing with the Legislature at budget-setting time will not be new for him. Experience will be welcome because the warnings are that the university has gotten all the 20 per cent budget increases it will get for awhile. So we'll need someone adept not only at pleading a very worthy cause but someone ready to scrutinize the budget for cuts if those pleas fail.

The bright spot in President D.B. Varner's resignation last June is that he still will be in the business of obtaining funds for the university. If he is as successful at the foundation as he was in obtaining state funds, he can do a lot to lighten the effects of the Legislature's threatened belt-tightening session.

Difficulty in finding a replacement has made the university appreciate Varner even more—though it has become almost a cliché to sing the praises of our soon-to-be-past president.

Still, the Daily Nebraskan owes Varner a special thanks—for being accessible, for being quick with praise when he saw a job well done and for not interfering when he was less than satisfied with our actions. We wish both he and Roskens much success in their new jobs.

letters

Big 8 should fund band trip

As a former member of the University of Nebraska Cornhusker Marching Band I would like to support the efforts of funding bands for trips to bowl games. I feel the band works and practices as much and as hard in their own desires and interests as any football team and contributes as much entertainment, enthusiasm, and enjoyment of the game of football as do the players. With this I feel that bands should not be left out of any bowl festivities, realizing if it was not for the success of the football team, the band would have a chance to participate.

It is my understanding that the Big 8 Conference funds any Big 8 team who participates in any bowl game. Thus, I feel that as the band adds to the game, a fund be set up by the Big 8 Conference to supply funds to bands who participate in bowl games. As representatives of the Big 8 Conference the band will utilize these funds to promote the game of football as well as the cultural representatives of the Big 8, nationally. The Big 8 then could establish rules and regulations regarding the number of band participants allowed to travel to bowl games.

Each Big 8 school benefits from the revenue generated from bowl games. Surely they would be willing to extend one-eighth of the cost to send bands to bowls along with the participating team. It is and would be good for the conference. Shouldn't the Big 8 be first to sponsor such a program?

Sincerely,
Chuck Clanton
Former band member

Mystery ruined

Carla Engstrom's review actually did a fine job of telling our future audience that *The Rimers of Eldritch* is a murder mystery, by then she blew it by going on to reveal every factor in the show that creates the suspense and surprise! How can an audience enjoy a mystery after they innocently open the paper and find the total plot and every secret spelled out for them? A reviewer is not a factual reporter, he is/must be a qualified and knowledgeable critic of the arts.

The beginning of her article was totally unrelated and confusing in itself. Why did she begin a review of *Rimers* with a retort? "I'm sure anyone who hadn't seen them didn't know what she was talking about or figured it was an error in typesetting. To quote one of her favorite criticisms: "It doesn't make much sense."

Also, another problem she has is her tendency to give irrelevant and needless detailed descriptions of elements like sets and costumes. They should not be described just to show that she really did see the show, but as a reviewer's comment on their contribution, quality, and effectiveness in the production.

Don't get me wrong, though. We, at university theatre do want reviews of our productions. I am not complaining if she doesn't like a show, all are entitled to their own opinions, but to call yourself a reviewer and write in the press, you must be knowledgeable of the subject and qualified to write criticism on it.

Beth Riedmann

Decide on review policy

The *Daily Nebraskan* has done it again—printed another loser review. This time Miss Engstrom has decided to enlighten her readers with her suggestion for blocking improvements in *The Rimers of Eldritch*. Wonderful, Thrilling, I don't think I can stand much more of her unbelievable suggestions for improvement in our productions. Who gave her a degree in blocking know-how? Carla's suggestions for blocking moves are corny, unoriginal and melodramatic—especially her suggestion of "waving her fists towards heaven in desperation."

Maybe the staff of the *Daily Nebraskan* should decide what your review policy is: do you want to print a blow-by-blow description of what happens in each production, or do you want something a bit more professional? If you need to look at a professional review read the one in Monday's *Lincoln Star* by Mr. Wallis.

We are not against criticism here, as long as it is valid. To me it is important that there be some semblance of professionalism in a review.

I also am upset by the way that Carla tried to respond to the letters sent about her review of *Alice in Wonderland*. It is sly and petty and (as is her custom) incorrect. I quote: "The preparation and the hours of work that go into a play are irrelevant at this point. The end result is all that matters." Bunk! A play could not go up with only one day of rehearsal. It is the hours of work beforehand that have a direct bearing on the production, and while that is not within the reviewer's duties, it cannot be separated from the actual production.

I would like to see the *Daily Nebraskan* get a lot more professional in the reviews it publishes. We are proud of our theatre productions and we work hard to maintain that pride I think that you also are proud of your paper and that you work hard to keep it's quality high. You are failing as far as your reviews are concerned.

Sincerely yours
Judie Braun



Steelworkers may have to give lives in battle for U.S. economic stability

By Arthur Hoppe

The government is now trying to figure out what each of our lives is worth. And this is certainly a sensible thing to do if you are a government.

The problem came up when the Labor Dept. said the steel mills should spend \$241 million on anti-pollution devices as this would save the lives of 240 steelworkers.

But that came to more than a \$1 million a life and the White House's Council on Wage and Price Stability said this would be "inflationary." So it looks as though 240

It isn't that the lives of the poor are worthless to the government. It's worse than that. The poor are definite liabilities. So are the very rich.

Now you'd think a rich man spending \$100,000 a year on this and that and thereby stimulating the economy would be an asset to the government. You're forgetting inheritance taxes. There isn't a millionaire in the country who isn't worth more to the government dead than alive.

For a good cause

So if the government can ask 240 steelworkers to lay down their lives for fiscal stability, there is surely no reason why millions of other Americans wouldn't gladly sacrifice theirs in the even higher cause of making this a better, more efficient government all the way around.

Think of it! We'd have nothing but hard-working, gainfully-employed, tax-paying, law-abiding, government-loving citizens. Oh, how proud the government would be of itself! If there is a government.

Sometimes I have to remind myself the government exists only in our minds, a fiction we made up to protect ourselves from others. Then it, in turn, created further fictions for us to believe in. For example, it assigned arbitrary values to pieces of paper and called them money.

And now it wants to assign arbitrary values to our lives based on those arbitrary pieces of paper. It will want us to believe this fiction, too.

This time I think I'll pass. I don't know about you, but I'm priceless.

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innocent bystander

steelworkers may have to give their lives in the battle for fiscal stability, which is surely as good a governmental cause to die for as any.

The council admits, however, that it isn't sure exactly how much a life is worth to the government. It says the government should come up with "some standardization" in order to increase governmental efficiency. That makes sense.

If I were the government, I'd set up a simple means test. Take a welfare mother with five children. It's going to cost the government a good \$10,000 to feed, clothe, house and educate each of those children until they're old enough to support themselves snatching purses.

Not worth a nickel

Under even the most rudimentary means test, the life of that welfare mother isn't worth a plug nickel.

The same holds true, obviously, for hardened criminals, hippies drawing food stamps and American Indians. (The Indian Claims Commission alone costs the government \$1.5 million a year and...hat have American Indians ever done for the government?)

This shouldn't be taken as a slam at American Indians. Actually, it holds true for most minority groups such as Blacks, Puerto Ricans, what-have-you. Being the last hired, the first fired and the least culturally assimilated, members of minority groups tend to be poor.

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.