

letters

Will sacrifice for signs

I am writing in response to the proposal to spend \$35,000 on signs to direct people to different facilities in the Nebraska Union. It seems to me that this is a ridiculous amount to pay for mere signs. So I, a concerned student at UNL, through the kindness of my heart am willing to construct and erect the signs for the minimal fee of \$20,000. I realize this is a great sacrifice, but I am doing it for the good of the university. ●

I would also like to say that the signs are definitely needed. I don't see how we have gotten along without them this long. There is a real problem with people getting lost in the Union.

There are a lot of things the Union could do with the \$15,000 they save. For one thing, they could buy more balloons for the Harvest Room. Those had to bring in a lot of business. Or the Union could, God forbid, use the money to provide a few more services for the students.

Dave Christensen

Who is Bennett?

Listen up all UNL students "that care about the university." It is quiz bowl time. Who is Allen Bennett? A) a rock star appearing at Pershing Auditorium last week. B) ASUN president. C) Authoritarian director of the Nebraska Union. If you answered C you are unambiguously correct.

Webster defines *authoritarian* as 1. characterized by or favoring the principle of blind obedience to authority 2. characterized by or favoring concentration of political power in an authority not responsible to the people.

If anyone can explain to me how spending \$35,000 on signs in the union, which tell you where to go, is not using authoritarian politics, please do.

Mr. Bennett said in the *Daily Nebraskan* Feb. 9, "People tell me that the students didn't know about the signs. My frank and honest comment is that that is a lot of b.s. The students that care about the university know about it (the signs)."

Well Mr. Bennett, you are probably right. The students who care about UNL know about the signs. But did you ever stop to think if those caring students wanted the signs in a Union that is already in financial trouble?

If in fact spending \$35,000 on direction signs is a management decision as Mr. Bennett said it is, I am hereby questioning the validity of such decisions.

I understand the sign project is being halted, with much thanks to students who have a little common sense.

But in future projects, Mr. Bennett, please do not use your position authoritatively. Just as you do, students "know where the men's room is."

Scott Whitcomb

Attend alcohol hearing

This is a letter to urge your to defend a right that is presently yours, but that you could lose at the end of this semester. There is now a bill in front of the Legislature, LB369, which would raise the drinking age to 21. Needless to say, this would eliminate thousands of you from drinking legally in environments you now enjoy.

Sen. Ralph Kelley of Grand Island introduced this bill to keep alcohol out of the high schools and feels that he can achieve this by denying you the right to drink. He is punishing one group, the 19 and 20-year-olds who have generally handled drinking wisely, in order to rectify another group's problem, that of the high school student.

I have been in the bar business in downtown Lincoln for five years and feel the 19 and 20-year-olds generally drink in a mature manner. On the other hand, we have more problems with the alums who come back for football games to do nothing but get smashed. If this bill passes, you will be back to drinking on the roads, fields, and apartments all of the time, and will not be able to drink in a downtown tavern where you can walk home.

Further effects of the bill are as follows: The number of minors being prosecuted will increase ten-fold. Drunk driving convictions will drastically rise. Hundreds of students will lose their jobs who work in bars and restaurants because they are not 21. Over one-half of the states now allow 18- and 19-year-olds to drink, but Nebraska would be taking a step backwards in the area of young citizen's rights.

Don't allow the Legislature to take away your privileges in order to keep a high school kid from drinking. He's going to find a way with or without you buying for him. Tell the senators to attack not the symptom but rather the cause. Educate the high school student about liquor or severely increase the penalty for possession or buying for minors, but don't let them deny you the right to socialize how you choose.

If you agree, there is a hearing this Friday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. at the State Capitol. It is in room 1019 by the miscellaneous subjects committee. Come up and let your concern be known. If you can't come, write to your senator about the matter.

Robb Cole
The Water Hole
Horsefeathers-Brannigan's

Obscene letter contest

The competition is on to see who can produce the most "obscene" letter on the subject of obscenity. In my estimation the trophy goes to the second round contestants—Tom Eaton, the nameless "Readers of the Opinion Page" and the long (impressive) list of signatures to Bob Winklers letter. I advance the following justification for the award:

1) The aforementioned writers succeeded in compressing more self-righteous indignation into less space.

2) The original writer (Mr. Flint) struggled to express his personal concern to elicit some intelligent discussion on an issue with complex social and moral ramifications. However, his detractors appeared chiefly motivated by an ardent desire to "nail" him for his presumably hick/ignorant/religious/fascist/moral/etc. views.

3) Mr. Eaton apparently saw an urgent need to bore the *Daily Nebraskan* readership with a colorful but hardly profound short course on the Moral History of the World (subtitle: *From the Aztecs to Hitler*). I'll take my lectures in the classroom, thank you.

4) The ghostwriters of "Webster Strikes Back" diatribe obviously failed to apply their definition of stupidity and their rhetorical questions to themselves first.

The list could go on, but I have no desire to engage in the all-too-American strategies of Escalation and Overkill favored by Mr. Flint's detractors.

Now my response to Mr. Flint:

The First Amendment, as interpreted by the courts, unquestionably gives the owner of Cinema X the right to express his poor taste and to realize a handsome profit thereby. The same essentially applies to the *Daily Nebraskan* and its advertising policies, although if obscenity were as vacuous a concept as your critics claim, porno ads would feature large and explicit photographs instead of suggestive graphics.

Finally, Mr. Flint, pornography is a symptom, not a cause of a sick society. Our efforts at moral persuasion are best reserved for Cinema X's clientele—potential as well as actual—not its proprietor.

Andy Cunningham

Lonely man

I'm 25-years-old. I'm originally from Massachusetts. I'm a chef by trade and a very lonely man. I am in need of a few people who don't mind conversing with a man in jail. I'm doing a one to three year sentence. If anyone would be so kind as to be a pen pal with me. My name and address is as follows:

Frank Woosum 30938
P. O. Box 81248
Lincoln, Neb. 68501

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Magee's Lincoln Center:
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Thursday 'til 9.

Magee's Gateway:
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesday, Saturday 'til 6; Sunday 1 p.m. to 5.