

## NU supporters sparse, but Peru packs house

The Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee heard testimony Monday on the need for a new health and physical education center at Peru State College before testimony was heard for a similar building at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

About 200 supporters of Peru State College packed the legislative chambers to illustrate the college's concern for such a center.

After Peru administrators, students, athletes and members of the community gave their case to the committee, they cleared the room. A handful of NU supporters remained in the room to tell the committee of the university's dire need for the Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) Bldg. at UNO.

The figures speak for themselves. Nearly 200 persons can turn out to illustrate the need for a physical education complex at Peru, but a handful of persons show up for the HPER Bldg. hearing.

Perhaps apathy is not as widespread as we kid ourselves to think—at least not in Peru.

Granted, the need for a HPER Bldg. is not as close to the hearts of UNL students as it is to UNO students. However, it is the top priority item on the NU capital construction budget. This means that the university is saying it needs this building more than any other construction project.

Students packed the hearing rooms when the alcohol and marijuana bills came up in committee. Students should be concerned about the millions of dollars spent on their university with a similar fervor.

If it cannot be with a similar fervor, it should at least be treated with the same proportion of concern Peru supporters feel for their college.

**ralph**



**Mary McGrory**

## House ethics code raises passions

The speaker, to judge from the effect on his audience, had done what every orator dreams of, to "touch men's hearts with glory."

Rep. Otis Pike, D-N.Y., leaned back from the podium as half the chamber leapt to its feet and filled the chamber with cheers.

Had he called on the country to march on Uganda—or the IRS? Had he summoned them to rush out and to welcome the springtime?

No, Pike was talking about the congressional code of ethics and he was speaking from the heart about the importance of outside earned income. It is always extraordinary what consideration of its own interests does to Congress: Nothing—war, peace or impeachment—generates the same passion and fire as peril to its pocketbook.

Pike rolled into a bravura finish: "Is it not kind of funny to visualize some unethical wretch like me down in

## opinion

**Steve Boerner**

## A young man's fancy turns to . . .

Ah, Spring.

Depending on your sources, that's when a young man's heart turns to thoughts of you-know-what; all of nature's creatures, free from the confines of winter, begin bounding gaily through the underbrush; and every soul sings at the imminent return of summer.

The more immediate reality is that said young man has been thinking such thoughts all winter anyway; the only creatures bounding through the underbrush (at least in these parts) will be lawnmowers, and they're tearing it down; and most souls around here are just trying to survive the last few weeks of the semester before they

Unfortunately, time nor mid-term wait for no man. Or person, for that matter.

It's the seventh week of school and you've finally realized that yes, education is a real thing, and, well, maybe you've been slacking off just a little too much. So where are you?

You've got three book reports due, two term papers, four mid-term exams and you're 400 pages behind in your reading assignments.

Some turkey let loose all of your white mice in Biology lab so you can't complete the required semester experiment.

Your bonsai tree, carefully nurtured from a mere seedling, died from Dutch Elm disease. You dropped your basket weaving project in the dishwater yesterday and it fell to pieces.

### Coffee machines gone

And (gag!) worst of all, the coffee machines were removed from your customary study area in Nebraska Hall.

Thousands of Frisbees patiently are hibernating across the length and breadth of campus, as Spring Fever is rapidly replaced by library pallor.

Let me throw in a consoling "There, there," right about here. It can't be all that bad. Can it? Take a moment here to count your blessings.

First of all, there's Spring Break. Aptly named and timed. Whoever invented that particular week off deserves a medal.

Secondly, you don't have to scrape the frost off your car windows every morning before you drive to class.

Thirdly (this is getting tough), well, thirdly . . .

At this point I think the list will stop. Mainly because I've got an appointment in 10 minutes on the other side of campus. It's far enough to catch at least a couple of breaths of fresh air and maybe even get a quick look at the sun. Whatever that is.

## letters

### Union dues

I like the way that everyone implores statistics to back issues that will ultimately result in an increase in the already high rates that students are forced to pay while attending NU. I hear all of the time about how our school is inferior to the other schools and must therefore be "brought up to standards." Our parking fees are not as high as Mudshark University, so obviously we can raise the rates here. For \$60 a year one should get a parking stall with a gold nametag. Our student fees are not nearly as high as those at other schools in the Big 8, so naturally ours should be raised.

Our faculty has an average salary that is less than teachers in Iran are making, so let's double their salary even though the life styles and "normal" daily living expenses are at best only vaguely similar.

I suppose the final blow came when the article about the Union needing more money from the students appeared in the *Daily Nebraskan*. Personally, if the Union were to no longer exist, it could only be looked upon as a blessing. The total number of times I was in the Union last year numbered five; once to actually eat!!!, twice to register, and twice to attempt to get into the record lending library that I swear doesn't exist.

The library of records has hours that appear to be completely randomly chosen. Once I appeared when it was closed and took careful note of the hours. When I reappeared later, it was closed because of a meeting. Granted, there may have actually been a meeting, but that was enough. It's really amazing how the Union is supported by student fees, partly, and that it is operated in behalf of the students. However, if only students use the Union, then there sure are a lot of well-dressed students who eat in the Harvest Room. Perhaps my one visit there last year occurred on a day when foreign dignitaries were eating there, but some looked like faculty and staff to me. The question is why they can eat there, etc., and not pay student fees?

Therefore, if we impose a \$9 per semester fee on all faculty and staff who are not now paying those fees, then maybe the Union would have more money to play with. One could say that it (the honor of not paying fees) comes with the job, but if there were fewer privileges of this sort extended to the faculty and staff, then maybe UNL would not be operating so much in the red. I don't like paying fees for something that the faculty uses as much as the students do, while a great portion of the support comes from the students.

Let me say at least one good thing. The money I spend for the Health Center support is the only money that I feel is well spent, as money goes, and I make sure that I utilize it frequently.

Joe St. Lucas

## washington winds

the well of the House, being censured by the Speaker for having gone home and worked during the district work period instead of going off on a junket the way he was supposed to?"

The chamber gave him a standing ovation.

### 'Accustomed to eating'

Rep. Morgan Murphy, D-Ill., who earns almost as much as his congressional salary from his Chicago law firm, said he could be accused of having some self-interest in his wife, children and self—"We have grown accustomed to eating."

The Republicans said they craved a code of ethics, but saw in the way it was being handled, through a "closed" rule, a threat to the whole democratic process as we know it.

Republican Leader John J. Rhodes, who receives an amount exceeding half his congressional salary from an

insurance company, bemoaned the lack of courage—similar, he thought, to the pay raise, which was accepted without a vote.

Rep. Richard Bolling, D-Mo., brought a touch of Cromwell.

The Republicans, he charged, were finding it "unbearable" to allow a Democratic Congress to "enact real and important reform."

When he was roundly booed, he shouted, "I don't mind their booing, let them reveal themselves."

But the "open" rule went down by a vote of 267-153.

### Rolling boil

Hours later, the "earned outside income" brought the whole argument to a rolling boil again.

A younger member, Norman D'Amours, D-N.H., stripped off the seven veils about moonlighting. A lawyer in civilian life—"no barnburner," he appended modestly—he had upon his election to the House been flooded with offers to join other law firms.

"I think the mere fact I was getting those offers tends to indicate that there is a marketable, salable something that goes with being a member of this body," he said bluntly.

Rep. Claude Pepper, D-Fla., 77, made a powerful appeal to the sufferers by telling how, after being driven from the Senate by a smear campaign, he had pulled himself out of debt by a diligent practice of the law, which he wished to continue.

But of all the speeches, only one, in the end, mattered.

At 9:15, the Speaker of the House, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., lumbered to the well. He has been, he has told members at every opportunity, taking the "whaling of my life" over the pay raise.

His speech was remarkable, but the message was irresistible: You have had your pay raise. Now you pay for it with a code of ethics.

A godfather strain had emerged from his genial bulk during the struggle. He had lobbied fiercely, called for lists of Democratic defectors.

O'Neill was elected Speaker of the House two months ago. Wednesday night, he became its leader. The code of ethics won 402-22.

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