

## opinion

# College costs taxing students more

With the cost of getting an education going up, it is no wonder students can't get excited about student government. They have enough to worry about as it is.

The average cost of being a UNL student has risen nearly 27 per cent since 1973. The costs of housing, parking tuition and student fees increases every year. This does not include those extras such as books and football tickets.

Jack Ritchie, UNL director of scholarships and financial aids, says that as costs increase, students may have to take fewer hours a semester and work more. It seems like more and more college students are taking longer than the traditional four years to get their degrees. One reason could be the extra time they have to take off to work to make ends meet.

"There is an increasingly wider disparity between the money students have and what their education will cost," Ritchie said.

Can anything be done about this cost crunch? NU President Ronald Roskens says there is a feeling among the public that students should pay

a higher proportion of their college costs than they have previously.

One of the first stories I worked on as a reporter for this newspaper was about some apartments close to campus that were being torn down. The university source I was talking to got off the subject and started telling me that college students were not living up to their end of the deal. He said college students were not paying enough of their educational costs and the state taxpayers were paying too much.

Perhaps this is the feeling of other Nebraskans and university officials and they are just not telling us. Perhaps these increasing costs are their way of telling us we should pull more of the weight of our education.

The university, its students and staff should be a source of pride to the state. Too often Nebraskans point to the university's football team instead of its academic quality as their pride and joy. And as the NU Board of Regents ponders building a new football stadium we see that too often that is where the money goes also.

still is. The Board of Regents are still going to do anything they please. Whether there is a student government or not isn't going to affect the quality of education at UNL. Do other people share my views?

Only 10 per cent of the entire student population voted in the latest election. What makes me sick is every other day ASUN gets front page coverage in this alleged student newspaper. Seems to me the coverage given to the folly of student government could be better spent elsewhere.

Hollis W. Hackman

### Ripped off

I propose that we the students abolish the Board of Regents. What a bunch of fools. How long will they allow the students to be ripped off at this university?

Maybe it should be clarified to the Campus Police that in regards to the new increase in parking rates for next year, do they know that the students simply want to park their cars and not buy the whole lot?

Did it occur to the Union Advisory Board that maybe they could find a cheaper way to go broke than to spend \$10,000 of money that I don't have.

I was also wondering how many students voted for student government this past week. That is important. I mean after all it is important to have a good sense of humor. It kind of reminds me of the circus. I mean all the clowns and all.

Finally a last comment directed to the R.H.A. Could you please raise the prices to have another profit next year? I swear that I'm richer than hell.

T. Houlihan

### Track team magnificent

I should like to register a complaint about you sports coverage. For several weeks the men's track team has been travelling around the country to different meets. Yet, I have not seen anything in your paper about several of these meets. This team won the Cowboy Relays, March 26, but March 28th's paper had one short paragraph about the team.

This same type of thing occurred during the indoor season. After the Husker Invitational, there was a picture of Keith Whitaker and Harold Stejzer, but no article.

This track team has done a magnificent job of representing the university. Why can't this paper do a better job of reporting their accomplishments?

Cathy Cole

### Percentages unequal

Good thinking John Duve! Obviously if the parking budget has to go up 15 per cent, the student permit prices have to be increased between 80 and 140 per cent. I think it's time we all say, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore."

Tom Jaudzemis

### ralph



## letters

### Doesn't make sense

I don't understand.

UNL parking coordinator John Duve says he wants student input and community reaction to his recommendation for an increase in parking permit fees. However, while speaking to the Residence Hall Association (RHA) on April 14, he refused three times to disclose that recommendation.

He doesn't make any sense; neither does his proposal. Duve will recommend an increase in permit fees to cover next year's parking budget of \$403,000. Yet he talks of a \$45 fee, and \$45 multiplied by the current 10,000 permit buyers is \$450,000.

Furthermore, Duve says he receives \$20,000 from meters annually and \$50,000 next year from fines. That means next year's revenue could reach \$520,000. He'll have a surplus of \$117,000 or rather, he'll have over-charged every permit user at least \$10.

If that makes sense, consider what else could happen. Duve told RHA that "Nebraska psychology" would never tolerate a substantial fee increase. He predicts 2,000 fewer people will buy a \$45 parking permit.

So why raise the price to \$45? Some 8,000 students, staff and faculty will pay twice as much for the same service, while another 2,000 won't be able to afford it. It's simple but illogical: double prices for some and eliminate all service for others.

Duve says this increase to \$45 is needed to cover a 15 per cent increase in his budget. That's interesting, because UNL policy is a flat 5.5 per cent increase due to inflation. Duve justifies his budget hike by saying asphalt and other construction materials are rising—but his budget doesn't include any construction.

To top it off, he says he wants student input and community reaction. Why not ask the 2,000 students who, according to Duve's statistics, won't buy permits next year because of the increase?

Why not ask "all 10,000 of our permit-type users" who, in Duve's own opinion, "will be upset."

Why not ask every student, teacher and administrator suffering from increases in football tickets, student fees, tuition and now a 95 per cent increase in parking fees?

What do they think of a proposal that would double parking costs for some and eliminate all parking services for others?

At least the position of RHA's 4,700 members is clear; keeping permit fee increases to a minimum is more important than increasing parking service.

Something else should be equally clear to anyone wanting reasonable parking service at reasonable prices. We're losing.

Michael T. Gibson  
Residence Halls Association President

### Piano blues

I wish to just say my opinion on the lunch hours spent at the Union. Being an off-campus freshman I know of no other place where I can go to eat lunch, relax and do some quick homework in a very comfortable setting. But I find it "very irritating" to have to listen to someone playing the piano.

I know our budding pianists love to have an audience, but I wish they would remember that not all of us want to listen to them.

Nancy Fiedler

### Still a joke

So we finally had an election, big deal. ASUN was a joke in 1971 when I first attended this university and it

## Arthur Hoppe

# FDA hard-to-get plan foils 'sac bootleggers'

Let me begin by saying right off that it is *not* true that the Food and Drug Administration wishes to cause cancer in people who go to drug stores.

Yes, it is true the FDA has decided not to issue a total ban on saccharin, which causes cancer in rats. And, yes, it is true that the FDA, instead, will simply require people to go out to drug stores in the future to buy saccharin, which causes cancer in rats.

The likelihood this will increase the mortality rate of that segment of our population with the gumption and energy to get up and go out to a drug store cannot be denied. But it certainly wasn't the FDA's intention.

The FDA was only enjoying the brilliant, new "Hard to Get" concept of how best to safeguard the health and welfare of us citizens.

### Total prohibition

The government long ago discovered that a total prohibition on any popular product led inevitably to increased consumption.

In the case of saccharin, the FDA wisely foresaw that such a step would immediately produce fleets of "sac runners" cruising off our shores, tommy-gunning boot-

## innocent bystander

leggers in low-slung black sedans, and crooked speakeasies serving ersatz Scotch diet colas supposedly "right off the boat."

Thus the ingenious solution was devised of merely making saccharin hard to get instead. And what better way to make saccharin hard to get, I ask, then to have it sold in drug stores?

Buying any over-the-counter product in a drug store isn't easy. First, you must find it. Saccharin, a recent survey shows, is usually located in drug stores between the Robert Redford Foto Albums and the Souvenir of Atlantic City Beach Balls.

If it's not there, you're in trouble. For then you have to ask the clerk, who is invariably of the opposite sex. Asking anyone of the opposite sex for anything in a drug store is a trauma. It's like walking through the lingerie department. Where do you look?

### Six-pack of cola

But let's say you somehow manage to lay your hands on a box of saccharin pills. Then what do you do? You go to the grocery store, which is somewhere else, and buy a six-pack of unsweetened diet cola. You take it home, open a can, pop in a pill, put your thumb over the opening, shake it up and redecorate the living room.

So you can see how effective the Hard-to-Get concept is. In no time, we citizens will say the hell with diet colas, switch to gin and die of cirrhosis of the liver instead.

Indeed, the FDA is so confident of the success of its Hard-to-Get program for limiting saccharin consumption that it is already exploring other fields.

Now being drawn up, for example, is a bill restricting the sale of cigarettes. Under this legislation, they would be sold only from kiosks atop 20-foot-high greased poles. There may be difficulties getting this bill past the tobacco lobby, but it's always comforting to know the Government is concerned about our health.

Isn't it?

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