

opinion / editorials

UNL seventh; don't worry, it's only important

The screams probably would reach as far as Scottsbluff:

"Nebraska seventh in the Big 8—fire Osborne, where's Devaney?"

But the rolling thunder of protest did not reach Scottsbluff this summer. Nor did Coach Tom get canned. You see, it wasn't football in which Nebraska was ranked seventh—it was in salaries for associate professors and instructors.

UNL is a little better for professors and assistant professors—it ranks sixth and fifth respectively in those areas, according to a survey by the American Association of University Professors. The survey was released this summer.

Average salaries ranged from \$25,300 for full professors to \$11,900 for instructors.

True, faculty salary battles rarely draw 76,000 fans—they rarely draw 760. But salaries have more of an effect on the quality of education at UNL than football—or should.

The report was not surprising. Salary complaints probably date to the founding of the university.

A December 1976 study in the Chronicle for Higher Education showed Nebraska ranked 15th among 22 public universities in faculty salaries. (Florida was first, Oklahoma last.)

The report is disheartening, though. In 1970, then-UNL president Joseph Soshnik complained that exceptional professors were being "hired away in the national market like crazy," although a recent salary hike had helped hold some.

More recent salary increases from the NU Board of Regents and the Legislature have helped some—but we come back to that ranking.

Lincoln may be ranked the No. 1 city to live in, but we wonder if that is enough to draw top people—and keep them.

There was another report this summer—some called it discouraging, some encouraging.

It said that in 1973 there were three NU employees paid \$40,000 a year or more. In 1975, there were 35. Now there are 101. (Most of those were at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. UNL listed 25 in that lofty range.)

We sympathize with taxpayers chafing under the burden of rising taxes. We sympathize, and therefore expect top performance from those paid top salaries.

But we also believe that education is one of the best investments. Its dividends seem to produce more dividends.

At least UNL is consistent. Tom Osborne's salary is in the middle rank among Big 8 Conference football coaches.



RALPH

by
ROY WITBELE



HI FOLKS! I'M RALPH CRABTREE. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T KNOW ME, I'M THE LOCAL CAMPUS HERO WHO GRACES THE INTERIOR PAGES OF THE RAG (FRESHMEN: THAT'S SHORT FOR DAILY NEBRASKAN) EVERY DAY EXCEPT TUESDAYS WHICH IS A RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY FOR JOURNALISTS. I WILL BRING YOU TO TEARS WITH LAUGHTER AS YOU FOLLOW THE HUMOROUS ANTICS OF MY FRIENDS AND I AS WE MAKE LIFE MORE BEARABLE FOR YOU IN THIS GIANT UNIVERSITY. WE WILL LEAVE NO STONES UNTURNED EXCEPT FOR WOMEN LIBBERS (THEY'RE TOO MEAN TO MESS WITH). NOW I'D LIKE TO LEAVE THE REST OF THIS PANEL TO MY FRIEND DURKWOOD FINHEAD.

THANKS A LOT, BLABBERMOUTH.



Daily Nebraskan extends a monstrous welcome

A note about this, the 101st volume of the Daily Nebraskan as the semester begins: This welcome back package of 52 pages is the largest Daily Nebraskan ever published. It represents the work of more than 60 student staff members in advertising and news editorial.

It is not easy to produce a monster like this. Copy was set in type and sent to the printers during two days. Reporters gave up the waning days of summer vacation to

interview sources, dig up stories and write them.

The work comes with the territory though.

The Daily Nebraskan is the ninth largest daily newspaper in the state, according to figures in the Editor and Publisher yearbook. Our circulation is 16,000.

(For those of you who contend we're not daily since we publish four times a

week, only two non daily papers are larger.)

Our budget is nearing the \$300,000 mark—90 per cent of that comes from advertising revenue.

This year, we will receive \$30,000 in student fees, down from \$37,500 last year. In an informal bargain struck two years ago, the student fees were going to pay half the printing costs.

The \$37,500 approached that total. It would have taken about \$43,000 this year to do the same thing. But, at the direction of the NU Board of Regents, fees were cut for most student organizations, including us.

We hope to continue publishing at the same rate we have in the past with higher advertising revenue—but it will be tough.

But, if you had to pick a staff to continue the award-winning tradition, you'd probably pick this one.

Summer Interns

More reporters and editors than you can shake a stick at served summer internships with larger city newspapers.

That includes News Editor Larry Lutz at the *Sioux City (Iowa) Journal*, Associate News Editor Janet Fix at the *Phoenix, Arizona Republic* and Associate News Editor Ann Owens at the *Boise, Idaho Statesman*.

Managing Editor Pete Mason returns for his second semester at the job.

National-award winner Ron Ruggless returns to reporting. He won a national award in 1976 for helping break the story on the selection of Roy Young as UNL Chancellor.

He had been associate news editor for a year, but returns to writing because he says he wants more time to study this semester.

Mary Jo Pitzl is back to cover the regents beat.

Paula Ditttrick and Marjie Lundstrom, who covered the Legislature last year, will be back to cover the police and city beats.

Anne Carothers will cover the Nebraska Unions. Scott Whitcomb will cover a variety of student interests.

And that's just a handful of reporters—there are bright new faces and more veterans returning. And there's more.

A magazine section will appear once a month. Special Editor Michael Zangari intends to include depth pieces in what he calls the new, experiential journalism.

At least four national syndicated columnists will be subscribed to by the Daily Nebraskan so we can offer the best and most informative reading. We'll pick the best columns each week.

And then there's the op/ed page. It will appear irregularly on the page opposite the editorial page to provide a different perspective on the news.

First Down

First Down, the football program, will return on Saturdays. It will be directed by former Daily Nebraskan sports editors Pete Wegman and Dennis Onnen.

We also hope to produce a weekly entertainment supplement beginning sometime in September. It would include—are you ready—television listings.

We promise our efforts to continue living up to our responsibility. We can also promise you a dynamic, growing newspaper whose prime goal is to serve the readers of this campus.

It is not without some trepidation that we face this semester and these responsibilities, but we are optimistic that we can continue the award-winning tradition of the paper.

But, enough of this back-slapping. Welcome back to campus.

Rex Seline

The *Daily Nebraskan* welcomes letters to the editor and guest opinions. Choices of material 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 is subject to editing and condensation and cannot be returned to the writer.

Depth pieces suitable for the op/ed page also are welcome. A variety of types of work will be accepted, including opinion pieces on timely subjects and depth reports.

Material should be brought to the *Daily Nebraskan*, Nebraska Union 34.

Free lance work occasionally is accepted. It also should be typed, triple-spaced, on nonerasable paper.



letters
to the editor