

editorial

Union Board leaves students out with no-tell policy

Personal conflict has been pegged as the reason for the Union Board closing its April 26 meeting.

Mark Knobel, Union Board president, said a "personal conflict" between Nebraska Union Director Al Bennett and "several" members of the Union Board led to the closed session. There seems to be a difference of opinion between the members and Bennett, but Knobel declined to say what that difference was and who it involved.

It seems that when students are

appointed by ASUN to serve on the board they should be serving in the best interest of the students, letting them know what is going on with the Union and showing their effectiveness.

The closed session provided a "confrontation" between Bennett and the parties involved, Knobel said.

When a body that is representing the students and how they spend their monies is not willing to air its dirty linen in public, we begin to ask

if these representatives are truly acting on behalf of the students.

These "personal differences" between the union director and the members could just be some students acting in the best interest of the 22,000 other students at UNL.

We will never know, though, will we?

The Union Board executive committee is tight-lipped, and mum is the word with Al Bennett.

And where are the rest of the students left? They are left not knowing

who is representing their best interests.

The effectiveness of student opinion getting across to the Union Board members, and eventually to the planning and programming of the two Unions by Bennett and the administration, is being hampered by the problems on the board.

Some students are coming out on the short end of being represented, and it is not the nine student members of the Union Board.

Dissected flies don't necessarily die...neither do students

When Ponce de Leon was finished dragging his sagging libido through the Florida swamps, he must have been frustrated. What began as an extended trip to eternal youth ended as a hot, sticky reaffirmation of his own mortality.

Strangely enough, the end of the semester always has given me ample reason to identify with the old fart. (You guessed it, this is the "I-won't-write-a-self-indulgent-end-of-the-year-column column.")

This year, however, as I look down the loaded barrel of finals week, I have a new attitude. It is a non-verbal attitude. One that is usually expressed by placing one's thumb on one's nose and wiggling one's fingers to and fro.

functions continue to work, the insect may be as good as dead from a human standpoint.

At any rate, scientists say that a fly is considered dead when it fails to move for 24 to 48 hours.

There is a great deal of comfort in the knowledge that we are still progressing at this late date.

Remember, you read it here first. Having discharged my responsibilities for writing a weekly column this semester, I am reasonably prepared to face another

finals week. My thumb and fingers are oiled and ready, I'm on the verge of mental collapse, and judging from my own incomprehensible ramblings and those of my friends, we seem to have more in common with the common housefly than Ponce de Leon this time around.

michael
zangari

It's gratifying to know I've learned something in the past few years.

Actually I've learned quite a bit in the last few years. That is why I keep coming back. That, and I have a high threshold for pain.

All of which has nothing to do with today's subject, which is "Our Friend the Fly." But we'll get to that later.

Speaking of pain, (and we were a line or two ago), death has proved to be an excellent, and possibly the *only* long term cure for pain. Death, however may be a little extreme in many cases. Medical science has made death confusing in the last few years, and it may be hardly worth the effort.

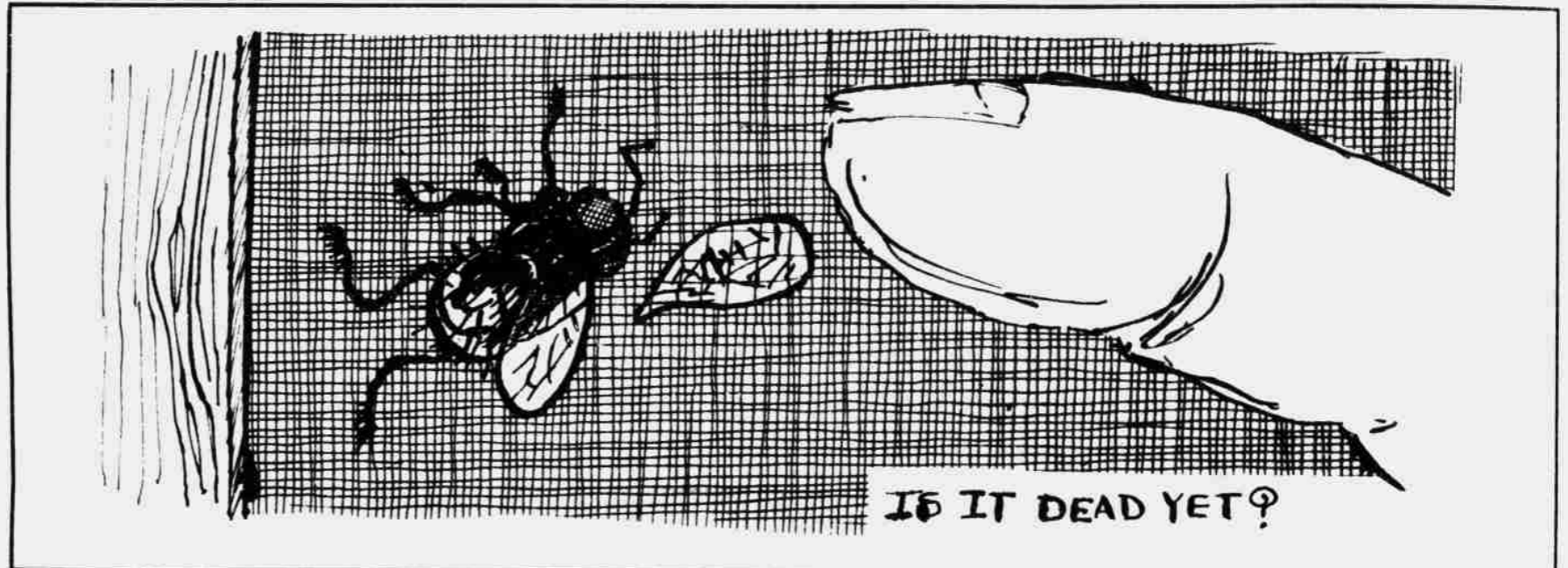
Technological advancements have not cleared up the matter any; in fact, it is harder now to determine when a patient has died. In the old days it was easy. If it didn't move, you buried it. Now we have moral conflicts along with medical ones. *Maybe* the individual isn't moving for a reason.

Having warmed up to the subjects of school, pain and death, we now can approach the subject of flies.

From Newsprint news service comes the following item about an entomologist at the University of California at Riverside. (For those who are under the impression from reading this column that all things good and pure come from California, I sincerely apologize. As Hoyt Axton has said, "... they tell me I was born there, but I really don't remember. ...") Thomas Miller, the entomologist, is saying that we are being forced to "define death in new terms for insects."

According to Miller, insects don't have vital functions the way humans do. This being so, he says you can remove a fly's heart, (assuming that you can find it) and nothing will happen. The fly will go on like nothing happened. Miller also says you can remove the fly's head (did the French remove Marie Antoinette's head?) and the only reason the operation would prove fatal is because it would inhibit the fly's ability to eat.

The Daily Nebraskan, being basically morally sound, must bring up the possibility that although some of the fly's vital



letters to the editor

Let's cut student fees.

Almost every UNL student worth his social security number would say that this would be in his or her economic interest. Why, then, are so many of these same students passively (or worse, yet compulsively) willing to allow their hard-earned dollars to be spent by organizations of which they have never heard, for the services of which they have little use, or which support political views unfavorable to some fee payers?

The answer apparently lies in the holy mystique which surrounds that noble term, "public interest." Very few interests, except survival, can be attributed to every member of a group so diverse as at UNL. The public interest is in fact merely a loose association of the individual interests of those involved.

I suggest that the crucial question regarding the funding of NUPIRG is, "What's in it for me?" If an individual can answer this, his monetary contribution is proper. If one cannot, then the so-called "public interest" organizations have not business spending his money for him.

I am not saying that we must beat each other to the ground in pursuit of our own interests. I am saying just the opposite: if each individual at UNL would give more serious consideration to the question, "what's in it for me," perhaps our earnings wouldn't have to be confiscated in order to pursue the question, "what's in it for us?" That consideration would be automatically taken care of.

Then we who earn what we spend could, believe it or not, spend what we earn.

Becky de la Motte
Freshman, journalism

Nuclear fusion

In early April I listened to a presenta-

tion on fusion energy by Professor Dennis Alexander, nuclear engineer, of the UNL mechanical engineering department. He speculated that one of the main reasons the fusion program was going ahead is because the military would like to have research done on fusion bombs, and in particular, the neutron bomb. Alexander also stated that this is one of the reasons he is involved in nuclear research.

A fusion reactor works on the same principles as the sun. There is a rumor that fusion reactors do not have the dangerous radiation, but this is not true. The reason the sun's radiation does not hurt us that much is because we are protected by a distance of 93,000,000 miles and our atmosphere.

I see the following problems with fusion energy:

1. They are not sure if a fusion reactor will really work or not.
2. Because fusion plants require a large size, electricity would have to be transmitted longer distances which means longer, larger power lines and therefore greater inefficiencies.
3. There will be a problem with obtaining lithium which is needed to make tritium which is used as fusion fuel.
4. This problem requires a lot of capital investment.
5. The radioactive wastes are in part gaseous and hard to contain.

The military developed this technique of taking minerals for making both energy and bombs at the same time from the fusion program.

A different tactic must be emphasized to prevent the escalation of war through arms competition with Russia. I like to think of this tactic in the following words, "let's organize, make friends with the Russian people and get rid of the arms," tactic. This means changing a pattern of war which has persisted in humanity as long as we have known in about one lifetime. If

our species is to continue we must change to meet the crisis.

At the present, our military spends no money on this tactic and in fact it spends money to prevent it by labeling people who are against it as subversives and then spends money to investigate them.

The United States should start emphasizing real friendship and cooperation between Americans and Russians. What we really need in this world is cooperation, thought, and love.

Larry Hassebrook
Senior, electrical engineer

Classics 180

The article (on) "grade inflation" (April 20) was based on an inaccurate report with regard to Classics 100 as having the highest grade average of 3.712. The report should have indicated that Classics 180 has this 3.712.

Thomas E. Rinkevich
acting chairman, Classics

Self-righteous Christians

I never cease to be appalled by the self-righteousness of those who profess Christian love of neighbor and simultaneously spew forth hatred for anyone who does not express love within the awesome sanctity of marriage and family. A letter was printed April 26 which condemned homosexuality because it was not procreative. If the "enjoyment of sex" is only to be "justified because it makes babies, then is sex unjustifiable during a woman's non-fertile cycle? Are all birth control measures also unjustifiable?"

The fear and ignorance which relegates homosexual acts to society-dooming

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