

# editorial

## Speedy reply only for regents?

Watts going on?

That is our question as well as that of Residence Hall Association officers in reaction to a recent regent request.

It seems that Regent Robert Prokop of Wilbur wants a report on the refrigerator rental program that services the residence halls, according to Bill Skoneki, RHA president and Doug Zatecka, housing director.

His request is so detailed that supposedly he wants to know how much electricity is used by the refrigerators that are supplied by Collegiate Products, Inc. and rented by the residence halls.

The motive for this sudden burst of interest in the refrigerator rental program is unknown and a little curious. But considering that RHA's proposed budget changes and the refrigerator program have been in the news recently, it is not an unusual request.

We don't know what Prokop wants the information for, but we can be sure that if it's anything of significance, students will find out one way or another.

In many ways, Prokop's request is admirable.

We wish that administrators would have more concern like this about campus events. The more they know about student concerns and what is going on with the student body, the greater sensitivity they may have for student needs.

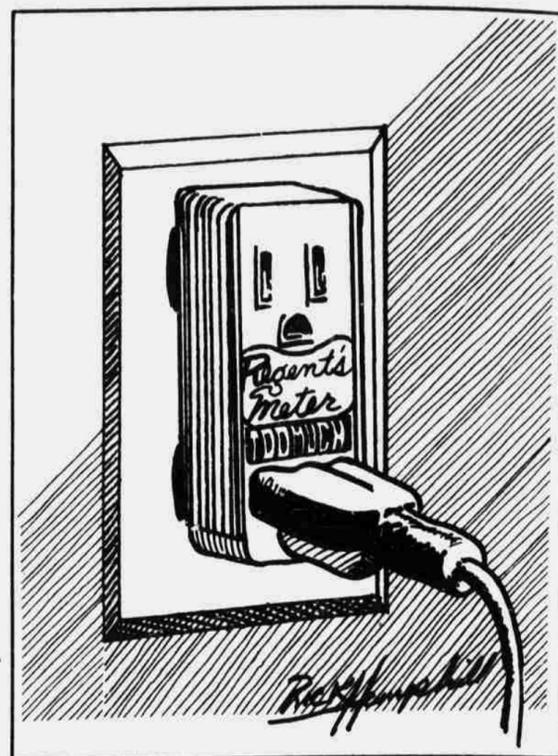
But Prokop's request is making RHA officers scramble to gather the necessary information. That's going to take some digging, especially when electricity figures are required.

This expediency in putting together the requested information raises an interesting point.

Students, student leaders and newspapers have been pressing for detailed information on a variety of university projects for some time. Closer examination of the Nebraska Unions, University Health Center and parking department budgets, to name a few, have been asked for, but there has been a big delay in getting the word out. Students have run into a lot of red tape trying to get these figures.

We only hope that Prokop's request will set a precedent for future requests of the same nature.

It would be nice to see an element of fairness applied evenly to students and administrators.



## From Congress to campus, '78 politics touch students

To review the political scene since January in any coherent, chronological order would be nearly impossible and would take up three quarters of the paper if it was ever finished.

But the last column of the semester seems to call for some sort of review.

Probably the most important event of 1978 to this point has been the ratification of the Panama Canal treaties, providing a change that modernized U.S. foreign policy while at the same time giving Jimmy Carter a much-needed and hard fought victory.

The farmers went to Washington early this year and, although they won the initial battles, they lost the war when the House defeated emergency farm legislation under threat of a presidential veto.

Tongsun Park returned to the United States this spring with a promise to tell all about his influence-buying scheme in the U.S. Congress. But the Koreagate investigation has been a disappointment as far as scandals go.

I. kent  
**wolgamott**

On the state level, the public won a major victory when the Legislature was unable to override Gov. J. James Exon's veto of the bill intended to repeal Nebraska's sunshine act.

The Legislature was uncharacteristically cautious and handled few of the controversial issues placed before it this year.

Omaha was given its sales tax increase after a long debate involving city officials, the Legislature and, especially, Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh and Exon.

A bill which changed the state's marijuana law also was passed. Both proponents and opponents of decriminalization and liberalization of the law claimed victory, which leads one to think the new law may in fact be worse than the old.

Perhaps this session of the Legislature will be remembered as the year when Sunday horse racing was approved for Nebraska tracks, a long overdue measure.

Of course, 1978 is an election year and has been marked by competitive campaigns for the GOP nominations for governor and the First Congressional District. There also is a contested Democratic campaign for the same House seat.

Campus politics have been marked by attacks from the right on the issue of mandatory student fees.

The Young Americans for Freedom were successful in their campaign to remove mandatory student fee funding for "political" speakers. This was done through a letter writing campaign which

caused the regents to limit funding despite 5,000 student signatures on petitions supporting mandatory fees for speakers.

The YAF attacks on the Nebraska University Public Information Research Group may have backfired on the conservative group.

An ASUN investigation of the two

groups cleared NUIRG of any wrongdoing and caused suit to be brought in the UNL Student Court against YAF.

An unfortunate pattern also is beginning to appear on campus, a pattern of meetings closed to the public.

The closing of meetings by student or-

ganizations is very disturbing and probably unnecessary.

Many of the political events leave questions to be answered in the fall. Most important are the elections for governor and the First Congressional District representative. These elections could drastically alter Nebraska politics.

## letters to the editor

I would like to respond to the "Fathom" magazine May 1. As the student at large of the Advisory Committee for International Affairs, I feel obligated to clarify some things.

I would like everybody to remember that the opinions expressed are only those of certain individuals, so it is not right to stereotype the people from that country just based on what you read.

Secondly, I cannot deny that there is culture shock and discrimination in America. It will exist anywhere in the world as long as you do not belong to that country. What matters is if you want to overcome the difficulties, like language gap, cultural gap or even climate. A positive attitude is the only way to help oneself overcome everything and be successful.

Thirdly, some of the opinions expressed were that University of Nebraska is not "fair-treating" the international students. The tuition and expenses are high, that's true! But UNL is trying to provide quality education for all those students who choose to come here. Besides academic benefits, UNL provides all kinds of scholarships and assistantships for international students. International Educational Services is the place to find all kinds of help. The Housing Office has a special interim housing plan for international students. Who can say that UNL is discriminating international students?

As a student from Hong Kong, I also would like to comment on my country. Hong Kong is a British Crown Colony, located on the southeast coast of China. We learn both English and Chinese in school. Most of the students from Hong Kong are undergraduates. In school in Hong Kong what we learn is just academic knowledge and not political opinions. We don't study Communism or colonialism. The political opinion of one cannot represent the whole group. Also, most students from Hong Kong can speak better English than any other country. If one cannot speak English fluently, it is only that he did not get good practice when he was in high school.

Discrimination is inevitable when you go to another country. It is our responsibility to expose our cultures to the Americans and let them have a better chance to understand us. The Americans also should be more open and ready to accept the for-

eign cultures. After all, we are all living in the same place, studying at the same university.

Betty Cheung  
Sophomore, broadcasting

### Strangers in the night

Earlier this semester, I was as mad as hell about hearing there were maggots and bugs in my dorm food. Douglas Zatechka, housing director, wrote me, assuring me it was "bean sprouts" and not maggots and bugs.

OK, I'll buy that, but when I entered by darkened room the other night, I'm pretty sure it wasn't "bean sprouts." I found scampering across the floor when I turned on the light. I think it was what you'd call cockroaches (I caught the little buggers, too, in case your friends at the FDA want to make a full-scale investigation).

Before you and your cronies over at Regent's Hall decided to up dorm rates, Mr. Zatechka, I wish you had spent a week over here at Cather Hall to see what it's really like.

Jeff Barnes  
Sophomore, journalism

### Dam it all!

After two invigorating treks down the Niobrara River I have found myself increasingly concerned about the fate of this magnificent waterway. My eyes have been opened to the heinous plot that threatens to mutilate Nebraska's most canoeable and scenic river.

The proposed project, the O'Neill Unit (Norden Dam), would flood a 19-mile section of the Niobrara and nearly 6,300 acres of surrounding wilderness and pasture land. The project's main purpose is to provide water to irrigate an estimated 77,000 acres of farmland which in turn is supposed to stimulate the economic condition of the surrounding five-county area.

Of the 77,000 acres of farmland that could possibly be irrigated from the resulting reservoir, only 12 percent is suitable for a profitable irrigation system. The same soil that makes up this 12 percent is so

sandy and porous that irrigation water would flow right through to the water table, carrying with it nitrogen fertilizer in the form of dissolved nitrates and pesticides. We must also consider why an area with a three percent unemployment rate needs economic improvement when the national average is a bulging eight percent.

Above all else, I feel that the absurd elimination of the wildlife habitat that cradles the Niobrara River is the most repulsive consequence that would result if the project were completed. Scientific studies claim that the Niobrara is one of the least polluted rivers in North America and that its wide canyons and forest areas provide optimum habitat for endangered species. Now is the time to act, before we deprive ourselves of these natural privileges which function on such a delicate ecosystem.

Patrick Phelan  
Freshman, architecture

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anytime!

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or hours.

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