



letter to the editor

The NU Board of Regents has approved a 9,000 seat addition to the east stadium at Memorial Stadium in their January regents meeting. The Residence Hall Association membership has written each editor a letter about their opposition.

For the record, I opposed that addition because of the expense involved for what is being obtained. A new 105,000 seat stadium could have been built much more economically and could have accommodated many more people than will this addition. The cost of \$575 per seat in comparison to a cost of \$50 per seat indicates to me that building this addition is foolhardy. However, with a vote of 5-3, the addition became a reality.

The letter gives three points for their opposition. The facts need to be brought out in each case since all three points are in error.

The first states that the regents devote too much attention to football and not enough to education. Each regent meeting is about 7-10 hours in length. The regents have on the football issue not spent over ten total hours a year and more likely if one were to time it on the tapes, about two hours. We spend countless hours on business items and educational interests. If discussing budgetary matters, and discussing personnel and business items for about 95 percent of the total time we spent is taking a backseat to football, someone in the Residence Hall Association has not attended our meetings.

Each individual in the state should know that rarely do we ever have normally over five students at any regent meeting and further, students elect student regents in order to inform them about what goes on at meetings, and to represent their views. If the concept of student regents, which you the voters of the state, added to the constitution of the state of Nebraska, is to be effective, why has misinformation been given students about the entire project by the representatives that are on regents from the UNL campus? Why has the information that is erroneous, been given to students that there are tax funds when in effect, they are athletic department revenue?

The second point made is that one cannot guarantee future attendance at UNL football games. Again, one has to only point to 21,000 ticket orders in 1977 when the regents announced their plans to expand with checks, to indicate the strong interest in the state. One can also ask, why do students refuse to police their own groups for the scalping of tickets that goes on and the profit making which occurs due to decreased prices paid by those students for season tickets? Why have they fought the use of photo identification so that the university could control this ticket scalping problem?

The third point made is that there was not adequate student input into this decision and that we made the decision when the students were away from the campus. Again, one must ask, does not the student regent represent student input on the board? Doesn't the board represent eight districts of Nebraska constituents rather than a student body only? Can't the students attend meetings of the regents more readily when they are out of school than when in? If they are so interested in regent meetings, where are they when we meet?

The RHA opposes addition of a surcharge to their tickets. Why should we continue to fleece the general public with surcharges while the students continue to get a reduced ticket rate and no surcharge? Why should the public continue to pay 75 percent of the total revenue while students pay only 14 percent and get no student fee charge for the discounted ticket prices to supplement the

Athletic Department budget to sustain the University of Nebraska athletic program?

The RHA also takes the position that they should not be required to purchase tickets in the new section, that they should have prime seating for a discount price, and that there would be a diminished attendance by students if their seating was changed. At the present time, the South Stadium has students in large numbers present. There is also a number of students on both goal lines. The sections where the students sit has always been determined by the Athletic Department. If there has been no marked decrease in student participation at the games and if the students were really interested as a total group in athletic events rather than a profit motive, one could accept that type of proposition. But when that is not done, then there cannot be special consideration given to them.

Obviously when the RHA states that the students should have more influence in influencing the decision of students at the university, they should pay for that prerogative. The only decisions they show up for is booze in the dormitories and coed visitation. Where are the students when it comes to discussion of improvement of education? Are students interested only in lobbying for more financial appropriations to the university without assurance of increasing educational delivery?

They are obviously misguided if they feel that the regents are the members of the academic community that improve the quality of education. I don't know of a regent that teaches a class full or part time. I also don't know of a regent that makes up any of the educational material that students receive. Obviously RHA is a little mixed up as to who determines the educational quality, if they can define that word, that the students receive.

Neglecting basic educational needs is a matter of

faculty and appropriations utilization. To suggest that a stadium addition taken from Athletic Department funds affects the tax base and support of the university indicates the maturity of the writers and the thought process that occurs with misinformation.

One would suppose that students and the RHA would get the basic facts first before making absurd statements that have no basis.

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NU Regent from Wilber

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