

opinion/editorial

High UNL cost, low teacher pay need justification

"Regents Edward Schwartzkopf says he can understand why UNL students sometimes feel that the NU Board of Regents 'doesn't give a damn' about them" ... - Daily Nebraskan interview with Schwartzkopf, published Dec. 7, 1978.

And, after Friday's regents meeting, it seems pretty easy to understand why students get that feeling from time to time.

The regents completely ignored petitions signed by 5,828 UNL students—in less than 36 hours—opposing the 10 percent tuition increase.

The regents also ignored arguments forwarded by student representatives, and the evident wishes of about 100 students who stood when ASUN President Bud Cuca asked those at the meeting opposed to the increase to stand.

They ignored the results of a survey conducted by ASUN's Government Liaison Committee indicating that most students think the quality of education at NU is slipping and that a tuition increase won't help it.

The board didn't even hold a public hearing, giving students a chance to testify to their reasons.

The board has once again treated the students like small children by refusing to reconsider the recommendations put before it by NU central administration.

Maybe tuition here is not too expensive.

If that is the case, it should be assumed that NU students are getting the second best education available in the Big Eight, since that is what they are paying for.

But that is not the case, because faculty salaries are second lowest in the Big Eight. It requires a tremendous stretch of logic to believe that the second-lowest paid faculty delivers the second best education.

Tuition is the price for a product. That product is education. Facts and figures indicate that something is very wrong with the price students here are paying for their education, and the regents—as a body—have never offered an explanation of the difference.

Students, very justifiably, asked for an explanation at Friday's regents meeting. What they got in response was a 5-2 vote increasing tuition by 10 percent.

Ten percent is at least three per-

cent above the increase in state money the Legislature is likely to give the university for 1980-81. But the tuition increase is beyond legislative control, so it is very likely that students will be paying a greater percentage share of next year's budget increase than will taxpayers.

Considering that, and considering that both students and citizens benefit from the education sold to the students by the university, and considering the quality of what students get for what they pay, students would be more than justified in asking for a thorough explanation of what they get for their tuition dollar compared to comparable schools.

-Randy Essex

Macho president looks for his sport

President Carter is the ultimate macho man. Saturday, he dropped out of a 6.2-mile race near Camp David, Md., after the White House physician, Dr. William Lukash, advised him that he was suffering from exhaustion. Carter was helped off the course and given smelling salts. Apparently, Carter doesn't know when to quit. Since Saturday, rumor has it that the search for a new presidential sport is in the works. The process might go something like this:

Press secretary Jody Powell arrived on time for the weekly meeting among Carter, chief of staff Hamilton Jordan and himself. Jordan was late. "Where's Ham?" Carter said. "Oh, he's out getting some Cokes for us," Powell responded.

tom prentiss

"He's out getting WHAT?" the president snapped. "Not that kind, Mr. President," Powell reassured him. "The soft drink in bottles." Just then Jordan entered and began the meeting. "Mr. President, Jody and I have done a lot of thinking on this and we feel it's time you drop jogging in favor of some exercise we could reap the most votes out of," he said.

"But I love running he said. It's my form of relaxation. All my pressures are relieved when I run."

"The point," Powell said, "is that we can't afford to have you dragged from race after race mumbling. Kennedy wouldn't quit. Kennedy wouldn't stop." "It makes for very bad press," Powell said.

AFTER MORE EXPLANATION, the President finally relented and talk turned to finding another sport.

Carter asked whether chess would be a good idea. Powell told him it would not. People would think he was too intellectual.

Adlai Stevenson's losses in 1952 and 1956 were caused by people thinking he was too intellectual, said Powell. Jordan went to look up the meaning of intellectual in a dictionary.

"How about skiing?" Powell offered. "That's a great idea," Carter said. "When I go to my home in Vail for the winter months, I could ski then."

Powell pointed out that Carter has a home in Plains, Ga. Gerald Ford, he said, is the one with the house in Vail. "Come to think of it," the president said, "we don't get much snow in Plains."

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letters

With the release of Senator Edward Kennedy from his promise not to seek the presidency, it becomes increasingly apparent that comments such as those of Dave Fall in the Daily Nebraskan of Sept. 13 must be rebutted.

It is true that young voters have been a stronghold of support for the Kennedys. Naivete. But why do a great many people apparently suffer from the delusion that the name Kennedy is a synonym for superlative public servant? The first answer which comes to mind are an unfortunate deficiency of thought (encouraged by the fourth estate's orgastic account of Kennedy, most of which would make appropriate trimmings for a stable floor) or some sort of moral hypocrisy which tolerates the obstruction of justice by some public officials but not others.

How has Ted Kennedy demonstrated great leadership potential? Well, he was suspended from Harvard for cheat-

ing. He did such a poor job as Senate majority whip that the democratic caucus failed to reelect him. Perhaps the speed with which Kennedy has mustered overwhelming support for his health-care program shows great leadership. We know, of course, that the senator demonstrated his high morals at Martha's Vineyard, as well as his ability to think rationally in crisis situations.

Anyone who can attribute leadership potential to Ted Kennedy without grinning ear-to-ear has a better poker face than I.

Alan Welch
Graduate student

Cooperation needed

There's another side to much of the Daily Nebraskan's editorial of Sept. 12.

The editorials main point is that the Regents err in asking for a 15 percent increase in state tax dollars. The main basis for that conclusion is that the request will "anger senators."

If this is the way state senators operate, then I am greatly disappointed in that organ of government. I would hope when a senator votes, he or she votes on what is best for the state of Nebraska and not upon the basis of anger or personal pique at a majority of the Board of Regents.

There is no blinking the fact that those in political office are buffeted today by waves of taxpayer resistance, but this is not the time for everyone in the political arena to roll over and play dead. I personally thank those in political office who have the courage to ask for funds they think are required to serve the needs of society. The regents are elected too, you know!

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