

letters to the editor

After wading through the irresponsible corruption of the truth presented in James C. Coe's Daily Nebraskan article of March 10, and the grandiose, sensationalistic emotionalism of Doreen Charles' contribution of the same date, I can only applaud Francis Nicol's fine assessment of the South African situation in the March 17 DN. While there are errors in the references to the Soweto uprising in which "they protested peacefully" (actually, there was extensive destruction of several schools) and in the determination that South Africa massacres children "in an attempt to reduce the black population" (this is an unrealistic analysis of South African policy), Nicol helps to set the record straight in several specific areas. His thoughtful effort is certainly appreciated.

While Nicol's comments are certainly not the last word on South Africa's internal situation, I believe that it is time to leave this debate of how good or bad South Africa is for a more pertinent discussion of greater relevance to the University and the State of Nebraska. Any realistic assessment of the South African situation must recognize that the South African government's apartheid and homeland policies are based on racist doctrines. But this has little *direct* bearing on the Krugerrand issue. What concerns the university is whether its acceptance of the Krugerrands constitutes an endorsement of South Africa's racial policies, or is simply a sound investment devoid of political implications. I'm sure that ASUN would welcome an expression of the student body's opinion on the issue *most pertinent* to the Krugerrand debate.

Here is food for REAL discussion. Eat hearty!

James W. Allen
Junior, History-International Relations
within University Studies

UNL: jack of all trades?

Recent articles in your paper suggesting the reduction of teaching activities make a lot of sense. If a corporation is spread too thin, certain lines are sold or discontinued

and only the more profitable lines are kept. So it should be with a well-managed university in the matter of finances; it should live within its means. As long as I can remember, and that's been for over fifty years, UNL has always been on a very miserly basis of funding. Appropriated and donated funds *never* have been adequate for salaries or laboratory equipment either one.

There's only one answer and that's to reduce the scope of academic activities. How can that be done? It's simple—just make a survey of the number of last year's graduates who stayed in the state after graduation for each specialty. How many doctors, lawyers, teachers, industrial engineers, chemists, etc. remained in the state out of the total that graduated in each category? Of course there are special cases and complicating factors, but those courses where the percentage is very low might well be examined. Why train people for other states at the expense of Nebraska?

As to the student, it's worth the out-of-state tuition fee to go where the desired specialty is not just taught but taught with all the facilities needed to do it right, whether it's instructional or with laboratory equipment or both. A poor pay scale doesn't always attract the best teachers. Quite the contrary. By instructional I mean the degree of specialization of the teacher, especially for graduate students.

In conclusion, it makes no sense to present courses to students who for the most part can't find jobs along their special lines in the state. The state never has adequately financed the university and it doesn't look as though it ever will. It is time to face the facts of reality and teach what's needed most in Nebraska and let students who have other interests go where those courses are taught, and where the jobs are in those lines.

I've always believed in quality instruction and facilities as against a wide diversification which lacked quality, something like the jack of all trades and master of none.

James C. Coe



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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