

letters to the editor

John Hoggood's 'espose' of problems in the College of Architecture reported in Monday's Daily Nebraskan was extremely poor journalism well beyond the limits of tolerance which student-run newspapers can be granted.

Hoggood's sloppy data gathering destroyed his claim to credibility at the outset. Here are some gross factual errors:

1. "When tornadoes leveled parts of Grand Island in June, the college offered to help the city with its rebuilding plans." The college did more than just offer, it sent a number of faculty members out to help assess the extent of damage door-to-door and provided planning support through the temporary assignment of one of its planning faculty to the city of Grand Island for a period of two weeks.

2. Peter Wood was not "director of the American Institute of Architects" but was a director of continuing education for the AIA.

Jay Garrott (not Garrett) was an assistant professor, not an associate professor.

Mary Kihl was not in the department of architecture but in the community and regional planning department. Mr. Kihl found a job in Ames, Iowa and Mary found one in Lincoln. Mary jumped at the opportunity to join her family in Ames, Iowa. So, Mary is not at Iowa State University, not Arizona State U. as the article states.

4. Dean Steward is a registered architect, but not registered in the state of Nebraska.

Once I plowed through these gross errors and shallow presentations, I found that the Hoggood article depicted a tense and suspicious-laden atmosphere in the College of Architecture. The anonymous sources of derogatory quotes gave the appearance that the dean was inaccessible to faculty and intolerant of differences of opinion.

As one who has laid many a problem in his lap without the benefits of appointments to do so, I can say that

I am surprised at Dean Steward's continued optimism in the face of real and persistent problems of poor salaries and substandard facilities. I think the last lines of Hoggood's article should have been reversed and amended to read: "It's going to be (another) tough year" but "there is a lot of vitality and excitement within the college." Dean Steward is a very accessible person who listens sentence, but no understating his optimism.

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Aliens . . .

In other words, you'd have the Hispanic having to demonstrate residency or citizenship in the United States, while you wouldn't have that problem with any other group. Any time you have that type of situation that's a glaring inequity, one that would probably result in employees refusing to hire us."

Torres' point is difficult to refute. But so is Huddleston's. The senator claims that millions of low-income workers are unemployed because they are displaced by aliens who are willing to work for less than prevailing rates. Labor Secretary Ray Marshall once estimated that the U.S. jobless rate could be reduced by more than a third if illegal aliens were taken out of the job market.

Torres, who prefers the term "undocumented workers," says the displacement is vastly exaggerated. "Displacement isn't the problem," he says, "the problem, which affects not just black youth but to some extent other youth, including Hispanics, is a very high rate of functional illiteracy, continued discrimination, lack of job skills, the escalating qualifications for entry-level jobs—those are the problems."

Torres acknowledges that there is some displacement of American workers by illegal immigrants, but thinks that to focus attention on it is simply to obscure more serious aspects of minority joblessness in America.

For there to be any displacement factor, you must assume that (Americans) would take those jobs. But there is nothing to substantiate that they would," the U.S.-born Torres contends.

"Under the present circumstances of the welfare approach by this country, there is a huge disincentive to work at the minimum wage.

"I worked for the California Legislature for two years as a budget analyst, and my interviews with welfare recipients, my interviews with community people, my interviews with the administrators of welfare programs, there was a consensus that the welfare approach is very much a disincentive for people to go to work."

But granting Torres' assertion that it is unfair to make undocumented workers the scapegoat for all unemployment in America, what would he see as a reasonable approach for dealing with the displacement that does occur?

"The only reasonable approach is a policy on the part of this country that addresses the needs of the countries that are sending the people over here. You'd project development projects along the border areas. You'd have to relax some tariff laws with Mexico. You'd have to increase the trade that Mexico has with this country.

"Those are some of the things that would help to stem the flow. But you're never going to stop the flow, no matter what you do."

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Reagan . . .

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The American people don't know a lot of these things. The people's right-to-know machinery has had its screws tightened. As far as public debate goes, Ron never has been one for out-in-the-open negotiations. He prefers the "this is the way it's going to be" approach.

But things could be worse. Alexander Haig, secretary of defense, pulled the plug on one president in the final days, maybe he has already had a talk with military heads about Reagan's tendency to shoot first and ask questions later.

Four years of Reagan. What lurks in the musty corners of a cobweb mind? What can be done to stop the ebb of closet conservatives and power-mongers in the production rooms and in the director's chairs that sit behind The Actor?

But maybe these are just the blind ramblings of a sore-loser liberal. Maybe the reign won't be as bad as the running and none of this will come to pass. After all, as John Mitchell said in 1969:

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