

# opinion/editorial

## Time for students vote— what do you say, boys?

The NU Board of Regents is tinkering with the machinery of student representation by continuing to tighten the screws of power.

In doing so, the members of the university's governing body are proving to be inadequate mechanics for the NU system while they illustrate an obvious disrespect for student opinion.

The regents voted Saturday to stop paying salaries to campus presidents, who also serve as non-voting members on the board.

The board decided the two positions of student body president and student regent are inseparable, despite the opinion of NU attorney Richard Wood. Wood has said it is clear the salary is paid for the duties of being president, not for serving on the board.

This issue represents only one of the many attempts often made by the board to display its self-perceived omnipotence. Add to this previous actions designed to suppress or limit the participation of student representatives, and it becomes apparent the regents' prime motive is to squelch student opinion or else students will be forced to pay a price for being independent thinking individuals.

In addition to the salary issue,

no students were named to the board's executive committee. Chairman Robert Prokop said a lack of maturity displayed by student regents was one of the reasons for this exclusion.

Regent Edward Schwartzkopf placed part of the blame on the manner in which UNL student

Regent Renee Wessels presents herself to the board. He was quoted as saying Wessels didn't need to be assertive or aggressive in giving her views.

The recent actions taken by the board indicate that type of behavior and independence is exactly what the student regent must

rely on to raise consciousness.

Student members of the board cannot vote. Therefore, their only tool of representation is expressing concerns, problems and feelings of students.

Ensuring the free flow of information among members should be the main goal of the regents. That is, if they truly want to do all they can to benefit the NU system, its employees and the students who attend classes at Nebraska's institutions for higher education.

Schwartzkopf said Wessels should have learned to lobby with fellow board members. In other words, fraternizing and bargaining with the regents in true "old-boy" style politics is to be encouraged.

Well, that may be the approach the regents respect and understand. But Wessels should be commended for applying her own brand of representation and not yielding to the pressures exerted by the elected members.

Since the regents have deemed it necessary to equalize the positions of student and elected regents by eliminating the student president's salary, perhaps now is the time to give campus representatives a vote on the board. What do you say, boys?



## Everybody sells nothing on late night television

Greetings from the realm of late night television. Since I acquired full channel capacity via cable television two years ago, this plucky little chunk of our vast media system has never ceased to amaze me. For those who avoid this electronic hearth like the swine flu, cable television will only strengthen your convictions. For manic depressives, insomniacs, college students, or any combination thereof, it is a comfort to know Ted Turner never sleeps.

One thing nice about cable television is that it keeps you abreast of what's going on in such far away places as Atlanta and Kansas City. With WTBS from Atlanta and KBMA from Kansas City, such nuisances as local severe weather and air raid warnings are gone. In today's troubled world, we don't need any bleak reminders of the present; we yearn for "Petticoat Junction." Or so the programmers have us believe.

not inviting Ace Cannon to my next party. And need I even mention the heart-touching magic of Jim Nabors?

The print media also has jumped on the cable advertising bandwagon, with several major publications pushing subscriptions with flashy montages and terrible puns. One common advertiser on ESPN, the all-sports channel, is *Smithsonian Magazine*, which can give us an in-depth look into culture and the world around us as we wait for the hockey game to come back on in which the goalie is about to lose his bridgework under the force of a speeding puck.

### Condescending attitude

These advertisers have more in common than an attitude that is condescending to even a grade-school mentality. Most of these advertisements are sold on a commission basis, meaning the station only makes money when the producer sells the product. This is accurately

charted through the receipts from mail orders and toll-free calls. Because of such a setup, we see folks like K-Tel, Armourcote II, and Cindy Lew music bunched up in what is generally recognized as the non-profit hours.

Also, in these late-night time slots we find The Red Cross, Peace Corps and CARE. These are public service announcements required by the Federal Communications Commission, but stations tend to run them at times when it won't hurt their profits either. Thus, a night of late night cable viewing can produce some profound questions: Are there really starving kids in Ethiopia, and are they bothered by runny, slimy egg whites as much as I am?

Last week I had a dream where I was being chased by Slim Whitman who was hurling free, owl-shaped bamboo wind chimes at me. Perhaps this television is going to have to go after all.

## Waste, fraud management the key to bring balance to federal budget

You have probably already asked yourself this morning: "How can Mr. Reagan keep his vow to balance the budget by cutting out waste and fraud when each of his predecessors has vowed the same vow to no avail?"

The answer is an incredible technological breakthrough in waste and fraud management!

### hoppe

Like most boons to mankind, such as the steam engine, penicillin and Lana Turner, the discovery was accidental. Burton Pestel, assistant director of the century-old U.S. Bureau of Waste and Fraud Control, had intended to take home from the office two gum erasers, a ream of plain bond and a staple picker. By mistake, he picked up a bag containing waste and fraud samples.

"Yechehh!" said Mrs. Pestel when he opened it in the kitchen. "Get rid of that stuff."

Pestel took it out in the backyard and dumped it on the coreopsis, thinking it might promote new growth. He then forgot about it. For two weeks, the waste and fraud sat under the sweltering Washington sun. On the evening of last Sept. 24, Pestel lit his barbecue, tossed the match over his shoulder and...

KFR BLAM! The resultant explosion destroyed the coreopsis, 12 feet of fence and the dreams of OPEC to master America's destiny.

"I realized right away I had discovered a sensational new source of energy," said Pestel, who was blown into his carp pond by the blast. And subsequent tests have proved him right!

### mccabe

But what thrills and entertains me the most about pay television is that it is supported by some of the most compassionate advertisers who truly want to let us know about the products they manufacture: the ones we've been missing out on for so long.

### Spin-dry lettuce

Old dopey me, I never knew you couldn't have a perfect salad without spin drying the lettuce in a rotating plastic bin. Or how about this: Did you know a diamond is the world's hardest surface... but you can't cook on one? Wow! And if you're sick of all the grief, torment, marital difficulties and anguish that go into preparing scrambled eggs, these saints of the capitalist order have a machine that will scramble your egg in the shell.

My first encounter with late night cable viewing was indeed a humbling one. I shut off the television and staggered into my kitchen where I discovered that not only would my cookware not withstand a blowtorch and my knives would fail to cut beer cans, but I didn't have a free set of matching bamboo salad servers to show for it.

My musical horizons also have been greatly expanded. The heretofore unknown record packagers who have sprung up profusely on late night cable are informing us our next-door neighbor already has sold 10 million albums in Europe but we've been too busy to notice.

I've had a chance to meet Boxcar Willie, Slim Whitman and Johnny Horton, to worship Elvis Presley, and to be informed about the horrible social faux pas I will make by

Four pounds of government waste, when properly fermented, can be converted into 1.2 gallons of 100-octane, unleaded syn-fuel!

The discovery came too late to help the Carter administration. But Mr. Reagan has already ordered the number of bureau employees increased from three to 12,258.

These waste and fraud collectors will roam Washington office buildings after hours, culling out desiccated files, overripe memoranda, moldering food stamp reports, mildewed efficiency studies and decomposing task forces.

Each night, a convoy of trucks will carry the waste and fraud over back roads (in order to avoid populated areas) to Secaucus, N.J., where foundations are now being poured for a huge waste and fraud treatment plant.

There, the fraud, which comprises 6.3 percent of the mix, by volume, will be filtered out and used to manufacture industrial zircos, no-run hosiery and more re-makes of "The Jazz Singer."

The residual waste, after fermentation and refining, will be piped to service stations across the country, where it will be sold to motorists for approximately 32.9 cents a gallon.

Initially, it was feared that this new source of energy might soon dry up. New surveys, however, show that Washington has an unlimited supply of untapped waste and fraud. Indeed, instead of being an oil-importing nation, the United States will soon become a waste-and-fraud-exporting nation thereby eliminating trade deficits, unemployment, inflation, etc. and, of course, balancing the budget.

There, I hope this answers the questions you probably already asked yourself this morning.