

# opinion/editorial

## Cough up cash, strike up the band

Every problem has a solution and UNL student Regent Rick Mockler has devised a plan that would allow the UNL Marching Band to fly to Miami for the Orange Bowl.

Mockler is taking \$210 out of his \$350 allotment for food and incidental expenses, along with \$250 he'll save by carpooling to Miami, instead of flying, and give it to the band. Mockler presented the band with a \$460 check Tuesday morning.

Mockler has also volunteered to stay in a less expensive hotel in Miami. This would save an additional \$366 and will be forwarded to the band through the proper channels.

All in all, the band received a commitment of \$826 to help them to get to Miami.

As good as Mockler's plan is though, we must now ask the rather obvious question: Will the members of the official administrative party do the same?

Mockler says that if members of the administrative party followed his lead, enough money could be raised to fly the band, thus avoiding a long 36-hour bus trip.

The actual numbers cannot be determined be-

cause the final list of who is going has yet to be approved by UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale. Massengale is expected to be back in town on Thursday and will probably complete the job then.

It's really too bad a detailed list of the administrative party hasn't already been published. But the chancellor is busy and out of town, so once again, student interests come last.

But that shouldn't be any surprise. A simple look at the per person allocations of both band members and administrators is telling.

Earlier reports indicated that 20 to 25 people would comprise the administrative group. With a total allocation of \$53,241, that would allot approximately \$2,129 for each member of the administrative party.

The band, however, with an allocation of \$90,510 for 291 members will only be able to spend approximately \$311 per person.

Now seriously folks, just because the upper echelon of the university thinks it's worth seven times more than the band, that doesn't mean we have to believe them.

Of course, the excuses that will be offered about why Mockler's plan won't work will only be attempts to cover the pocketbooks of members of the administrative party. If the university is serious when it says it would like all representatives from UNL to travel by air, then they now have the chance to do something about it.

Most of the governing boards of universities across the nation would love to have the opportunity to truly help out students on an issue like this — but not the NU Board of Regents.

And most administration members should be willing to forfeit some of their money to help the entire university — but not the UNL administration.

And most universities would bend over backwards trying to find an equitable solution to this problem, but not UNL.

A university that becomes of the administration, by the administration and for the administration, ceases to serve its most important constituency — the students.



## New label, but still socialism

A wag once remarked that the ultimate *Reader's Digest* article would bear the title "New Hope for the Dead." Sen. Paul Tsongas has approached that pinnacle of optimism with a book offering new hope for liberals.

Joseph Sobran

Tsongas is the personable, articulate junior Democrat from Massachusetts, and his book is called "The Road From Here: Liberalism and Realities in the 1980's." "Victor Hugo was correct," he announces: "Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come." Are you ready for the idea that is to sweep over us like a great tidal wave of history? Compassionate Realism.

Tsongas regards this phrase as something of an intellectual breakthrough: "The message of this book is the blending of and compassion in a manner that does not disrupt society." He is also quite taken with his own subtlety, by contrast with the "simplistic" approach of conservatives: "I can offer no nice, neat, snappy phrases that are adaptable for easy bumper sticker reading. I view my approach as compassionate realism. Can you imagine a bumper-sticker with those words on it?"

Again and again we hear the familiar leitmotif. Government should have "an overlay of compassion." Liberalism is "the vehicle that carries generosity and compas-

sion into the public arena." The free market must be "softened by compassion." The Reagan administration threatens to impose "a system in which compassion is minimized."

Now when politicians talk about "compassion" we should count the silverware. Government operates by force, not persuasion.

"Government and industry must be in harness," Sen. Tsongas tells us. What he doesn't tell us is who will crack the whip. It won't be industry.

He does acknowledge that the welfare state must be "capitalist-based, and that raw socialism doesn't work. For a liberal, this is a refreshing admission. It is also hard to take seriously.

Liberals never deny the need for economy, the need to cut taxes, the need to fight inflation. But Sen. Tsongas is all too typical: His "ten sound steps" for attacking inflation don't include the one sound step, namely, a halt to the printing of funny money.

And so, led by young "realists" like Tsongas, the liberals will continue to take compulsive incremental steps toward socialism without actually embracing socialist doctrine.

Conservatives, meanwhile, will have to fight liberalism more bluntly. This means eliminating entire liberal programs, not merely trying to make them "work". They don't work, and unless the administration completely disowns them, it will bear the burden of blame for their failure.

The compassionate realists will see to that.

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## 'Bored of Regents' album hot new Christmas release

The Regents are back, with a hot new release just in time for the Christmas rush. America's hottest "Old Wave" band has bounced back from last year's disappointing *Newspaper Vendetta* LP in fine fashion with a special double album set called *Bored of Regents*.

pat clark

The big difference in *The Regents* this year, the difference that makes the new album so interesting, is former band member "Bebop Bob" Prokop's rejoining the group as lead vocalist. His vocals, which have been wasted on a series of solo efforts (*New Football Stadium I*, *New Football Stadium II* and *New Football Stadium III*), brings to the band that outrageous flavor that first put them on the map years ago with the classic *Harvard of the Plains* album.

Side one kicks off with a spirited number about "Rockin' Rick" Mockler and ASUN, a rival band with whom *The Regents* have had an ongoing war of words for years. Prokop's vocals are as good as ever and the words practically slither out of his mouth when he says:

"See them argue,  
see them fuss.  
Why don't they give  
their fees to us?"

Side two features a re-release of the "Faculty Salaries" single from the *Kruggerand*, *My Kruggerand* album of two years ago. Here the percussion section drives home the slow, but steady beat as the vocals and lead guitar keep getting lower and lower, representing the professor's declining pay scale.

The highlight of the entire album is an experimental piece called "Student Input." It consists of three minutes of total silence. The talk from the record label insiders is that this cut will be released as a solo in the near future.

All of Side Three consists of just one song, "Tuition Increase." The Regents can be criticized here for dredging up old themes and pet phrases, but this remains the most ambitious composition of this type they have tried yet. "Tuition Increase" is a haunting, trance-inducing piece consisting for the most part of polyrhythmic percussion interspersed at regular intervals with the chant, "Tuition will increase this semester." At first, audiences may be inclined to skip this piece, but by the time one sits through the whole thing, the driving, constant repetition of the same

chant has a way of making it seem more acceptable.

The best thing on Side Four is a parody of the Paul McCartney and Wings hit, "Band on the Run." This one, called "Band on the Bus," tells the story of a big controversy surrounding a trip to Miami by the UNL Marching Band. It draws a metaphor for the modern class struggle by comparing the marching band's bus trip to Miami with a plane ride to the same city taken by a cadre of bureaucrats — presumably *The Regents* themselves. This, for true aficionados, is the very essence of "Old Wave" and shouldn't be missed.

The album notes contend "Band On the Bus" is based on a true story, but this reviewer doesn't believe a word of it.

The Regents are not quite up to the heights they attained with the *Harvard of the Plains* effort, but don't count them out yet. The group has just embarked on a short tour of the Southern states, but members indicate they will be back in the studio in January to begin another album.

In the meantime, *Bored of Regents* has the potential to be a holiday season hit.

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