



Letters

Student input necessary

For those of you who are usually apathetic concerning on-campus issues (like myself), I have some news that just might rattle your cage.

Recently, the employees of the Recreation Department were informed by Kenda Scheele, assistant to coordinator of intramurals Stan Campbell, that half of the department's budget has been cut for next year. What does this mean to students?

It means that Schulte Fieldhouse, the Mushroom Gardens, the Coliseum weightroom, the East Campus weightroom, the Mabel Lee gyms and the men's P.E. main floor will be closed to students next year because funds will not be available to pay the supervisors of these buildings. Also, intramural trophies and t-shirts will not be awarded to winning teams, not to mention a list of 10 other things cut out.

Next year (after 6:15 p.m. mind you) there will be two buildings open for recreation - Mabel Lee pool (I hope you like to swim!) and the Coliseum main floor. I imagine that 22,000 plus students have two buildings available to them for approximately three to four hours a night.

There are two things that we, as students, can do (for now anyway): 1) Sign the petitions that are in all recreational buildings. 2) Watch for an announcement for the

appeals meeting because in this case, numbers may speak louder than words.

Ann Kennedy
Junior
Bilingual education

Potential parking solution

The Lincoln Transportation System's proposal for a group discount for students (Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 21) should be approved.

Like any former UNO student, I've experienced parking problems at that campus that UNL students can't even imagine. For instance, my wife has cruised UNO's lot for nearly two hours to find parking.

Although parking isn't quite that bad at UNL, students who live off-campus find it extremely frustrating. Conceivably the situation could worsen very quickly, as City Campus becomes more cramped for room and larger numbers of older students (who are the ones most likely to live off-campus) re-enroll.

This attractive alternative to driving to campus could ease the parking problem, allowing enough room in the commuter lots for those who live in outlying areas and must drive to campus.

Who knows? Maybe we can prove to the planners at UNO that there are alternatives to paving Elmwood Park or building high-rise garages.

Tom Tiwald
Sophomore
Electrical engineering

'History' excuse...

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Most presidents, though, keep some sort of record. They either maintained a diary or dictated their recollections or had their secretaries listen in - sometimes secretly, sometimes not. This kind of thing is expected of presidents because they are thought to have an obligation to history that ordinary people do not have. They are expected to keep a record and then, later, give us the benefit of their experience - at a suitable price, of course (less in paperback).

Kennedy clearly felt an obligation to history. After all, he was something of an historian himself, having written (or commissioned) two books on historical subjects (*Why England Slept* and *Profiles in Courage*), and he was conscious that as president he was making history.

It was this concern for history, we are now told, that prompted Kennedy to bug the conversations of his friends and associates. This might be true. But it is also true that once the system was installed, more than history was served. After all, Kennedy's chats with his wife, however juicy, aren't exactly history.

At any rate, history has the sort of ring that appeals to intellectuals, to people who have been to college, read books and, more important, think that what they are doing is historic. Washington is full of people like that.

But "history" is nothing more than the "national security" excuse of intellectuals - yet another attempt to rationalize self-aggrandizement and abuse of power. Whenever Nixon got caught with his hand in the cookie jar, he yelled

"national security." Now Kennedy defenders are yelling "history, history" to excuse what is nothing but dishonesty (or at the very least, boorish manners).

History, after all, was written before the invention of the tape recorder. And even if the tape recorder is handy, easy to use and, of course, accurate, there still is no need to conduct the taping in secret.

People expect their conversations with the president to be, in some way, recorded. Some of them would be heartbroken if they were not. And so the only thing lost by acknowledging that a tape machine is running is an occasional curse word. History could survive the loss.

Henry Ford was wrong when he said that history was bunk, but invoking it as a moral force that can ex-

cuse an abuse of power certainly is bunk.

Compared to the Bay of Pigs or, ultimately, Vietnam, the secret taping system is a mere nothing. It stems, though, from the same mentality. Concerning the tapes, he cared only about what mattered to him. The system served history. But it abused people.

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Valentine messages...

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Oh well, this year I have a new plan. I dug out my old children's magazines. (The type that your mom buys to keep you from playing Cowboys and Indians in her flower garden.)

I wonder how a college woman would like a Valentine Man made from an egg carton or an Apple Valentine made from red construction paper. No, I think I like the potato print valentine better. Or, better still, I like the valentine

with the pocket because I can put myself inside the pocket and surprise the lady.

Of course, that valentine might get "Return to Sender," written on it.

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