

"UNL's ills 'solved' in one column

Recently I've been criticized for bringing up problems and then not offering viable solutions. I'm not sure this is a fair criticism, but if it's true I'd like to atone for it. Here, then, are the simple solutions to all UNL's problems. Some I've written about before and some I haven't.



Bill Allen

1. Faculty salaries — As the years roll by (I love that cliché), Nebraska is finding its usual method of retaining faculty, paying low wages and brainwashing with football mania, is no longer working. Either the football team has lost one too many games to Oklahoma, or teachers are finally realizing they can get paid more elsewhere. It's time the university shows the state where its priorities really are. The solution: A new athletic dining room.

2. Racism in the Greek system — I mentioned before, with a very weak argument, that sororities were racist, and the response to that column was so strong that the underlying truth of my assertion became increasingly evident. The solution: First, buy my book, "Buffy Meets the Ku Klux Klan," then, turn state Sen. Ernie Chambers loose on 16th street with

a wrecking ball and chainsaw.

3. The ineffectiveness of ASUN — Unlike many critics of our student pseudo-government, I have seldom blamed its ineffectiveness on the students involved, and as a matter of fact I know several members of the organization who work hard and really seem concerned about some student issues. Matt Wallace, ASUN president, is the first to admit that the organization isn't given much power by the university or the NU Board of Regents. Wallace, also the student regent, isn't even given a vote at the regents' meetings. Obviously, then, the problem isn't entirely with the students, but with the system. The solution: First, buy the book, "I Was a Member of ASUN," by Rodney Dangerfield. Second, just leave the ASUN alone, OK? They don't have any power anyway, and at least they're not hurting anyone.

4. Book prices — The Nebraska Union and Nebraska Bookstores have the students by the proverbial place I can't mention in a family newspaper. Books are sold for high prices, then bought back for the prices of a draw at O'Rourke's. The solution: First, buy my book, "How I Beat the High Cost of Books by Selling This One," then, take advantage of the ASUN book exchange, borrow books from friends, or ask mom and dad for more money, because let's face it, we couldn't do anything about gas prices either.

5. The rising cost of education — Tuition keeps going up. Rent keeps going up. We've already mentioned the price of books. Chesterfields even raised

the Monday night price of imported beer from \$1 to \$1.25. All of these things are crucial to an education. More and more, we see students dropping out of school not because of grades, but because of dollars. Women have it easy. They can always get married. What have men got? The army. The solution: This is a tough one. We could re-elect Reagan. The army can't be that bad. Or, how about a state student loan program? No, they would just add a tuition surcharge to fund it. ROTC? The plasma center? Prostitution? Crime? Gambling? Or may I suggest... no, no... but maybe, well... just to try it I mean... how about getting a job? Nah.

6. Oklahoma — Now here's a crucial problem. It's not like those petty things I mentioned before. We've managed to come to grips with it the past two years, but like bathing, just when you think you have it licked, you need another one. The solution: First, see my hit musical, "Oklahoma, where the backs come sweeping 'cross the line." And second, score more points than they do.

Well, that about covers everything, and it's a lot easier than writing an advice column. Of course, I'd probably end up writing a column where people write in and solve my problems.

There are many problems that don't have simple solutions, and quick cures just sound ludicrous, as I've tried to point out with my satire here.

Next week I'll go back to the old format of talking about an issue and trying to generate some thought. I'll leave the quick cures to the politicians.

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