

Letters

Union priorities wrong

Many students are aware of the organizing drive aimed at making the local chapter of the AAUP the collective bargaining agent for UNL faculty. Their concerns are not without real merit: Anyone who pays even a little attention to the nuances of how business is handled with regard to faculty members and faculty ideas knows that in the minds of far too many administrators, faculty members are employees in very nearly the same sense as file clerks with regard to decisions or policies of any importance.

However, I do not believe that the problem of being regarded as employed objects by administrative manipulators is going to be solved by unionization. The experience of the UNO effort indicates that while token attention is given to matters of university governance, quality of instruction and student welfare, the overwhelming attention is focused on three other issues: salaries, monetary remuneration and faculty fiscal compensation — not so narrowly trained in on grubby bucks. However, an informational flyer has reached my mailbox today indicating that the feeling of the AAUP groups is that the three key indicators of interest are indeed salaries, monetary remuneration and faculty fiscal compensation. I fear that we are in that respect not different from UNO.

The problems of governance — who is in charge — are indeed serious at this university and a great deal of education of administrators is in order before they will diminish. However, unionization with bucks first, second and third in priority is not the way to do it.

Richard K. Boohar
associate professor
life sciences

Statements erroneous

The Feb. 16 edition of the Daily Nebraskan featured an article on the Nebraska Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. While I appreciate the coverage afforded by your newspaper, I also feel compelled to comment on some statements contained within the article itself.

What I question primarily is the use of strange quotes attributed to me which contain erroneous information. Moreover, these quotes may tend to portray the library in a negative manner. For instance, I was quoted as being critical of the library's small staff size, when actually the size of our staff approximates the number indicated in national standards for libraries of our type. Also, I was quoted as saying that volunteers do most of our work when it would be more accurate to say that volunteers are used to supplement the work of our staff.

Rather than questioning the library's effectiveness, I take pride in showing that our library's circulation figures per patron are nearly twice that of similar libraries of our size. Our success in automating library procedures and in promoting the service are other indicators of effectiveness.

The article contains several factual errors as well; for instance, neither Mr. Terry nor myself were given correct job titles.

I am sympathetic with the difficulties involved in reporting on a statewide library program after only a 30-minute interview. I am also grateful that an alternative means exist whereby I may take exception to what I believe to be misunderstandings and misinformation.

Dave Oertli, Director
Nebraska Library for the
Blind and Physically Handicapped

'Are we hostages?'

Are we all hostage to the banker? Does the banker own us via our car, home, farm, appliance, etc.? Do we exist at the pleasure of our friendly neighborhood bank? Are all the banks really responsible for the failure of one bank and therefore the logical candidates to help out their own? Is Commonwealth alone in its greed or are all banks part of the same fabric? Should the state of Nebraska bail out Commonwealth and therefore have the taxpayer pay for the restoration of trust with eventual higher tax in some form, or should the banks of Lincoln stand together and do the right thing and protect their own?

Each bank president knows the answer to this basic question and there must be a few, or at least one, with enough courage to admit complicity with the goof we all know as Commonwealth. In their silence, are not they, too, hostage?

Donald A. Bercey
Lincoln

Letter Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and

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