

Editorial

UNL faculty needs financial security of unionization

UNL faculty members who still are undecided about whether or not they favor collective bargaining should not be influenced by current proposals at the Capitol.

The Legislature's Appropriations Committee, to its credit, has recommended an average salary increase of 11.1 percent for the UNL academic staff in 1984-85. The recommendation was 8.1 percent for UNO and 9 percent for the NU Medical Center in Omaha.

The increase still must make it past the full Legislature and Gov. Bob Kerrey, which seems likely this year. But even if it does, it offers faculty members no financial security after the next fiscal year. Collective bargaining may be the only way to bring about that security.

Even with a union, the governor and Legislature still could turn down pay proposals, but the chances of that appear much smaller with the threat of the Commission of Industrial Relations overturning it.

The commission last summer granted UNO faculty members a 6.6 percent pay increase retroactive to the 1982-83 school year. Opponents of collective bargaining have argued that the UNO raise did more harm than good because it led to some reduction of programs. But the whole direction of this institution, as evidenced by the 2 percent reallocation program, is toward a reduction of some programs to strengthen others.

Collective bargaining should be a last resort, but the situation at UNL has reached that point. The administration and Board of Regents continually talk about salaries being high on their list of priorities, but they rarely back up those words with action.

Instead, they choose to support projects that would stretch the university's resources even more. Many officials continue to support the constructing of a veterinary school at UNL and, just recently, the Board of Regents offered its support for a performing arts center that would require approximately \$7 million in state funds — \$7 million that won't be going toward higher salaries.

Some NU administrators probably do have good intentions of raising salaries. Ronald Rosken's three-year plan of bringing UNL faculty pay up to the national level is evidence that some are concerned about our current standing. The fact remains, however, that the state budgeting process only allows raises to be granted one year at a time. That means faculty members have good reason to be skeptical of their long-range financial standing at UNL.

Collective bargaining may help assure that, in the future, when the annual budget battle begins, most university and state officials will put salaries at the top of their agenda.

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1984 Daily Nebraskan. They are written by this semester's editor in chief, Larry Sparks.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the newspaper.

According to policy set by the regents, the content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.

Thanks, but . . .

Bad overshadows good in Greek article

I would like to thank Daily Nebraskan reporter Mona Koppelman for her attempt to present a broad overview of the fraternity system here at UNL. Many different aspects of the fraternities were dealt with in the article published in Tuesday's Daily Nebraskan, but it is unfortunate that greater care was not taken in presenting them.

Guest Opinion

The UNL Greek system, like any other group or organization, has both its good and bad points. We do not profess to be perfect, but in the article the bad certainly did seem to overshadow the good.

Probably the greatest reason for the discrepancies in the article lies in the fact that so few individuals were cited as sources. I pose the question: Is the opinion of Jon Stick, one disgruntled individual,

THE GREEKMAN
STICK IN THE
FRATERNITY COMPANY



Socialism blends our best values

Conservatives and liberals are misguided in that they each emphasize certain essential elements in human society to the detriment of others that are just as essential.

Conservatives emphasize stability, law-and-order and patriotism, while liberals stress individual rights and reform.



Krishna Madan

There is value in the conservative emphasis on patriotism. We do, after all, live in one nation and we should be concerned about the welfare of our country and its inhabitants.

The problem with conservatives is that they do not distinguish between our nation (the American people) and our often misguided leaders who exploit our patriotism to pursue an aggressive military policy that merely protects the interests of big business in foreign lands.

Liberals, on the other hand, are disturbed by conservative militarism. However, they are also misguided in the way they react.

Liberals do not tell it like it is and point out that the existence of capitalism in this country necessitates military intervention abroad.

Instead, they oppose military aggression by denying the value of patriotism, making fun of the military and asserting "their rights" to not serve their country.

This infantile individualism of the liberals only serves to make the conservatives more nationalistic. Conversely, the blind patriotic militarism of the conservatives only makes liberals reject the idea of

patriotism and duty altogether.

Conservatives and liberals are like parasites that feed off each other. The solution to this conflict does not lie in creating a mutant, hybrid species i.e. "moderates", but in going beyond both conservatism and liberalism.

What we need in this country is a political movement that synthesizes the values of conservatism and liberalism to produce a new, creative philosophy that bears little resemblance to the original philosophies.

Actually, such a philosophy already exists. It incorporates the conservative desire for duty and responsibility to society with the liberal dislike of nationalism and militarism.

It also combines the conservative desire for accountability to society with the liberal desire to have basic human rights respected.

Obviously, any philosophy that can do all of the above is very potent and very dangerous to those in government and business who have a vested interest in maintaining political debate within its current limited scope.

That is why this philosophy is the victim of intense propaganda in the schools, universities and newspapers.

I am referring, of course, to the philosophy of socialism. Your immediate reaction to this word is proof that the propaganda campaign against this philosophy has been effective.

However, people in this country will not forever tolerate the liberal and conservative mismanagement of the nation.

As more and more people become justifiably disillusioned with the Democratic and Republican parties, the opportunity will arise for the growth of a socialist movement that really addresses our problems and concerns.

enough of a basis to draw the conclusion that fraternity life is disillusioning? As far as I can tell, Stick is the only individual cited as giving negative remarks for the Greek system as a whole. It is unfortunate that Stick did not find his experience in a fraternity to be gratifying, but there is probably another side to the story.

That other side could very well be addressed on the topic of study hours and academics in fraternities. Stick's statement about academics and study hours are heavily outweighed by the fact that the all-fraternity grade point average ranked above the all-university and all-male averages this past semester.

There also is the issue of hazing that was addressed in the article. I will agree that hazing has not stopped and it is distressing. If the incidents cited in the article did occur as stated, there is a definite problem. It should be noted, however, that hazing as it exists in today's UNL fraternity system is the result of the actions of a few ignorant individuals spread throughout various chapters. Hazing is not condoned and is continually being monitored. It is

sad that the actions of a few can damage the entire group, but the Greeks are just as vulnerable as any other group.

Many of the quotes that were used in the article seem to be taken out of context. If a truly honest picture was to have been presented then the information should have been given in the text that it was taken. Several quotes reflect the pride of individuals in the Greek system, almost in a boastful manner. However, why is pride in the Greek system most often interpreted as conceit while pride in any other organization is seen as pride in its truest sense?

We, the members of the Greek system, are a group of individuals who have chosen to live one way and there is no reason for any of us to be pitted against each other. Every living situation has its advantages and disadvantages and I again thank Koppelman for trying to present ours.

James Willett
president
Interfraternity Council