

AAUP refutes Baker statements

Statements in the March 14 Daily Nebraskan attributed to Maurice Baker, president of the UNL Faculty Senate, are to our knowledge untrue and by implication impugn the good name and the good faith of his colleagues on two campuses. While we would like to think that he was misquoted, our check with other members of the Faculty Senate indicates that he was not.

Guest Opinion

The UNL-AAUP makes the following points in response to Baker's comments:

1. It was the UNL-AAUP that first informed our faculty two weeks ago that the UNO faculty had hired a lobbyist. This information was included in a flyer entitled, "Can the Flagship Faculty Do For Itself What Others In Nebraska Do?" The subject of the flyer was faculty lobbying in the state, and our point was that UNO faculty members did have someone representing their interests every day in the Legislature. We are asking the UNL faculty to support collective bargaining to that the UNL faculty can do the same thing.

2. Nothing we have seen or heard suggests that the UNO faculty is trying to make their case by arguing against the \$1.8 million supplementary budget FOR SALARIES ON ALL THREE CAMPUSES. To the contrary, it is a matter of public package before the Appropriations Committee. The UNO lobbyists has been instructed to present the case that UNO should get their share of the salary budget. What else would you expect a lobbyist for

UNO to do? The fact remains, however, that the UNO lobbyist is free to make any case to the Legislature which the UNO faculty thinks will serve its best interests.

3. Ride whose coattails? Your notion that the UNO faculty is trying to influence the campaign for collective bargaining at UNL by lobbying against the \$1.8 million so that we will unionize and UNO can "ride our (tattered?) coattails" on salary is laughable. Who got the 6.6 percent last year? Four years ago, the UNO faculty stopped riding anyone's coattails or waiting for their administration to be good to them, and they took their situation into their own hands.

4. Some of your colleagues in the Senate, Professor Baker, felt your remarks implied that the UNL-AAUP was virtually in collusion with the UNO-AAUP in an attempt to damage the salary package and thus drive the UNL faculty into collective bargaining. Take a look at the AAUP membership. Which faculty, specifically, might you mean? Take a look at the time, energy, and money AAUP has spend in an effort to inform the UNL faculty about the state of our salaries and to keep public pressure on the administration to work harder for improved salaries. Many of those who heard your remarks took them as accusations of bad faith on the part of the AAUP. We think you owe us — the more than 200 members of the AAUP, and the card signers — from every part of this campus — an apology.

We are not neutrals, Professor Baker. WE are faculty advocates — with no hidden agendas, no obligations to the administration, and no ambitions except our publically stated desire to enhance the position of the UNL faculty, through collective bargaining if we can, without it if we must.

Members of the Collective Bargaining Committee of the UNL-AAUP
Norma Sue Griffin, chairperson

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Bank...

Continued from Page 4
"But it wasn't our fault the bank fell apart," my girlfriend said.

"Nothing I can do. Really. Nothing at all."
"Is your name Paul Douglas?" I asked.

"No. It's Harold Reading. Why?"
"Never mind."

At this point we were out of friends, without a bank, and without a present for little Jon.

We felt sad. I wrote a song called "Impeachment Blues." I don't know why.

"Oh, honey," my girlfriend said. (You know things are serious when you start calling each other "honey.") "We should just buy another bank."

So we did.
Too bad things aren't that simple for everyone.

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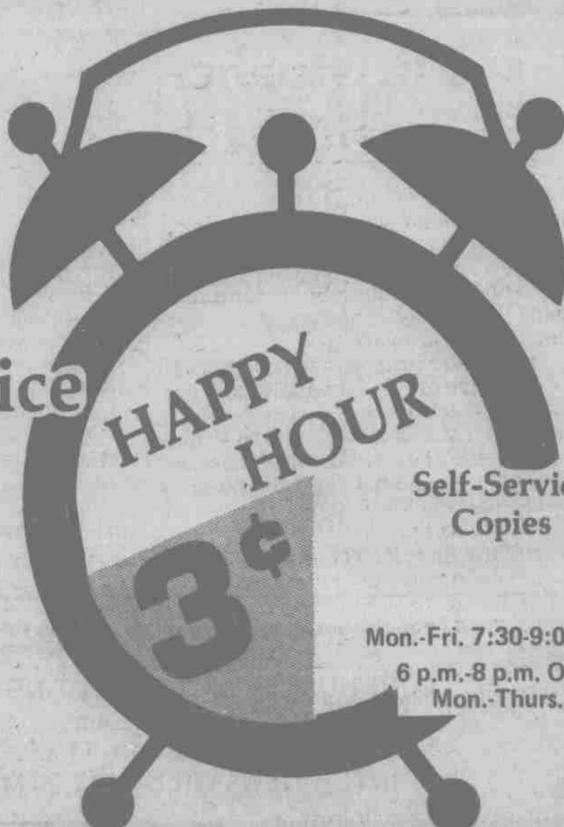
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