

Editorial

Jaksha goes out in style; stresses state tax reform

Ed Jaksha is ready to go out in style. Nebraska's leading tax fighter has filed initiative petitions on behalf of the Taxpayers Survival Committee that would severely limit spending by state and local government.

Jaksha, who pioneered the 1979 petition drive that led to a zero-percent lid on the Omaha Public School district, told the *Sunday Journal and Star* this will be his last tax-relief effort.

Jaksha's group is distributing two petitions. One would limit the annual growth of the state budget to half the rate of increase in the state's per capita income. The per capita growth rate is determined by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The initiative would begin with the 1984-85 fiscal year and would start from an arbitrary budget of \$1.18 billion.

The other petition calls for limiting property taxes to 1.5 percent of actual value. According to state government estimates, the average for Nebraska tax payments in 1982 was 2.13 percent of actual value. Had the 1982 rate been limited to 1.5 percent, local government revenues would have dropped about 30 percent, the *Journal and Star* reported.

The committee has until July 6 to return the petitions, with the signatures of 54,790 registered voters, to the secretary of state. The petitions must meet minimum signature requirements in at least 38 counties. If the drive is successful, the proposed constitutional amendment would be placed on the November general election ballot.

Jaksha's petitions are a long time in coming. The Legislature has continued to ignore the pleas of Nebraska citizens for some kind of tax relief. Even when they do discuss the issue, they talk only of shifting the burden from property taxes to income and sales taxes. The petitions, however, hit on the key issue: a reduction in taxes brought on by a reduction in spending.

These amendments would, of course, mean a reduction in services at all levels of Nebraska government, including the university. But reduced spending is the only way to bring about lower taxes. NU, like every other state-supported agency, can survive, and pay its employees a fair wage, if it trims the size of its program and eliminates waste from the institution.

Jaksha proposals are not unreasonable. The state spending lid could be exceeded in any year by a vote of at least 40 of the 49 state senators. The local property tax lids could be lifted by a majority vote of the public.

Nebraskans are fortunate. Our state law allows us, by initiative, to do the work that our elected leaders cannot or will not do. The Legislature has been given a chance to do its duty. Now it's time for the people to act.

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

Other staff members will write editorials throughout the semester. They will carry the author's name after the final sentence.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.



"— GIVES YOU A PRETTY GOOD IDEA HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT EACH OTHER —"



Letters

Greek camaraderie

First and foremost I would like to submit an official entry in the "Describe Greek Week in a Word" contest (Daily Nebraskan, April 23). My word would be camaraderie. Since I appear to be the obvious winner (just ask any Greek), maybe you can get me a "Harper Eight" shirt or one from whatever residence hall you're from, so I too can wear it with pride! Also, if you should happen to be walking behind the Nebraska Union and hear some Greeks singing please plug your ears, we don't want you to listen.

We are going to have a banquet Wednesday to honor those of us who did an outstanding job for the Greek cause, please don't come.

Also, if you happen to be around the Men's Physical Education Building Friday night and hear some great music and some great people having fun, don't stop by, we don't want you around.

As far as the "Stereo Blaring Contest" and the "Bare Chest Contest," if you're against a little "Fun in the Sun," that's too bad! You must have been deprived as a child. So please, to save yourself, don't walk down R Street or 16th Street at all costs. The signs that signify that houses were supportive and have a general feeling of camaraderie toward Greek Week are not there to hide the rusticity and history of the building itself, but show support!

The conclusion Bill, the title of your article was "Greek Week: Don't include me." Don't worry Bill, we won't.

Dan Levy
Phi Delta Theta
freshman
architecture

Proud to be Greek

Bill Allen you ignorant ex-fraternity man you. How many articles are you going to have to write before you realize just how valuable the Greek system is to UNL?

Being a part of one of the top Greek systems in the nation is only a small fraction of the pride I feel about being Greek ("Greek" meaning part of a greek-letter tradition, not the nationality). I'm Greek because Greek means involvement. A small minority of UNL's student population is Greek and yet a vast majority of our campus activities and committees function mainly because of the Greek system and the dedicated people who comprise it. Greek also means scholarship. Take a look sometime between your innuendos at how much higher the Greek grade point average is compared to the all-university G.P.A.

I don't judge the Daily Nebraskan by a few senseless and dull-witted reporters, so where do you get off on judging thousands by the unthinking and prejudiced remarks of one or two?

Bruce Jones
junior
broadcasting
Acacia Fraternity

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Television molds lifestyle — and deathstyle

Now that graduation is just around the corner, I've been trying to figure out what the future holds in store for me and my Bachelor of Arts degree. By researching the paths those before me



Mike Frost

have taken, I've discovered what I'll ultimately end up doing: watching a lot of television. I'd better get in practice now.

All this is by means of explaining that I spent most of the weekend watching television. Heck, it was either that or doing something non-productive like going to a museum or theater. One thing repeatedly occurred to me as I sat there mesmerized by the golden tube.

First of all, who watches the Cable Weather Station? I'm sure that somewhere out there, there is someone who

is vitally interested in the forecasted highs for Kalamazoo. What we need to do is find that person, and see if he or she has any other problems.

Also, were these actual movies that they show on some of these cable outlets? I just can't imagine anyone actually paying money to sit in a theater to watch *The Revenge of the Mean Cowboys* with Leo G. Carroll.

But the thing that kept occurring to me during my weekend foray into the wonderful world of video was: Wouldn't it be strange if we all talked like they do in television commercials?

You have to figure these ads were written by real-life people who have real-life conversations in their real-life homes. Why, then, is there such a false ring to the dialogue they write? Perhaps they believe that Mr. and Ms. Typical America's daily banter goes like this:

George: Hi, honey. Say, that's quite a shine on those floors.

Martha: That's because I use indus-

trial strength Shino. Keeps my floors looking their whitest, their brightest.

George: Sounds like it may cost a few extra pennies.

Martha: Maybe in old United States currency it would have. But now, with new improved money, our costs have been cut in half.

George: Boy, with all this money we're saving, we can afford that vacation this summer.

Martha: Silly, we don't need to go on vacation anymore. Not with new, improved Sense-o-cation. Here, just slip on these headphones, and you can hear the sound of vacation and never leave the comfort of our own home.

Sense-o-cation: Hey, how much are these T-shirts? Billy, stand in front of the Grand Canyon and let me get a picture of you. Kids, keep your hands inside the car window, or a truck'll come by and rip them off.

George: Wow, this is great. What will we do with all this money that we're going to save? Maybe we should give it

to the poor.

Martha: The poor don't exist anymore, dear.

George: They don't?

Martha: No, now there is new improved poverty. Now, not only are people from underprivileged backgrounds poor, but thanks to our secret formula, Trickle-down, middle class also is included. Philanthropists never had it so good, thanks to new improved poverty.

George: Great, now that that's all settled, let's watch some television.

Announcer: I've just been handed a bulletin. The bombs are headed this way.

Martha: Oh no, nuclear bombs?

Announcer: That's right. Everyone's talking about nuclear warheads, action packed with plutonium. Everyone's talking about them, now, you can be the first in your country to be annihilated by them.

George: Oh no, we're going to die! Quick! Let's go out and buy something.