

# Editorial

## Vet school wins, NU students lose

Take a look at some facts collected by the ASUN Government Liaison Committee:

- Over the last five years, tuition revenue has increased 48 percent at UNL while state aid has increased only 28 percent.
- UNL students fund more of their education through tuition than any other Big Eight School except the University of Colorado.

Now take a look at what the NU Board of Regents was up to this weekend.

Regent Kermit Hansen said he may introduce a proposal that would increase tuition 20 percent.

Regent Robert Koefoot said he may introduce a proposal freezing faculty salaries. Both declined to introduce the measures Saturday because they didn't want to "intimidate the Legislature" by threatening dire consequences, according to the Sunday Lincoln Journal and Star.

However, Hansen, Koefoot and four other regents voted to approve a new plan for a regional College of Veterinary Medicine in cooperation with either Kansas State or Mississippi State universities. The plan the regents OKed will create \$14.3 million to \$17.8 million worth of new buildings on East Campus, the Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center and possibly some student housing in North Platte.

The university is faced with the lowest budget increase in its history — but that has not stopped the regents from approving another costly program.

When drastic measures, such as a 20 percent tuition increase and no increase for faculty salaries are being considered, it seems stupid to spend more on new projects.

About half the cost of the programs would come from federal monies — the rest would come from state tax dollars and private donations.

But the capital costs are only the beginning. Salaries and maintenance are long-term expenses that will come from the general budget allotment. Those expenses will diminish the whole university. Yes, it would be wonderful to have a vet school, but we can't afford one now. We can't afford to pay our faculty decent salaries now either.

Shining new buildings are pretty, but without adequately paid faculty they are empty, meaningless shells.

Right now, the university is facing "dire consequences" if the 1.6 percent budget increase is passed by the Nebraska Legislature. The Regents should consider which programs they want to cut — not which new ones they want to fund. It doesn't matter that the vet school has been an issue for years. The need for new veterinarians does not outweigh the need of the university to preserve its core programs at average levels.

Across the board cuts and reallocations will add to the university's overall mediocrity — and will make further cuts attractive to next year's Legislature. By axing whole programs, the core of the university can be preserved, and the Legislature will clearly see the damage it is causing the university and the future of the state.

Students are caught in the middle and they probably will pay at least 10 percent more in tuition next year. There's a good chance the increase will be greater than that. Between cuts in federal aid and tuition increases, students are going to be pinched. It's likely the university will be too — a lot of students will not be able to afford school.

The GLC is trying to do something about this mess we're in.

For the next four days the GLC will have a booth inside the north entrance of the Nebraska Union from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. The committee is starting a letter-writing campaign. The first two days are dedicated to getting letters of protest sent to the Legislature in hopes of a bigger budget allocation. Wednesday and Thursday will be devoted to generating letters to our representatives in Washington, D.C. The GLC will provide interested students with a packet containing stationary and hints on how to write such a letter. Then they'll mail the letter free.

This service negates many excuses you may have for not taking the time to write. Do something about your future — and the future of this state. Write now!



## Falwell neglects other religions

Did the Rev. Jerry Falwell watch the Academy Awards? And if he did, did he see Dr. Haing S. Ngor, a 34-year-old Cambodian refugee, gleefully accept his Oscar? "I thank God — Buddha — that I am here tonight," Ngor exulted. Falwell must have slapped his forehead in consternation: Thank who?



Richard Cohen

Granted there's not an overwhelming number of Americans who call the deity Buddha, but there are still about 4 million of them and the numbers are growing. Many other Americans are Muhammadan or Hindu and there are many others who pray to no one and nothing at all, having rejected religion for whatever reason suits them.

I thought of Ngor because Falwell, who envisions America as a vast private club, has opened his membership rolls to Jews. In the last several months, he's been appearing before Jewish groups, telling them that he repudiates the doctrine that America is a Christian nation. "Now we say Judeo-Christian republic," Falwell has announced. Wonderful. But where does that leave Ngor?

One of the benefits of Falwell's celebrity is that he has spawned a cottage industry devoted to keeping an eye on him. These Falwell-watchers are in some disagreement about why he's now granting full citizenship to Jews. It might be, as he has

claimed, that he got tolerance or it just might be, as some suspect, that he looked at the results of the last election and decided he had to clean up his act. It was Falwell, after all, who is given almost universal credit for keeping American Jews overwhelmingly in the Democratic column. Some 70 percent of them voted for Walter Mondale.

That was the outcome despite Ronald Reagan's strong support for Israel, his antipathy to quotas and the fact that American Jews, overwhelmingly affluent, benefited from both Reagan's tax-reduction program and the economic boom the president claimed as his own. And what Reagan had not done on his own, it seemed Jesse Jackson would do for him. Between Jackson and his traveling companion, the Rev. Louis Farrakhan, Jews had seemed certain to vote Republican.

Then along came Falwell. At the Republican Convention in Dallas, he and his cohorts in the Christian right seemed ubiquitous. Over and over, they described America as a "Christian nation," words the president finally uttered himself. That did it. The movement of Jews toward the GOP stalled and then went into reverse. By election day, they were back in the Democratic Party and everyone was pointing a finger at Falwell. Moi? he drawled.

But the finger should not be relaxed. It hardly matters for what reason Falwell has now changed his rhetoric and whether his words reflect what he really thinks. What matters is that Falwell continues to envision America as a quasi-religious state. Where once it was just Christian, now it is

both Christian and Jewish. The result is the same. By any name, such a state excludes. It withholds 100 percent citizenship from those who are neither Christian nor Jews and suggests that their rights are dispensed by the majority rather than being — to use the word employed in the Declaration of Independence — unalienable.

History affirms that the American ethic is largely a Christian one. That's evidenced in everything from the obnoxious to the lofty, from blue laws to the very laws of the land. But a part of that ethic, too, is secularism — the conviction that religion is essentially a personal matter and its public role ought to be limited. Falwell, for instance, is entitled to his strong and, to my mind, repugnant, views on homosexuality. But if they were translated into law, they would become clear violations of civil liberties.

The best you can say is that Falwell's heading in the right direction. But his new position is not a repudiation of his Christian Nation doctrine, but a modification of it — an expansion not of his tolerance, but of the limited welcome he extends. Now he includes Jews in his community of true Americans.

But the invitation is not his to offer and in no way changes the nature of America. It is a nation in which the majority of the people are Christians or Jews, and not, as Falwell says, a Judeo-Christian nation. That's a distinction that makes a difference. Americans like Dr. Ngor thank Buddha for it.

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## Rich and drunk — just Greek stereotypes

Joe Fraternity is a rich daddy's boy who has come down to school to play. He helps haze those pledges because, well, they need it. Joe is a campus B.M.O.C., and he and his Greek friends have kept their pledge to purge the system of those unworthy dormies.

Jane Sorority is a stupid little sorority girl who has come to school to get her "MRS" degree. Like Joe, Jane just doesn't speak to those non-sorority girls because, well, it just isn't proper. Yes, Joe and Jane and their Greek friends are the lucky ones.



Todd Knobel

Unfortunately, many non-Greek students and faculty think that Joe and Jane represent the average fraternity or sorority member. They could not be more wrong.

If Greeks are so wealthy, why do so many of my Greek friends have part-time jobs, take out student loans and work during the summer? If Greek living is so expensive, why are so many fraternity house bills nearly equal to the price paid to live in a residence hall? True, some students have parents who are financially

well off, but to state that this is the norm rather than the exception is false.

Another fallacy is that the average fraternity man's main college goal is to be perpetually inebriated. This stereotype is accentuated by such movies as "Animal House" and "Fraternity Vacation." There can be no doubt that Greeks, like all college students, like to socialize. However, it has been my experience that, for the most part, Greeks handle alcohol responsibly and place its importance in life in proper perspective.

A prominent delusion of Greek life is that associated with hazing. Without a doubt, hazing has been a part of most fraternities' pasts. However, hazing has been dying a slow, but steady, death since the early 1960s. While I cannot guarantee that all fraternity pledges have had a similar experience to mine, I can truly state that during my pledgehip, I was never hazed in any way. The Interfraternity Council presently is working hard to make hazing a thing of the past.

Often I hear non-Greek students complain that Greeks "control" most student organizations and the student government. Some non-Greeks even go so far as to believe there is a conspiracy to keep them out of student activities. This is hardly the

case. Most organizations are composed of voluntary membership and welcome all new members. If non-Greeks choose not to participate, one can hardly criticize those who do.

The ASUN election was open to all university students. No one denies residence-hall or off-campus students the right to vote or run for office. They simply did not show as much interest in the election. Thus Greeks represent a larger percentage of the senate than is exemplified by their numbers.

To categorize sorority women as dumb girls whose sole purpose in college is to receive their "MRS" degree belittles women in general and does not even deem a response. The same is true of the belief that all sorority women are forbidden to make friends outside the sorority system.

The purpose of this column is not to make the Greek system sound like some type of modern day utopia. No Greek would deny that the system still has many obstacles to overcome. It is simply my hope that Greeks and non-Greeks alike begin to see each other as fellow students rather than different social sects. Perhaps in the future, Greek Week and Residence Hall Week can be combined into a University Week.

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