

Letters

Brief letters are preferred, and longer letters may be edited. Writer's address and phone number are needed for verification.

Farm bill at heart of economy, tuition crises

Most students' checkbooks are feeling a little lighter today. After paying tuition that is 15 percent higher than last year, it is the right of every student to question whether these increases will continue.

The underlying cause of the higher tuition at UNL is the current farm crisis. Land values in Nebraska have decreased more than 28 percent. Crop prices are the lowest in years. The ag industry accounts for 26 percent of the state's products; the highest in the nation.

Currently the Legislature has a shortfall of revenues in the tens of millions

of dollars, and may reconvene in another special session before January if the situation intensifies.

The state, caught in this agricultural crunch, no longer can appropriate money for the university at an adequate level. This was evident last session when the university was given only a 1.2 percent increase, not the 13 percent it requested.

This inadequate appropriation is the main reason why UNL students had to pay the tuition surcharge this fall and why tuition is making up a larger part of UNL's budget.

The current farm bill in Congress is

the key. For Nebraska's economy to improve, the American farmer needs higher prices through reduced production. Less farmers does not necessarily mean less production. Farmers must be able to reduce acreage. To achieve this, I believe that Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin's farm bill is the only workable alternative.

No one can ignore the importance of the farm bill to the economy of Nebraska, to the health of UNL and to our tuition costs.

Jerry Roemer  
junior  
ag honors

Safety tips needed for motorists as well as bicyclists

In response to "Bicyclist killed; police urge riders to obey safety tips," (Daily Nebraskan, Sept. 24), a common misconception that most motor vehicle operators in Lincoln have is that the road was made for cars and that bicyclists have second priority. The Lincoln law states that bicyclists are to be treated as moving vehicles with all traffic laws applying to them, including the right to their own lane. This law is frequently broken by both drivers (i.e. by crowding the bicyclist while passing) and bicyclists (i.e. by passing cars by riding down the curb) and is not enforced by the Lincoln Police Department.

A public awareness program alerting motorists to their possible victims (i.e. bicyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians) should be expanded along with the present program of informing the possible victims of defensive safety tips. It appears to me that in the case of the tragic death of the young woman, Zhong Ding-Yin, who was struck down from behind while riding eastbound on Vine Street, that the only safety tip that could have saved her life was either to not ride the bicycle or to drive a larger pickup than her assailant.

I am a motorcyclist, bicyclist, pedestrian and an alert car driver. I am aware

that when I am driving a car, if I am not alert, I could endanger the lives of others. I am alive today only because of luck and an extreme amount of alert, defensive driving. While riding, I can avoid being killed by those vehicles ahead of me, but I cannot keep track of those behind me. Therefore, I am placing my life in their hands. Unfortunately, some drivers are too irresponsible to even pay attention to that which is in front of them. They endanger my life and the lives of many others.

Kurt J. Dicke  
graduate student  
computer science

Accent develops during football playing years

ROYKO from Page 4

all of the other kids."

For an expert's view, I asked Ellen Schaub, an associate professor of linguistics at Northwestern University, if some people develop accents to be trendy.

"Absolutely," she said, "some accents

become trendier than others. Every accent brings a characterization of one's self or one's society. Through an accent, they associate themselves with groups."

Maybe that explains Namath's accent. He spent many years playing college and professional football. And part of his job as a quarterback involved being chased and fallen upon by gigantic

linemen, most of whom seem to be either black or white Southerners.

Maybe Namath thought that if he talked like them, they wouldn't fall on him as hard.

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Royko is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

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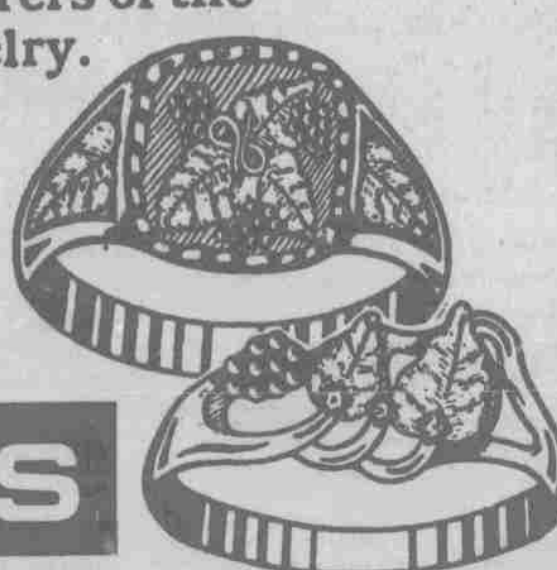
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