

Letters

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

Lied funds could be used better to build recreation center

A question comes to mind about the Lied Center for Performing Arts: Is it really for the students?

Granted, those who are involved in the performing arts will benefit, but how much? Are facilities their greatest need, or is improved faculty and program support?

How about the majority of students, who won't be directly affected by the center other than through increased tuition as more personal gift money and NU Foundation money is used for buildings rather than university needs as a whole?

The foundation plans to raise \$10 million for construction and maintenance. Those in the community cer-

tainly will enjoy the center, but what about student needs?

Since the Lied trust stipulates building construction with matching funds, which is a generous gift to be sure, what about a recreation/fitness center for students and staff? The Bob Devaney Sports Center is great, except students can't use it.

Recreation and fitness seems to be a low priority in regard to finances and facilities at UNL. The recreation staff should be commended for its fine job using limited resources.

Think of the benefits a recreation/fitness center would provide. Improved health and fitness of students and staff members would improve their performance ability. Look at industry today.

Corporations are building facilities and getting people involved in fitness — and reaping the benefits of higher productivity.

Such a recreation center could be a drawing card to help stop declining enrollment.

What about use? I bet a recreation/fitness center would be used far more than the Lied Center by most students. I bet if you polled students, they would pick a recreation center over the Lied Center.

My question stands: who is the Lied center for?

Kevin Richardson  
Baptist Student Union  
associate director

Non-mainstream film studies popular, fulfill majority taste

In response to Dana Hirschbach's letter (DN, Nov. 19): I appreciate her support of such "unpopular" programs as women's studies, minority studies and film studies, but I disagree with her contention that these are "traditionally unpopular classes."

In film studies, I teach two large sections of film history, which seems to

be quite popular with my students, and a film production course that also seems much in demand.

Courses in women's literature, minority studies and the history of production of film might be considered "non-mainstream" by those who haven't been exposed to them, but they are, in fact, courses that are central to the

humanities, useful in the job market and an integral part of the arts and sciences.

They also are popular with the student body, and far from being for "the minority," they are courses that are very much to the "majority" taste.

Sheeler Dixon  
film studies

Alumnus calls for Lied repeal petition

Since the idea of the Lied Center for the Performing Arts arose, I have heard and read many complaints about its cost. Unfortunately, I have not seen or heard of any action being taken.

I suggest a petition drive to repeal the \$5 million appropriation from the Legislature for the Lied Center. The ASUN Senate could begin this effort, and, with help from the rest of the student body, we could stop the agony to be caused by the Varner Mausoleum. I would even volunteer to help.

The university needs the \$5 million for education and faculty salaries. I think the votes (signatures) of Nebraska's citizens would convince the governor and the Legislature to spend the money on useful programs.

If we really care about graduating from a quality institution and not a mausoleum, we need to make our voices heard.

Kent De Jong  
graduate student  
and alumnus

Nannies can expect work, not vacation

I am writing in response to the article about the nannies (Daily Nebraskan, Nov. 14).

These young women seem to expect a paid vacation with little work. They must realize that these families aren't hiring nannies just to give them clothes or travel experience.

When one agrees to become a nanny, one should expect to work; that's why the family hires a nanny in the first place.

I have been a nanny for the last two summers with a family in New York City. I have enjoyed it very much, but I understand the disillusionment of the

two women in the DN article about their duties and their particular family.

As a nanny, the first summer I had responsibility for an 18-month-old child and some housework. Last summer, another nanny and I shared responsibilities for two children and the housework. My family introduced me to many interesting people whom I would not have met in Nebraska.

I feel that being a nanny is worthwhile. I would recommend it to those willing to work.

Teresa Brazda  
sophomore  
business

Huskerette 'shows' sexist, degrading

Now that the Cornhusker basketball season is here, I would like to be the first, and I am sure not the last, to comment on the time-out "shows."

Sure, I like the acrobatic feats by the cheerleaders, but I find those sexy (?) dance numbers by those eight Huskerettes to be degrading and sexist toward women.

Whoever thought thousands of Big Red fans would enjoy these Playboy bunnies showing off their legs, rear

ends and whatever else one can imagine?

Either put on a classier show, gals, or let's see those cheerleaders do more of their stuff.

But if I do have to put up with those degrading time-out acts, at least get off the court before the referees have to shove you off.

Julie Bacon  
junior  
sociology

Selection process for U.S. heroes bizarre

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matter less what exactly they had spoken about. It is possible, for example, that the same people admire a candidate for vice president and the wife of a president as if they were political peers.

The book list is even more curious. Readers are almost equally interested in a rock legend, a test pilot and a sports broadcaster. Even as we speak, a buyer is standing at a cash register somewhere in the United States trying to decide between the allure of one book that violates the privacy of Joan Kennedy and another that exhumes the body of Marilyn Monroe. Which car-company executive will get to the cash register: the one who saved his company

or the one who beat his rap?

Our interminable ranking is really a perverse sort of leveling. Only "names" make the lists. The individual who rises to the top must be mass-marketed. The "best" is really the best-known. The "most" is really the most famous. The "greatest" goes to those with the greatest circulation.

The whole process is quite bizarre. We have been told time and again that the modern United States invented "celebrity" people who are known for being known. But if we combine all the lists together, what we have is the most disparate collection of people who share the one shining characteristic of the most-/best-/greatest superlatives: fame. The president, his wife, the exercise

guru, the car manufacturer, the broadcaster, the actress are all and equally stars.

In this leveling process, the basis for our admiration and the very definition of heroism are subtly perverted. We have come to admire people BECAUSE they are known. We find people interesting BECAUSE they are famous. It is not the act but the actor who has become the model of great American heroism.

Is it any wonder that the chief qualification for public office is name recognition? The miracle is that an ordinary creature like "Mom" ever made seventh place.

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Washington Post Writers Group  
Goodman is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the Boston Globe.

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