

Editorial

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Senior gifts

'86 graduates consider valuable gifts

The class of 1986 senior gift could leave its mark on UNL.

No, it won't be a giant clock, some new park benches or a ringing tower.

This year's selections, made by an NU Student Foundation committee, could help improve the quality of education at the university and provide a practical service for future students.

The committee's four choices are:

- a \$5,000 salary increase for an outstanding UNL instructor
- money for a lecture series
- money to expand library resources
- kiosks, outdoor student information centers that would include campus maps, space for announcements and possibly telephones.

Of the choices, the top three are an endowment for a faculty member, library resources like new books or computer-assisted resources and the money for a lecture series.

As ASUN President Gerard Keating said, UNL is years behind other universities in the number and diversity of lecturers.

The least practical choice would be the kiosks. While the information centers might be helpful to some students, the university needs more educational tools, such as books, lecturers and teacher incentives.

Class gifts have great potential — they are a way to say thank you to the university.

Although the 1985 class gift was rooted in good intentions, it fell short because the campus had little use for two huge clocks costing \$50,000.

The '86 graduates and UNL students and faculty members should salute the gift selection committee for this year's worthwhile, practical ideas.

The graduating seniors should consider giving \$86 (or as much as they can afford) to fix their university. They have a chance to give much more than a gift.

Risks necessary

Manned space flight should go on

In light of Tuesday's explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger, some people have questioned the justification of continuing a manned space program. Such a sentiment is mistaken.

Certainly the explosion of Challenger caught the world by surprise. Tuesday morning brought everyone to an abrupt stop as they stared in disbelief, watching the crew of seven perish in an explosion over the Atlantic Ocean.

In mourning, flags this week are flown at half-staff. The tragedy is still fresh in the United States' memory.

But Tuesday's setback shouldn't burden further space exploration. The United States should continue its manned space research and journeys. The shuttle program should keep pace with its pre-accident schedule as soon as the cause of Tuesday's accident is discovered.

The loss of seven heroes is great, but their heroism bears witness for continuing the program, not a frightened retrenchment.

When tragedy strikes, it is

easy to sit back, sheepishly avoiding risks. But rightful sentiment of NASA, of the heroes and of Americans in general, has been to take those risks. Americans take pride in pressing the limits, and they recognize that risks are taken to expand these limits.

Also, private citizens like Christa McAuliffe should continue to join the shuttle crews in their endeavors. Teachers and journalists — another group scheduled on a shuttle flight — represent the hopes and dreams of average Americans and help communicate the worthiness of the space program.

In following decades, space exploration may be a way of life. Efforts should continue to integrate all Americans with the space program.

The U.S. space program has been fortunate: It has managed to escape death in the last 55 flights.

In spite of the risks, flights should continue. The history of progress and scientific advancement is replete with heroes who paid the price — heroes like the Challenger seven.

Law of averages

All instructors deserve raises

Earlier this month, the NU Board of Regents approved a \$5,600 raise for NU football coach Tom Osborne — an increase from \$78,000 to \$83,600.

Osborne's pay compares with \$65,500 for UNL Athletic Director Bob Devaney, \$86,525 for UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale

and \$90,000 for NU President Ronald Roskens.

Osborne is a fine coach and an outstanding citizen. He deserves the raise.

But so do the many UNL instructors who spend hours in the classroom and evenings and weekends grading papers.



LOOK AT HIS HAIR... HIS CLOTHES... I TOLD YOU THIS WOULD HAPPEN IF WE LET HIM LISTEN TO EIGHT SOLID HOURS OF DONNY AND MARIE TAPES.

Protesters have realistic goals

Anti-Lied group seeks increase policy awareness

Faster than a construction worker can adjust his hard hat, they are back.

Everyone else who had opposed the mighty Lied Center for the Performing Arts project had already shouted "uncle" and begun saving money for opera tickets. But they are just preparing to roll up their sleeves and do some serious protesting.



Jonathan Taylor

Although they're a group as new as today's Daily Nebraskan, they have the potential to become a particularly popular unifying force on this campus quickly. They are the Students Against the Lied Center.

To the NU Foundation they might be just a bunch of hooligans trying to close an iron curtain between Nebraska and the performing arts. But to the rest of us, especially those with pent-up rebellious tendencies, they are the faceless

few at UNL brave enough to face the wrecking balls of life and say, "Hey, you're bumming us out."

But James Vigesaa and Gary Longsine, the UNL brain children of SALC, have given us more than a mere clan of students fighting the powers that be. They have also given us the opportunity to be a part of a group with realistic goals.

Of course, it would make wonderful news stories if Students Against the Lied Center painted peace signs all over the DEB Construction Co. equipment and camped in the site of the proposed Lied Center and parking lots until the demolition workers, with smiles on their faces, said "Aw, heck," and drove their bulldozers and cranes away into the sunset. But that only happens in the movies. The SALC has no intention to stop construction of the center single-handedly.

Instead, the group has a much more feasible goal.

Rather than go through some dramatic but unsuccessful attempts at fomenting campuswide anti-Lied sentiment, Longsine and Vigesaa want to increase awareness. They are going to the quick of the Lied Center controversy — the university and NU Foundation's policy of accepting grants on a

conditional basis.

Last spring the estate of Las Vegas car dealer Ernst Lied offered the university a \$10 million donation under the condition that it raise an additional \$10 million and use it to build some sort of memorial to Lied — which the estate would choose. The university came up with three proposals from which the Lied Center was selected.

NU was not the only school in the running for the money, but since Lied graduated from UNL, we received the donation. If the university would not have complied with the Lied estate's conditions, the money would have gone somewhere else, said Ed Hirsch, executive vice president of the foundation.

These kinds of financial grant stipulations are part of the basis for SALC's protests, Longsine said in an earlier DN article.

Indeed, such conditions set by donors limit the university and fuels controversies. The university has many ailing elements that even a fraction of the \$10 million could cure. The university should be free to help itself where it needs to most. Let's hope Students Against the Lied Center will succeed in publicizing this crucial point.

Taylor is a UNL senior in journalism and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

White House shield keeps Star Wars from Gramm-Rudman budget slashes

In case you have been up nights worrying, there is at least one defensive shield already in place on this planet. It's the shield the White House is using to protect the funding for Star Wars. From all reports, it's impenetrable.



Ellen Goodman

In theory, the sword of Gramm-Rudman was supposed to cut budgets for every weapons program by 4.9 percent, including the Strategic Defense Initiative. But the administration raised its shield to make sure the president's pet celestial project won't be nicked.

As of this moment, the Star Wars program is perhaps the only sheltered workshop for scientists in the entire federal budget. Whether we can afford it or not, we are financing the highest-tech defense research in human history.

The Star Wars money is going to be spent to further and produce the ideas of an elite cadre of scientists who — unlike Gramm, Rudman, or Reagan — are unknown to the average citizen.

Now there is a glimpse or two into the world of the young scientists working on space-age weaponry. William

Broad, a science reporter, visited a critical mass of them in Livermore, Calif., the home of the Lawrence Livermore Lab, one of the two nuclear research labs in the country. Here he found the men of O-Group, whom he dubbed "Star Warriors" in his new book by the same name.

These warriors wear no green berets. They wear no uniforms at all, unless you consider jeans, checked shirts and running shoes a dress code. Nor do they eat regulation meals, unless a diet of fast food and ice cream is required.

Broad's sketches make a composite picture of a group described by an inside critic as "bright young hotshots who are socially maladjusted." An intellectual cadre high on Coca-Cola and competition.

He retraces the way the best and the brightest graduates of MIT and Cal Tech were collected by the group leader, Lowell Wood, to work on nuclear weaponry. They were lured by a combination of money, high camaraderie and, perhaps most of all, the freedom to pursue happiness in the form of "interesting problems."

As Peter Hagedstein, one of the more complicated personalities at Livermore and creator of the X-Ray Laser Beam, explained: "My view of weapons has changed. Until 1980 or so I didn't want to have anything to do with nuclear anything. Back in those days I thought

there was something fundamentally evil about weapons. Now I see it as an interesting physics problem."

The motives of a computer star-whiz, Rod Hyde, who was graduated from MIT at 19, are somewhat less earthbound: "What I want more than anything is essentially to get the human race into space. It's the future. If you stay down here, some disaster is going to strike and you're going to get wiped. If you get into space and spread out there's no chance of the human race disappearing."

There are snatches of psyche as well as philosophy to be culled from the Broad annals. Another scientist, Larry West, chose his field as a haven from a difficult childhood.

"Science was a world that was pure and no longer had emotions," he says. "It would never go away and would never leave you. And it was always correct. There was always a right answer. So it had a strong attraction for me emotionally."

But these snippets make the young Star Warriors sound spacy. This is only part of the story. The atmosphere of the all-male O-Group, reads like a science house fraternity, complete with boyish pranks and competitions. The brains who are the hired guns in the national defense scheme don't seem to know