

Editorial

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Cut decisions Regents must research

It has begun — the process of deciding what UNL programs and classes will escape the \$2.7 million in budget cuts this year.

Final budgetary decisions from UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale and the NU Board of Regents will be made soon. Their decisions will affect UNL's status and quality. Let us hope those decisions are educated and informed.

Being a university regent or administrator is demanding. Administrators face daily a full schedule of appointments, phone calls and paperwork. Regents, too, put in extra time. Several have additional jobs.

Demanding or not, these people will give final approval on legislation that determines several things, including:

- whether UNL's library system will continue its last-place ranking among peer institutions.

- whether the College of Agriculture will continue as a leader of Midwestern universities in agricultural research.

- whether students will choose to attend out-of-state schools, simply because they're afraid a degree from UNL will lack credit.

Because regents make such decisions, they should acquaint themselves with the departments that face elimination or large budget cuts.

Case in point: How many

regents have spent a day or two touring the NU School of Technical Agriculture in Curtis? The School, which now has a budget of \$1.6 million, is up for elimination. Elimination of the school definitely would decrease the agriculture college's worries of meeting its \$880,000 cut.

Another point: How many regents do you find sitting in the backs of classrooms?

And yet another: How often do regents sponsor public meetings to talk with their constituents?

The board of regents is a dedicated, hard-working body. Its members often do take the initiative to educate themselves about the NU system.

But in light of the tight budget situation now facing UNL, regents should try to spend even more time preparing themselves to answer such important questions.

True, doing so requires time and several trips to Lincoln for the regents. But those efforts must be taken. For the first time in a decade, regents are making decisions that not only will cut a few dollars from a program, but actually will eliminate it. They must be prepared to answer questions like, "How many potential students will Nebraska lose if we eliminate a particular program?"

The questions are tough. We suggest the regents study hard so Nebraska doesn't fail the test.

Outreach programs TV classes increase awareness

A new system of televising classes at UNL for industrial workers in Omaha is a good idea, one that should increase Nebraskans' awareness — and support — of the university system.

The program, which began a 15-week test period on Feb. 3, allows viewers to take classes while they're at work through an audio-video system. Professors in Lincoln are televised, and employees of firms that use the system can ask questions during the class. Officials soon hope to expand the program to Lincoln.

In a time of budgetary crisis such as the one NU now has, it's easy to think outreach programs like the televised classes should be put on the back burner.

But Nebraskans must remember that the university is here to serve all the taxpayers in the state — not just students. That's

why we have extension programs for rural areas, and business research programs that monitor the state's economy.

The televised educational program also might be a way to increase Nebraskans' awareness of the university. As outreach programs grow, more Nebraskans will learn about the benefits offered by the university.

Nebraskans today seem to have a low regard for NU. Otherwise, they wouldn't be so tolerant when their elected statehouse representatives continually cut secondary education.

Maybe outreach programs are a way to reach those people and let them know just how important the NU system is to the development of the state. Maybe citizens then will urge their senators to support the NU system.

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1986 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Vicki Ruhga, editor; Ad Hudler, editorial page editor; Thom Gabrukiewicz, managing editor; James Rogers, editorial associate and Chris Welsch, copy desk chief.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its

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The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper.

According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.



TARGET STAR STUPID US AIM

Only names and faces change in ASUN campaigns

Technically, this year's campaign for the Association of Students for the University of Nebraska started Wednesday.

That's ASUN to you and me.

Five parties made the deadline by submitting the filing form allowing them to run this year: Impact, Excel, Simple, Scum and Party. We don't know much about them. Only Impact and Excel officially have announced their candidacies and their platforms. In time, the rest will announce. But more write-in parties are bound to surface later. They always do, once their organizers get up enough gumption to join in the fun, too.

To the common students, those with less than a passing interest in student representation, the ASUN elections look the same year after year: an amoeba-like glob of acronyms, height goals, junior politicians in blue suits and a campaign poster-coated campus.

The names and faces change, but nothing else. Blah campaign after blah campaign.

But in an effort to dispel those claims of drab campus elections, I turned back the pages of yesteryear, hoping to find evidence that ASUN elections weren't always the same dull thing.

In the 1960s, before acronyms, the best part of campus politics were the haircuts. Flat-tops were, and still are, cool. I'd vote for a guy with square hair.

According to old DNs, the big issue before the 1960 Student Council, as it was called, was the regulation and coordination of campus group activities. Seems that no one knew how many campus organizations were approved

by the university and some groups that were using school facilities didn't have the right to. Other groups were too rambunctious or mismanaged their money.

The council wanted the right to judge which groups were in "good standing." The voters, all 2,446 of them said, "yes."

Back then, there were no parties, so it was every candidate for himself. Gaylan Abood, a candidate for the College of Business Administration senator, used an ad to get his point across. "Get in the mood, Vote for Abood" was his slogan. He lost by four votes.



Jonathan Taylor

Ken Temparo was the proud council president-elect that year. John Hoerner was elected vice president. Both were Greek. Some things never change.

The '70s brought acronyms and parties. After the disqualification of six executive candidates, five factions remained: New University, the Service party, the University Coalition party and two joke groups, Yippie and Whoopee. Of the "serious" parties, hotly debated issues included the need for more influence by ASUN, more student services — like a gas station — and a more efficient structure of the organization.

Although this campaign was called dull by the reigning DN staff, the Yip-

pie party wanted to legalize marijuana and beer on campus. The Whoopee groups sponsored campaign rallies complete with their own band, "Rick and the Rockets."

Three-thousand students turned out to vote at the polling place located under a massive tent. They called it the "Big Top" election. Steve Tiwald of the Coalition party emerged the victor.

One of the key issues in the 1980 ASUN election was the idea of working more closely with the state Legislature on the budget. Sound familiar? No joke parties this time around, but lots of characters. Groups vying for student representation power included the LSD party, STAR, US and an independent group that entered the race late.

Although he didn't win, Tim Munson of the LSD party got the most attention. Commenting on his own peaceable views about life, he said, "I would be, if you like, Jesus Christ here at UNL." Later, he called his participation in the election a "sociological study."

In a sparkling attempt to find the best representative, the UNL Innocents Society gave each presidential candidate a 100-question test on the UNL system.

Renee Wessel of US scored the highest on the test with a 92. She later won the election. There were 3,800 votes. But accusations of illegal campaigning practices and subsequent student court sessions delayed announcement of election results for six days.

History doesn't lie. If this year's ASUN election sounds and looks the same, it's because it always does.

Taylor is a senior Journalism major and Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

Federal help for agriculture needed until farmers get necessary prices

This is a response to Chris Welsch's article "Alternative Agriculture," (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 10).

Perhaps his article only reflects the misinformation that prevails in Washington and elsewhere in the United States.

Many of the issues Welsch addresses are simply on the outskirts of the central issue. Corporations that are managed by farmers are not likely to rape the land because they have a vested interest in keeping its profit-making potential high. Initiative 300 prevents non-agricultural corporations from buying land, which has its merits and its drawbacks.

Admittedly, there have been some cases of abuse in agriculture. Most have been forced in an effort to save the farm in the face of declining income levels. The fact is that land is best left in the hands of those who are willing to take care of it, as a long-term investment.

There have also been problems with nitrate levels in ground water resources. However, the use of biodegradable chemicals shouldn't be a subject of much controversy.

Guest Opinion

Similarly, Wes Jackson's alternative agriculture clouds the issue. His methods sound more like gardening in your backyard. Those who have followed Jackson's scheme likely make most of their income off the farm. Farmers practice conservation and use organic methods where feasible.

As far as going back to horses instead of using combines, that's absurd. Horses are fine. Combines are virtually irreplaceable. Besides being a rather short-sighted argument (not future-oriented), we need some action

now, not in 50 to 100 years. Agriculture is open to new ideas now more than ever, but they need to be comprehensive and well-planned.

Welsch described government price supports and deficiency payments this way: "Plain and simple, it's welfare." That is not the case. Anyone receiving welfare would deny it as a matter of pride. People in this country are supposed to work hard to get ahead. Dependents are people who can't get by on their own. I assure you that farmers are not dumb. And I assure you that farmers are the hardest-working welfare recipients on record, who also pay taxes on that money, if they can turn a profit.

Some of the problems stem from farmers being forced to take the market value of their commodities. The nature of agriculture is such that it is unlikely

See FARMERS on 5