

Letters

UNL used position to benefit itself, says NSSA representative

As a member of the Board of Directors for the Nebraska State Student Association, I would like to express my disappointment in the Legislative Assembly in Peru on Nov. 7 and 8. Peru State College was very hospitable and did everything in their power to make the delegates from UNO, UNL, and Chadron State and Wayne State colleges feel at home.

For an organization to succeed in its main goals, cooperation and compromises must be granted. A policy platform should be a list of objectives that benefit the entire organization.

UNL's chapter voted for the benefit of its campus but failed to consider the other 22,000 or so members of the four other campuses that belong to the Nebraska State Student Association. I would urge the delegates of that chapter to re-evaluate their decisions and perhaps consider changing some of their decisions to benefit the organization instead of just themselves.

I do not feel a state organization should be run under the direction of one campus, but of the five members unified as one group, to better higher education in Nebraska. Keep in mind the motto of the Nebraska State Student Association: "We are all in this together."

Mike Soltys
Nebraska State Student Association
Board of Directors, Treasurer
Wayne State College Representative

NU professor criticizes prank; students damage Manter pool

Three weeks ago there was what probably the people responsible regard as a light-hearted prank. Soap was dumped into the pool and fountain in Manter Hall.

Perhaps people are not aware that we in biological sciences have tried very hard to create a beautiful restful area with the living organisms we study. The fountain and pool shelter crayfish, goldfish, frogs and undoubtedly numerous other organisms along with growing, developing ferns. It is not a balanced system as in nature, but we strive to keep it beautiful for the animals and plants living in the area.

The soap killed a number of animals and undoubtedly damaged the developing tiny gametophytes of the ferns.

Perhaps people do not know that soap dumped into a fountain isn't just a harmless trick but produces significant damage not only to living organisms, as in our fountain, but also to the pumps and creates considerable expense in clearing the fountain and replacing the water, as in Broyhill Fountain. Knowing that, they perhaps would not be so ready to carry out such a childish trick.

Of course, our own students are not the only people who perpetuate pranks on campus. It could have been anyone, perhaps people who never see the Daily Nebraskan.

If university students see such acts being done, sometimes a word at the right time could prevent damage.

Earl E. Barnawell
associate professor
biological sciences

Misquotations in DN article anger professor

This letter is in response to an article on the subject of UNL faculty morale, which appeared in the Oct. 27 issue of the Daily Nebraskan.

I was interviewed by telephone a few days earlier to get my views on a number of matters concerning faculty salaries and morale. Most of what appeared in the article was misrepresentations of what I said during that interview; thus I am taking this opportunity to set the record straight. I was quoted as saying, "Competition is extremely keen for promotions, unless you want to take on an administrative load, and I don't, so I feel trapped." What I actually said was that the competition for advanced academic positions outside this university was

extremely keen. Faculty openings at other major universities at the full professor level are rare and cater to those of unique qualifications. Thus professors are not very mobile and therefore trapped unless they are willing to take on an administrative load, or to go into a non-academic position such as an industrial one.

That wasn't too bad, but I was stunned to find out that I was quoted as saying that I "feel I do not earn enough, which forced his wife to work." This misinformation must have been taken out of context from the replies to two questions. The first was whether, I felt my salary was appropriate for my position and experience and the second was whether or not I made enough on

which to live. My answer to the latter was that the question was not appropriate since my family's lifestyle was based on two incomes. My wife works because she is a professional and wants to work. She can't be forced to do anything.

As a professor in this university, I have an obligation to be involved in the teaching process; thus I cooperated in the interview for the newspaper. I am equally obliged to be involved in the evaluation process.

There appears to be plenty of room for improvement.

Fred W. Wagner
professor
agricultural biochemistry

School vouchers create problems

In Your Nov. 7 editorial, "Scopes' fallout," you rightly point out the difficulties involved with the recent court decision about school textbooks in Tennessee.

The editorial favors a voucher plan for schools as a way out of the difficulties. As I will show below, this will in fact introduce many worse difficulties.

ing, making it all the more desirable for other students to leave. In rural areas the public schools would be ruined simply by lack of numbers.

Actually, there already is a lot of public financial help for parochial schools, in that they do not pay property taxes, and yet get municipal services such as police and fire protection and maintenance of local roads past their buildings. And people who donate to parochial schools are given part of their money back through our state and

federal income tax systems.

The question is not whether private and parochial schools should be allowed under the law. Of course they should. The question is whether public taxes should pay for them.

Your editorial states an excellent point: "But then, nobody ever said protecting constitutional rights would be easy."

Edgar Pearlstein
professor
physics

Guest Opinion

A plan to give parents a public-funds voucher to be used in any private school would be open-ended — growing more and more over the years. Motivations of those who favor the plan are in many cases religious, in some cases radical. Occasionally, as in your editorial, there is motive for civil-rights reasons, and sometimes for educational reasons.

One argument is that parents who send their children to non-public schools shouldn't have to pay for the public schools, since their children don't represent a cost to the public schools. There are several responses to that: What about people who don't have children? Should they be excused from school taxes or perhaps get a refund in the form of a voucher to be used to purchase anything they please? It has long been recognized in this country that it is to everyone's advantage for all children to be educated, and the public schools are provided by government for those who need and want them.

It is sometimes argued that having a voucher plan would encourage "competition" among private and public schools, which would result in improvement for both. Baloney! There can be competition only to the extent that the competitors have the same rules.

Public schools must accept anyone, while private and parochial schools can accept and eject students as they please. They need not, and often don't, take or keep students with mental and physical handicaps, severe behavior problems, or parents who don't care. Such students would, of course, be in the public schools because they would have no choice, vouchers notwithstanding.

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