

Editorial

Daily
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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New rec center Priority belongs to the students

The Daily Nebraskan's lead story in Monday's paper noted that \$800,000 had been collected for the new indoor-practice field and student-recreation center as a result of a letter sent to Nebraska football season-ticket holders. The letter was even nice enough to include the student aspect of the facility. How generous.

The letter, signed by Athletic Director Bob Devaney and football coach Tom Osborne, read: "Such a facility should be designed and located so that it could be used by faculty and students as part of a newly developed campus recreation/athletic complex when not in use by the football team."

"Again, the purpose of this effort is simple — we all want to keep our football team competitive with the best in the country. We must have this facility to permit us to do this; and we need the help of Cornhusker fans everywhere to get this job done."

The letter, unfortunately, prioritizes the football team over the students. The facility is to include basketball, volleyball, handball and racquetball courts, a martial-

arts training area, weight room, track, swimming pool and an area for activities like table tennis and fencing. Clearly, the center is to be built for students first, football team second.

What many students would rather hear is that the facility can be used by the football team when campus recreation doesn't need it. Of course, that thought is nothing more than a pipe dream. The football program is the sole reason for the facility being proposed in the first place.

Edward J. Hirsch, president of the NU Foundation, said that it's easier to find donors for the new practice field than many other projects because the football team has "defined constituents." About 70,000 of them.

The popularity of Husker football has drawn the funds. We would like to remind the donors that it is a student-recreation center.

Several years ago, the Bob Devaney Sports Center was built from funds from a cigarette tax. That facility was supposed to be for the students, too. Let's not let the needs of the few outweigh the needs of the many.

Boyle recall pondered What can other politicians learn?

Avoiding the appearance of impropriety. This phrase, as much as any, seems to sum up what ousted Omaha Mayor Boyle failed to do — he failed to look enough like a competent leader to Omaha voters.

From 50 miles west on I-80, we confess that we're still not sure what the big hoopla was about in Boyle's case. Certainly, strange disputes, mainly centered on conflicts between Boyle, Boyle's family and the Omaha police department, seemed to be endemic to Boyle's administration. Yet there was no compelling evidence that the whole mess was Boyle's fault, and the recall effort ostensibly was focused on broader issues.

Leadership, or lack thereof, was really the public emphasis of the recall campaign. Yet "leadership" is an intangible. Again, it's not so obvious from 50 miles to the west that Boyle exercised less "leadership" or less competence as a leader than, say, Lincoln's Mayor Luedtke (who definitely should not be recalled).

The entire event is all the more perplexing given Boyle's

fairly easy re-election in 1985. Tuesday, with a much greater turnout than in the '85 election, Boyle lost by over 27,000 votes and twelve percentage points.

It would be so much easier if we could exult with recall supporters and point out clear moral lessons for other politicians involved with abusing power; "Watch out," we could say, "if you do thus and such your head will be on the chopping block." But what is the lesson other politicians should learn from the Boyle affair? What is the "thus and such" that other politicians should not do to avoid the wrath of the citizenry?

The motto on the state capitol is "The salvation of the state is watchfulness in the citizen." A very true motto. The only problem we have respects what it was that the keen-eyed Omaha citizen picked out about Boyle that really merited all the trouble and expense of the recall.

We're not at all questioning the right of Omaha citizens to take the action that they did; we're just sort of musing out loud, "How was that again?"

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1987 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Jeff Korbek, editor; James Rogers, editorial page editor; Lise Olsen, associate news editor; Mike Reilly, night news editor and Joan Rezac, copy desk chief.

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.

ONE OF THE THINGS WE'RE INVESTIGATING IN THIS IRAN-CONTRA EPISODE IS THE SNEAKY WAY THEY GOT THEIR MONEY!



IFC bar-tab controversy

Ex-IFC members paid bill; council funds were not misused

Sometimes journalists see and hear things they wish they hadn't. And sometimes people say or do things in front of journalists that they wish they hadn't.

That's what happened when the Daily Nebraskan editor and the former Intrafraternity Council president saw each other one December night at a downtown bar. Rumors, insults and bad feelings resulted, and it's time the whole story was told.

It all started Dec. 3 at a downtown bar where the two student leaders were introduced by a mutual friend. Former IFC president Tom Bowen didn't recognize DN editor Jeff Korbek. Korbek says Bowen invited him to have a drink "on IFC." Then Korbek said Bowen told him "We (IFC) have a tab at the bar."

Bowen said he doesn't remember telling Korbek to have a drink "on IFC." But Bowen said he may have accidentally given Korbek the wrong idea about who was paying for the tab when he invited Korbek to join in the IFC's celebration. Fifteen to 20 members of IFC had gathered at the bar that night after their last meeting of the semester, at which Bowen stepped down as president.

But Bowen said the tab was in his name — not that of the council. And he said he paid the approximately \$65 bill himself. Later, the three other former members of the executive council agreed to split the tab evenly. Bowen said there was some talk of having the bar tab come out of the executive discretionary fund — but that it was never agreed upon. Only two 1986 executive-council members (there are four) were at the bar that night, Bowen and former vice president Chuck Vitton.

Back in December, Korbek considered writing an editorial about possible misuse of IFC funds. He considered having a reporter check out a related

story about IFC and Panhellenic funds possibly being used for an officers' farewell dinner, which was later canceled.

He did neither. Partly, he said, because he himself is a member of the Greek system and worried about the possible results.

Instead, he and Managing Editor Gene Gentrup wrote an unsigned personal, which appeared in the Dec. 5 Daily Nebraskan. It seemed conspicuous between a personal written to "Boy Who Lost His Gloves" and another wishing "Lisa R." a Happy Birthday. It read, in part, "TOM B. AND IFC: Never tell people from the Daily Nebraskan to have a drink on IFC in a bar."



Lise Olsen

Tom Bowen read it. He and John Dederman, last semester's IFC treasurer, came down to the Daily Nebraskan office to find out who wrote it. But the receptionist doesn't give out that kind of information and Korbek wasn't in the office at the time.

That Monday, Korbek tried to call Dederman, who is a member of Korbek's fraternity. Dederman wasn't in the office and later Bowen returned the call.

Korbek told Bowen that he was upset that funds of the IFC, which supported a non-alcoholic social calendar and dry rush, would be used to buy drinks. Bowen said he was disappointed in Korbek for writing a personal that reflected so poorly on the Greek system.

Chuck Allen, president of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and a member of the

IFC's Presidents' Council, was also upset. Allen said he worried that funds might be used improperly because of what he had observed at the bar that Wednesday. He called presidents of several other fraternities. Allen said together they decided to contact members of the executive council to ask if authorizing payment for a bar tab would be ethical.

Allen and others were assured by executive-council members that the funds would come out of the executives' own pockets — not from the IFC executive fund.

In a recent interview, Dederman said that expenses authorized by IFC members would have to be signed by both the treasurer and Greek Affairs Director Jayne Wade Anderson.

"I did not sign any papers to anyone" or to a bar, Dederman said.

Said Allen, "I feel it's probably the council's fault for not challenging the budget. We needed to pay more attention to what was going on."

In last year's IFC budget, executives were allowed \$275 for whatever they decided to use it for, theoretically including bar tabs.

Allen says this year's IFC members should take a hard look at budget items like "IFC Officer Tuition" and "IFC Council Execs."

However, Allen also said he is now satisfied that the bar tab was properly settled, and he said he still has faith in the leadership abilities of the former council. Too often, leaders are criticized too much for small mistakes, he said.

"We elect somebody and then throw stones at them and pull the rug out from under them. We do that to our elected officials a lot."

Olsen is a senior news editorial major and Daily Nebraskan Associate news editor.

Letter

Cars towed at the Sugar Bowl for money

The subject of parking violations during the last Sugar Bowl seems to be making the rounds in the press, and the consensus seems to be that the people who were towed off got what they deserved. I'm writing this letter to set the record straight and to warn travelers who are considering a trip to New Orleans.

I'll admit up front that my car was towed during the Sugar Bowl game, so I have first-hand experience about what really happened. When I arrived, all Dome parking was full. There were open areas suitable for parking cars under the I-10 causeway through New Orleans. The open area that I parked in

had no signs saying that parking was prohibited, let alone signs saying that violators would be towed. Indeed, I talked to several LSU fans while I waited for three hours to get my car, and most said that the police directed them to park under I-10 and then towed their cars off as soon as the game started.

Several things about this whole affair are particularly distasteful. First, there was the absolute fact that no signs were posted. Second, when I came back for my car some cars still were parked in the lot. These cars belonged to locals (you can tell from the plate where the car is from and everyone I

talked to later was from out of town).

Evidently only cars from out of state or from Baton Rouge were towed away. Why? Simple! Locals will contest the tickets and win the \$65 back. People who live somewhere else cannot afford to show up in court at some later date to fight the ticket. By hauling off the out-of-towners the city is almost assured of keeping the money.

The city of New Orleans is in financial trouble right now and will stoop to any level to rake in money.

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