

Editorial

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Quips and quotes Ice cream hot, tuition bill cold

Lincoln Sen. Jim McFarland's bill, which would have allowed the children of university employees to attend university classes for free, died a quick death last week. The Legislature's Education Committee voted 6-2 to kill the bill, LB157.

It's not really surprising that the bill didn't make it past committee. Opponents said that since the university is facing \$3.1 million in budget cuts, it cannot afford to establish a tuition-reimbursement program that would cost \$500,000 to \$1 million a year.

The bill would not have been so expensive if McFarland had not added an amendment to allow any full-time employee who has been employed by the university at least five consecutive years to be eligible.

The bill intended, among other things, to help in faculty retention. The idea seemed to be lost, and that's too bad. McFarland had a good idea if only the bill had been geared toward faculty. Then it would not have cost so much. Maybe next year.

●In other legislative news, the bill to start a state-funded work-study program providing financial assistance and educational

experience to college students received no opposition in testimony in front of the Education Committee Tuesday. Let's hope the committee decides to move it to the floor next week.

●The Committee for Fees Allocation and the University Program Council reached a favorable compromise in allowing \$406 for a safe-sex seminar. CFA voted 6-3 against granting \$882 to the Gay/Lesbian Programming Committee but reinstated nearly half for the seminar.

Supporters for the committee's formation said the programming is needed to educate students on AIDS and the gay culture. The seminar should help in these areas.

The remaining \$476 was added to UPC's Special Events fund, which CFA members suggested be used by the Gay/Lesbian Committee for chosen events. Another good idea.

●The Dairy Store in the Nebraska Union is hot . . . well, actually cold, but it has caught on. Students can be seen toting ice-cream cones and other ice-cream delights around the union. The store is a pleasant addition and students are encouraged to check it out.

Hofmeister says facts show center needed

I am replying with factual knowledge to the false accusations put forth by ex-graduate Sen. Tim Howard in the guest opinion of Jan. 30. Howard claims that ASUN is raping the university by pursuing the proposed student recreation center and night bus service between City and East campuses. I hold that the only political crime facing this campus is the repeated gross misrepresentation of the facts by Howard.

Guest Opinion

Let's examine the facts. One, is there a need for more recreational facilities on this campus? The answer is obviously yes. NU is last in the Big Eight when it comes to recreation for its students, faculty and staff. To throw more salt in the wound, UNO has a virtually new facility costing nearly \$13 million at the time of construction. Not to mention the state-funded recreational center recently provided for Chadron State College. But I guess ASUN should simply ignore these facts and protest that the administration not tear down the Men's P.E. Building for that fine facility can certainly last until the state is finally ready to subsidize a recreation center at UNL.

Moreover, there seems to be a feeling on this campus that the proposed recreation center is a good idea, but that the timing is all wrong.

This is how it really goes: A majority of the students on this campus want a new recreation facility and are willing to pay a minimal amount to have one — these facts come from ballot surveys done in 1979, 1981, 1983 and 1985, all showing a solid majority in favor of the center and fees.

The athletic department will place a \$5 surcharge on non-student football tickets to pay for the total building cost of the new recreational center

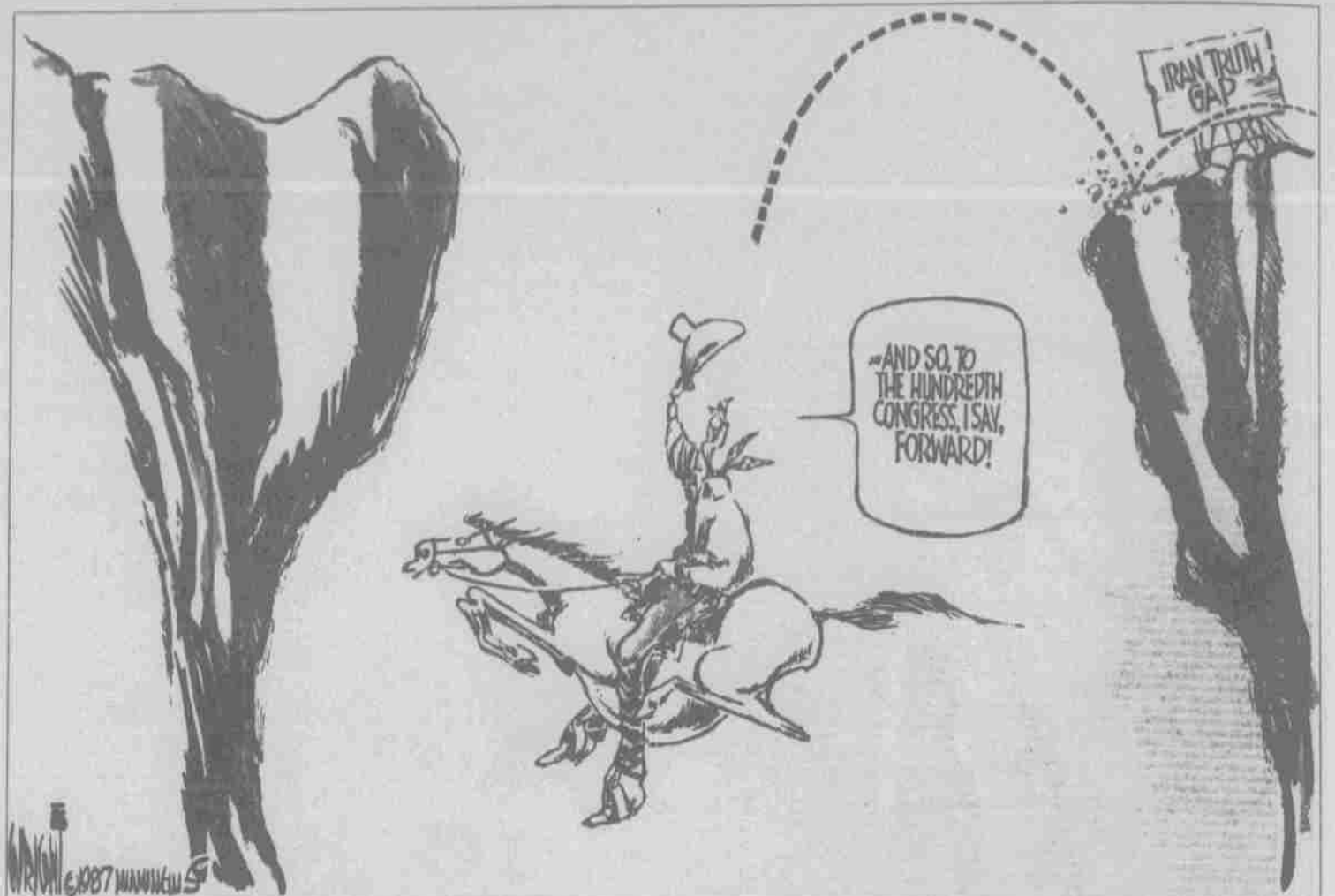
(roughly \$12 million), and the adjacent indoor practice field (roughly \$5 million) will be funded by private "football" donations. Interestingly enough, it is much easier, apparently, for the athletic department to raise funds for football than it is to find funds for academics; most of the private donations for the indoor practice field have come from contributors out-of-state who solely earmarked the donations for the betterment of the football team — it's hard to fight reality.

Moreover, the athletic department's indoor practice field/track is tentatively scheduled for at least 75 hours per week of open recreation time, and most likely be used by the Cornhusker Marching Band in the early mornings when necessary. Further, not only is the Coliseum going to be totally renovated for students, but an additional structure is to be built. For example, it will house at least three new basketball courts and a new volleyball court. The university tennis team will have four new tennis courts in direct proximity to the locker rooms, not like the current situation where the locker rooms are in Devaney, but practices are near the Coliseum.

So please make an educated decision before throwing your support for or against the new center. More details relating to cost, access and the specific facilities offered will be out soon for your consideration; until that time an open mind is obviously more productive than the current, continual, uninformed, cynical whimpering on this campus.

But I can understand the cynics' point of view: If we proved to the university community that we are actually doing something productive, what would people have to cry about? Their own ignorance and apathy?

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Revolutions show contrast

Filipinos show Nicaragua what revolution should accomplish

Filipinos just consummated last spring's revolution by overwhelmingly ratifying a new constitution. The juxtaposition of the revolution in the Philippines with that of Nicaragua once again demonstrates the oft-neglected observation that all revolutions do not spring from the same well: Where the utopian, Revolutionary spirit predominates, as in Nicaragua, oppression follows. Where righteous (and proper) indignation at injustice is tempered by true concern for society, usually fostered by a religious framework, justice prevails.

The contrast between the revolutions in Nicaragua and the Philippines is predated by the European revolutions of centuries past. The French and Anglo-American revolutions clearly demonstrate the powerful difference that the spirit of radicalism plants in a rebellion.

In 18th-century France, indignation at oppression gave way to terror and horrendous bloodbaths. In 1847 Dutch historian and towering Christian intellectual G. Groen van Prinsterer aptly characterized the spirit of Revolution that caused the devolution to the Reign of Terror in France, as founded in "the systematic overturning of ideas whereby state and society, justice and truth are founded on human opinion and arbitrariness."

Nineteenth-century German historian Fr. J. Stahl observed that the distinction between the Anglo experience (here I include the American revolution as well) and that of France is that "the liberty of England and America

breathes the spirit of the Puritans; the liberty of France breathes the spirit of the Encyclopedists and Jacobins."

As against the example of France, the Anglo revolutions of the 17th and 18th centuries were, by and large, law-affirming. It was the oppression of the rulers that was causing the social fabric to come apart. In response to these wars against the culture, lesser magistrates led revolutions against the tyrants.

Jim
Rogers



This commitment to society is not shared by those imbued with the Revolutionary spirit. They have no meaningful vision of merely altering political circumstances. Instead, they are dedicated to remolding the entire society into a new creation. Their claims are messianic and their visions are utopian.

In his 1791 essay "Thoughts on French Affairs," the great British statesman Edmund Burke observed the essential character of the total upheaval experienced by revolutionary France: "The present revolution in France seems to me to be quite of another character and description, and to bear little resemblance or analogy to any of those which have been brought about in Europe, upon principles merely politi-

cal. It is a revolution of doctrine and theoretic dogma." (You might recall that Burke caused some scandal in the English Parliament by siding with the claims of the American rebels against the Crown.)

Today the revolutionaries committed to remaking society in their own image are not "Encyclopedists" and Jacobins," but Marxists: A new body, but the breath is that of the same spirit. In the Philippines, for example, the communist rebels have not embraced the democratic revolution spearheaded by President Aquino as their own. They have not done so because the spirit of democracy is not the one which empowers them. In their eyes society must be utterly torn down, all relationships "revolutionized," before the new image of that society can be rightly implemented.

The contrast is clear. While in the Philippines freedom is once again beginning to flourish as a result of the revolution, in Nicaragua, dissenting voices are being systematically stamped out.

Nicaragua needs no defense by a would-be American apologist. The government there is simply working out the obvious logic of the Revolutionary spirit that spawned it; working out the logic as it was worked out in France, Russia, China, Eastern Europe, Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia and Afghanistan. The smell of the Revolutionary spirit is the scent of death.

Rogers is an economics graduate, law student, and Daily Nebraskan editorial page editor.

Letters

Proposed state income taxes unfair to poor, professor says

The proposed state income-tax plan may be stable and simple, but it is not fair for low-income workers. Since 1979, workers earning at the poverty level and below have seen their federal income tax skyrocket because of errors in the 1981 federal tax law. For example, a single-parent mother of three with poverty-level earnings saw her federal tax go from \$288 in 1979 to \$1,369 in 1986.

Her state income tax also would have taken a big jump during those years since Nebraska has been tied to the federal income tax. Therefore, comparing proposed state taxes with these grossly unfair 1986 taxes is highly misleading and perpetuates the errors made in 1981.

In 1987 a mother with three children earning \$11,508 (poverty level for a family of four in 1986) would have to pay \$109 in state income tax under the proposed plan. But she would have to pay nothing in 1987 if Nebraska continues to be tied to the federal tax system.

Gov. Kay Orr appears to be trying to be fair in devising her new tax plan. But asking poor people to pay more taxes so those of us who are not poor can have a tax break is unfair. It needs to be reworked.

Ann Coyne
associate professor
social work

Not everyone understands Rogers, but everyone isn't his audience

I am writing in response to the letter in the Feb. 2 issue of the Daily Nebraskan about the "competency and applicability" of the journalism of Jim Rogers.

I feel that the basic premise of James Feyerherm's presupposition is errant. Namely, that the purpose of a newspaper, including the editorials, is to serve solely the needs and wants of the general population of readers. There are readers who function at an intellectual level above that of the general population, and I feel that there needs to be some effort on the part of the newspaper to reach that audience.

I agree with Feyerherm that a writer's foremost goal is to relate to his audience. The question that begs to be asked, though, is who is the audience? Is it necessarily a requirement that the audience be that of the general population?

I enjoy the style of journalism that Rogers uses. Many of his articles are intellectually stimulating and challenging. They stand out in stark contrast to some of the inane and shallow journalism that finds its way into the pages of the Daily Nebraskan. I also find Jim Rogers' reasoning and logic clear, accurate, and astute, and appreciate the style and level at which he writes.

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