

UNL Custodian of the Year honored; receives thanks for a thankless job

By Jane Hirt
Staff Reporter

Pushing a broom around and picking up trash after hundreds of careless people may seem like a thankless job.

But recently many thanks were given to Darnell Bickham as he was honored as UNL's Custodian of the Year.

Bickham, a four-year university employee, said that the best part of his job is the satisfaction of being recognized.

"It feels good to have the faculty come up to you and tell you that you've done a good job," he said. "It makes you feel like you're not working for nothing."

The annual award, based on points received in area inspections, is difficult to receive and the winners are hard to select, said John Dzerk, operational manager of the custodial division of the Physical Plant.

The winner was chosen from 24 employees of the month and their

runners-up.

"Darnell is an excellent and dedicated worker who exceeds expectations," Dzerk said.

An employee of the month receives a 5-percent raise and the employee of the year also receives a week of administrative leave.

"It's our merit system," Dzerk said. Bickham said he is unsure where he will spend his week's leave.

"I'd like to go home to Louisiana," he said.

Harley Schrader, director of physical plant, said studies have shown that cleanliness of the classroom and buildings help students receive a better education.

Bickham said that because Morrill Hall is an older building and a high traffic area, his job is more difficult.

"I try to keep up with it because if I let it go, it looks really bad," he said.

"Custodial work is something that some people don't think is very impor-



Bickham

tant, but it is, especially for Morrill Hall," Bickham said. "I'd just like to thank everybody."

Letters

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to make sure its members have enough work. In this context Koefoot's turning over routine post-operative care to non-members is a heinous crime. But for Nebraskans, and particularly rural Nebraskans, this may be the only way to receive affordable quality care.

As to the remainder of the column, it is the first time I have seen a newspaper advocate censorship. In the future the DN should publish a list of acceptable ideas and when the regents can raise them. Then ideas the DN didn't like could be assigned convenient times when no one was listening.

George M. McCabe
professor
finance

Too much hoopla over Condom Week

What's the deal with the so-called condom issue? Sure, safe sex is a little-talked-about topic, and sure, the Gay/Lesbian Student Association may be considered a controversial organization, but I don't get what all the hoopla is about. I mean, four camera crews, 20 reporters, and all those on lookers were a bit much. Not that I'm trying to take away from the GLSA, I'm glad it stirred up some dust. I just don't see how so much dust got stirred.

Democrats aching to win battle

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This swift return of liberalism, less than three months after Democratic fortunes revived, is proof that the call by Gary Hart and others for "new ideas" never really appealed to most Democrats. Their 1980 defeat by Ronald Reagan and his fellow conservative Republicans was hard to bear, and his landslide victory in 1984 over that true-blue liberal Walter Mondale was almost unendurable. But neither experience has sufficed to detach the Democrats from their 55-year allegiance to the belief that big government can be a beneficent father figure to the American people, fulfilling their "needs" with money taxed from ... er ... corporations? The rich? Somebody.

The irony is that conservatives are probably almost as happy as Jim High-tower to see liberalism coming back. As long as the Democrats were out there casting about for "new ideas," there was always at least a theoretical possibility that they might stumble across a few — thus putting conservatives to the trouble of analyzing and debunking a whole new batch of slogans.

But if it is liberalism that the conservatives (and the Republican Party) will be facing in 1988, they are confident that the American people aren't ready to fall for that old hustle again. The disasters inflicted by the welfare system are too visible and too painful; the memory of the economic consequences of liberalism — in terms of inflation and interest rates — is too recent; the reputation of liberals for neglecting the nation's defenses while swelling the domestic budget is too widespread.

I wonder what would happen if another organization gave out another health aid. Let's say, for instance, the football team decided to pass out free tubes of toothpaste. The situations wouldn't be very different. It would simply be a specific group of people giving away an item to promote general health. The reaction, on the other hand, would be completely different. Instead of cold shoulders and nervous partakers shoving pamphlets quickly into their back pockets, the toothpaste would be received with open arms, probably by hoards of people trying to save money on their monthly hygiene bill.

So why all of the huffing and puffing about condoms? Would people rather have genital warts than a few cavities? I would rather walk into a dentist's office and have him say, "You eat too many Snickers bars," than walk into the doctor's office and have him say, "Sure, you're not a homosexual."

Sean Strough
freshman
journalism

No extra burdens for grad students

For the past several days, the Daily Nebraskan's editorials have suggested ways to relieve the financial woes

affecting NU. It seems, however, that the DN has somehow come up with the idea that the state professional schools should shoulder the brunt of this situation.

On Feb. 18, the DN said there was no reason to subsidize post-graduate students attending the College of Dentistry, College of Law and NU Medical Center. In reading your editorial "Surgical Options," I got the impression that your solution to NU's financial problems was the development of some type of tuition scale based on the individual student's future career earnings.

Obviously, the installment of such a scale would have to include not only the professional students (i.e. dental, law and medical students), but also all of those students that would "reap the benefits of their investment over and over again in the years to come." Why then wouldn't you raise the tuition of programs in engineering, architecture, graduate studies and those other careers that have a high earning potential as well? You couldn't!

I always thought the cost of tuition was directly related to the cost of educating students in whatever careers they may choose.

Marvin Zerr
second-year dental student
UNMC

Or so conservatives believe.

will find the conservatives ready and waiting.

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