

Editorial

Daily
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jeff Korbelik, Editor, 472-1766
James Rogers, Editorial Page Editor
Lise Olsen, Associate News Editor
Mike Reilley, Night News Editor
Joan Rezac, Copy Desk Chief

Tuition is touchy Increase must help education

Tuition increases are always a touchy subject. There's a little question that tuition increases, at the margin, cause some decrease in enrollment. Every demand curve, after all, is downward sloping, and the demand curve of education is no different than that for any other good.

Americans, Nebraskans, and students especially, are imbued with an egalitarian spirit. It always seems somehow unfair that the lack of money should stop some people from getting something so evidently good as education.

Nonetheless, the current controversy within the NU administration as to whether tuition should be increased does not exist in a vacuum. Rather, the dispute must be placed in the state's political context, which is not conducive to the funding of higher-education excellence in Nebraska. For better or worse, this is a fundamental economic fact for all persons concerned with NU, and for students as well.

This year's Daily Nebraskan has consistently supported tuition increases to make up for

cutbacks in funding. The DN continues to maintain this position but with an added condition: Direct and obvious linkages between tuition increases and quality education must be seen. All tuition increases should be earmarked for professors or library resources.

For example, say Gov. Kay Orr's proposal for a 3-percent hike in undergraduate tuition were implemented. That would be about \$46 for every student per year and would translate into a yearly total of about \$914,400. This hike would be enough to give about 183 professors a raise of \$5,000 or hire 30 new professors at a competitive salary of \$30,000. Such contributions would be substantive and visible contributions to UNL's quality.

If it's students' money that the administration is going to play with, then a bit of straightforward accountability is warranted. Students have the best argument: Their own money should be invested in areas directly improving their education — which is why the university exists anyway.

ASUN cuts funds GLC to benefit from NSSA loss

The ASUN Senate's decision to cut funds from the Nebraska State Student Association and divert them to UNL's Government Liaison Committee should be applauded.

The senate voted 17-13, with one abstention, to eliminate student funding. UNL's \$20,500 student-fee contribution makes up nearly half of NSSA's budget and UNL's withdrawal may mean the end of NSSA.

Steve Linenberger, the newly appointed NSAA director, said NSAA's other members — Chadron, Peru, Wayne State and UNO — might have to double their student-fee support of the organization for it to continue. NSSA's demise would be unfortunate for other schools, but UNL's move was essential and necessary.

The Daily Nebraskan has said before and still stands by the statement that NSAA cannot effectively lobby for UNL interests. Of the approximately 40,000 students NSAA represented, UNL accounted for 24,000. The interests of an institution the size of UNL vary considerably with those of the smaller state colleges.

ASUN's redistribution plan

looks good on paper. The DN hopes ASUN/GLC follows through. Their plan is to use the money for newsletters mailed to student's parents and alumni to increase general university support. ASUN/GLC also plans to send their officials around the state to talk to clubs and business leaders.

Gerard Keating, 1985-86 ASUN president, made great strides in this area. The current administration has kept it going, and an increase in funds will allow ASUN/GLC more visits and more contacts.

Other programs include: joining the United States Student Association for access to federal information, programs and assistance; hiring a GLC administrative director; having more GLC conferences and funding projects such as Adopt-A-Senator.

The only criticism could be the timing. In light of the recent budget cuts, a change now may weaken UNL's lobbying efforts within the Legislature. But that could be overcome by hiring an effective and competent administrator who can implement ASUN's plan immediately.

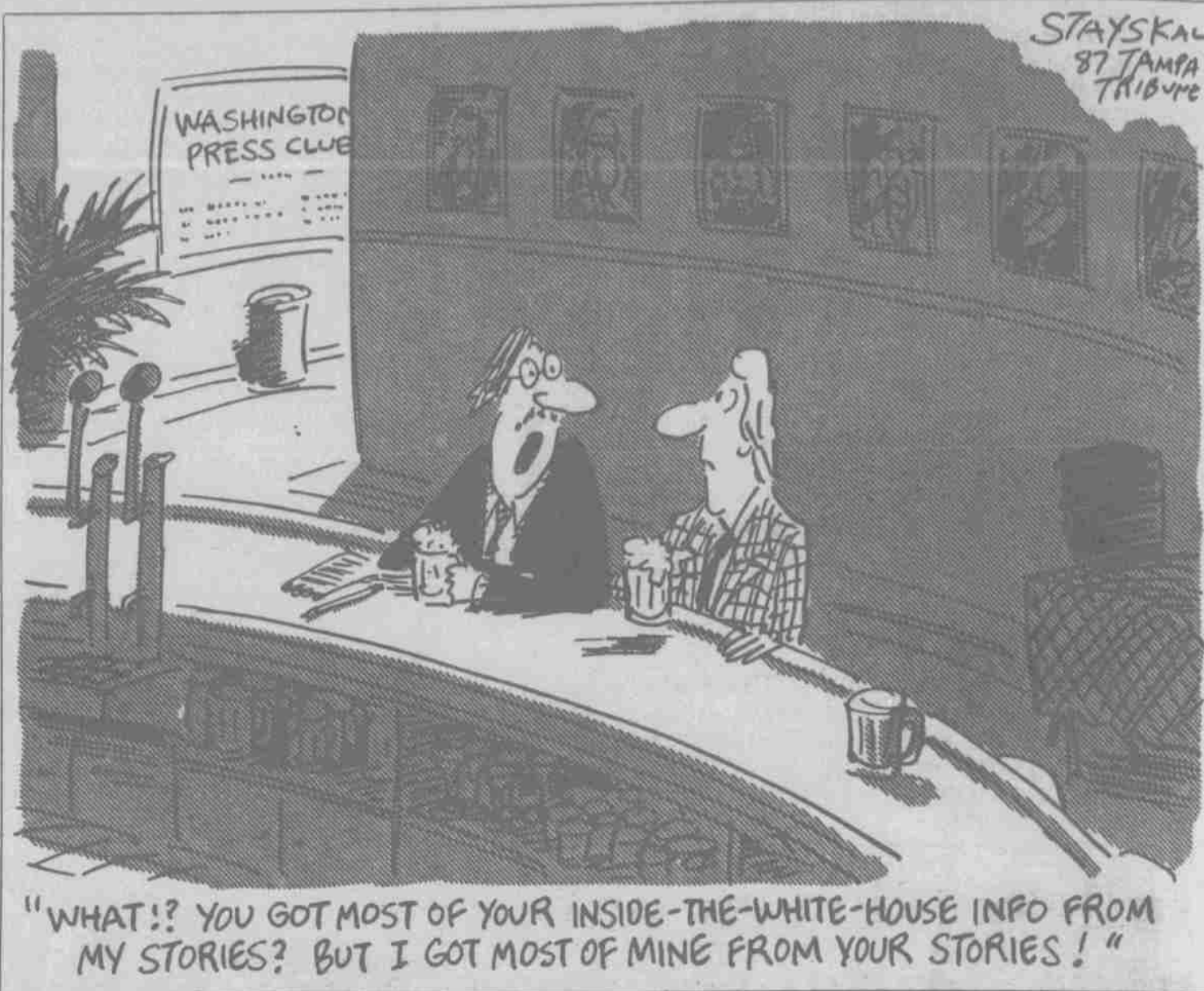
Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the fall 1986 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Jeff Korbelik, editor; James Rogers, editorial page editor; Lise Olsen, associate news editor; Mike Reilley, 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.



Left needs hellhounds, too

FBI's relentless pursuit of justice tracks down wrong men

"Got to keep on moving . . .
Blues falling down like hail

And the days keep on reminding me

There's a hellhound on my trail . . ."

— Robert Johnson

The story has its roots in tragedy, in the pseudo-political landscape of failed symbols and failed symbolic gestures that made up the anti-war protests of the late '60s and early '70s. But today it reads like historical parody.

Silas and Judith Bissell are married graduate students living in Seattle. It's 1969 and Silas and Judith want so badly to join the Weather Underground, a disorganized lunatic fringe of the anti-war movement that changed manifestos weekly. The Underground killed, stole and vandalized for reasons as diverse as "bringing the capitalist pigs to their knees" and "getting some drug money." One of the initiation rituals for this week in 1969 was making married members get a divorce and "postpone permanent relationships until after the revolution" (The Guardian, March 4, 1987).

If Silas and Judith didn't get a divorce, they would be expelled from the Weather Underground.

Silas and Judith, very much in love and quite unwilling to postpone their love until after supper, no less after said "revolution," decided they had to prove themselves.

Silas, quoted in The Guardian, said they wanted to show "they could be good revolutionaries and still stay married." They planned a little conjugal terrorism. Two bombs, apparently one "his" and one "hers," were found under the steps of a ROTC building and linked to the Bissells. Silas dumped Judith, who was all too talkative in

court and was a virtual fount of information to the FBI who had members of the Weatherpeople up and down its Top 10 list. Judith spent three years in prison. Silas fled and established a new identity as Terry Jackson, a mild-mannered physical therapist employed by a hospital in Eugene, Ore.

Two months ago, the FBI found Silas/Jackson. He was arrested, his trial set for March 31. Jackson has been running amok, getting his master's degree in physical therapy and constructing a harmless facade as a healer for 15 years.

Charles Lieurance



The FBI is unwilling to answer the question of how it found out Jackson was actually Bissell when four colleges-worth of bureaucracy was unable to do so.

My guess is that the "Conservative Hellhounds" are out again with a purge mentality that only conservatives suffer from. One could argue that the pursuit of Nazi war criminals is representative of a left-wing "Hellhound" mentality, but considering that most Nazi hunters are raving Zionists, that argument doesn't hold much water.

Seventeen years after the Bissells' aborted attempt at terrorism, after establishing deep and respectable roots in Eugene, Silas was arrested, put in jail and finally released on a bond exceeding \$95,000.

Likewise, Paul Stewart a respected UNL criminal-justice instructor, was taken into custody last semester for conspiracy charges more than a decade

old. Stewart had been a member of the Black Panthers during the Vietnam War.

It gives you a safe feeling deep down inside to know the FBI's unflagging pursuit of justice has resulted in the fairly masturbatory tracking down and punishing of men so dangerous: A criminal-justice professor and a physical therapist dedicated to helping the sick.

When was the last time you saw a liberal (I should leave the question at that) presidency so bent on the punishment of crimes so decayed in importance over the years that they've become completely insignificant? But Reagan and the hellhounds of the FBI have taken to the common conservative entertainment of bugging, tracking and, in general, purging the left. With Nixon it was more important to stand like a slaving hyena with all the weight of his hoary haunches on the left wing, than to be president. The left are rarely so concerned with the activities of the right, unless, of course, they're lynching black youth in Mobile, Ala. or skinning the legs of small boys on farms in Nebraska.

Perhaps it's time the left had some hellhounds of its own who can run snarling and nipping at the frightened heels of neo-Nazis, Klansmen, religious fanatics and survivalists. Because now we live in a country where it's more important to jail and shackle professors and physical therapists than to track down the ruthless, ignorant, narrow-minded well-armed bigots and loons of the far (but getting closer) right.

As Dylan said, "You don't need a weatherman to see which way the wind blows." All you need is a Republican president and an FBI with no one to answer to.

Lieurance is an English, philosophy and art major and Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

Letter

Graduate remembers Professor JoAnn Dickerson

JoAnn Dickerson, who died of cancer Feb. 9, is impossible to forget. She taught journalism at UNL from 1981 to 1984.

She expected her students to be professional journalists. She would not tolerate anything less.

She once told her students, "I expect you to think when you're in my class."

Yet she let her students who conducted themselves as professionals have certain privileges — one of which was getting to know her as a friend.

JoAnn Dickerson had a mind that was mature enough to look beyond my disability (I have cerebral palsy which has left me without natural vocalization skills, reliable hand dexterity and walking skills. I communicate by pointing to a letter board on my lap tray with a stylus attached to my head with a band.) Most people fail to see that my limitations are only a part of me. I had to prove my ability to learn to most professors, but not to JoAnn. She didn't question my ability to do the assign-

ments. She welcomed me into her class with open arms as well as with an open heart.

JoAnn wasn't just concerned with how a student did in her class. When she heard I was moving into my first apartment, she simply asked, "What can I do to help you?"

Thanks you, Professor Dickerson, and goodbye.

William L. Rush
UNL graduate
journalism