

Editorial

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Salaries too low

Faculty pay No. 1 educational issue

A Lincoln strategic planning initiative has recognized low faculty salaries at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as its most important educational issue, but now the group must figure out how to follow through on its plan.

StarVenture ranked the salaries No. 1 among nine areas to be studied by its educational task force. The committee didn't give recommendations on how to boost faculty salaries, but it plans to outline strategies to do so within the next two years.

Unfortunately, UNL doesn't have that much time. According to the UNL Faculty Salary Study Committee, UNL pays its teachers \$10 million less than similar land-grant universities. The report said that if salaries don't increase, many faculty members will retire or leave for greener pastures in other states.

The StarVenture committee needs to act swiftly. The NU Foundation has had few problems raising money for projects such as the Lied Center and the indoor practice field, but has struggled to find money for existing programs and for faculty salaries. UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale has said that many possible donors believe it is the state's obligation to finance the existing programs and take care of the university's employees.

This is where StarVenture should play a key role. It should encourage donors to establish honorary endowments in the form of department chairs. It makes more sense to donate money directly to faculty instead of asking the university to match a donation as it did for the Lied Center.

The heart of the donations could lie in Lincoln. StarVenture has monitored the university's role in the economic development of the city, saying that salaries are important because "the correlation between a strong university, the potential for Lincoln's economic development and the stemming of out-migration of talented youth is unmistakable."

StarVenture should look to these UNL graduates who have stayed in Lincoln for help. They should structure a drive that will focus on improving education at UNL through contributions for faculty salaries as well as helping students with scholarship money.

Making a college education affordable is hard because state support hasn't increased in lieu of the rising cost of education. It's not solely the students' burden to improve their education at UNL. Tuition increases and tax hikes aren't the only answers. StarVenture has the ability to give UNL some more options.

Allen's 'Top 10 Excuses':

All about steroids, hurricanes and the girl in the yellow skirt

My favorite part of "Late Night" is when David Letterman reads the Top 10 lists. I decided to do a few of my own.

The Top 10 reasons to drop out of the 1988 presidential race:

10. You plagiarized speeches and lied about your academic record.
9. The campaign ruins your adulterous love life.
8. Your name is George Bush.
7. There's more money in professional wrestling.
6. You're black, gay, a woman or all of the above.
5. It's 1989.
4. You realize that if you continue with the race, that even if you win you won't have any money left from campaign contributions.
3. Debra Winger is already married.
2. Hurricane Emily did not blow out to sea.
1. And the No. 1 reason to drop out of the 1988 presidential race: Before and after pictures of Jimmy Carter.

The Top 10 excuses that Nebraskans use after the Cornhuskers lose (this is not to suggest that there is a chance that the No. 2 Cornhuskers will lose this year):

10. The receiver was out of bounds.
9. The other team had better steroids.
8. The referees were paid off (i.e., offered more by the other team).
7. The opposing quarterback completed more passes than his season average would indicate, a sure sign of cheating.
6. We need a new training table to build strong bodies (This excuse is now obsolete).
5. We need a new indoor practice field. (This excuse is soon to be obsolete.)
4. We need a new coach (This excuse is good for several more seasons).
3. It's hard to get quality players at Nebraska when there is more money in

professional wrestling.

2. FarmAid III cut into practice time.

And the No. 1 excuse Nebraskans use when the Cornhuskers lose: The players were up late the night before studying for important exams.

The Top 10 reasons not to throw cups in Memorial Stadium:



Bill Allen

10. Someone you know might get hurt.
 9. It might distract the football team.
 8. The yell squad doesn't have a cheer for it yet.
 7. Other schools in the Big Eight will start calling us the Nebraska Lepers.
 6. Your mother wouldn't approve.
 5. There is no number 5.
 4. Someone else might have wanted to finish your drink.
 3. You will have nothing to pour beer or mix drinks in.
 2. There are too many other things that can be done with plastic cups.
 1. And the No. 1 reason not to throw plastic cups in Memorial Stadium: Bottles go farther.
- Humor aside, no one should do anything to injure other people, even Oklahoma quarterbacks.

The Top 10 reasons not to skip class:

10. Your professor might give a pop quiz.
9. The girl in the third row might wear the yellow skirt again.
8. You might accidentally learn something.

7. It could be the day the guy with Jon's Notes misses class, too.

6. The person that signs your name on the attendance sheet when you're not there might not be there either.

5. A football player might show up that day and you'll miss the chance for an autograph.

4. If you don't go to class, the "sisters" may make you do phone duty at the house.

3. It's the only place where you are safe from hazing.

2. Sometimes the class meets at Chesterfield's.

And the No. 1 reason not to skip class: If you don't get to campus early, you may not find a parking place for football practice.

The Top 10 things students learned in UNL classes today:

10. Karate 101: Never attack a man with a gun.
 9. Basketweaving 383: Never sign a contact with an agent before your college eligibility is used up.
 8. American Literature 489: The Sheldon Film Theater is a fish.
 7. Business Marketing 172: Never let them see you sweat.
 6. Photojournalism 375: Pictures of little children drinking from water fountains are always front-page material.
 5. Psychology 181: Electric shocks should be used in moderation.
 4. Philosophy 101: If it feels good, do it.
 3. Home Economics 311: Men don't like girls who spit.
 2. Theater 112: Shakespeare wasn't gay. Everybody talked like that in 1595.
 1. And the No. 1 thing students learned in a UNL class today — Geography 115: The world is not flat. It just looks that way in Nebraska.
- We'll be right back with our first guest.

Allen is a graduate student in English and DN arts and entertainment editor.

Iraq, FarmAid, cup wars, creationism criticized

Carlson is lauded

Hurray to Joel Carlson (Daily Nebraskan, Sept. 28) for putting the FarmAid movement in the proper perspective. The concert should have been more appropriately named LincolnAid or WillieAid. I can only hope that the FarmAid money will go for what farmers need the most: lobbyists for deregulation of government programs in agriculture, and job training and placement organizations to assist farmers who have been put off the land.

Production controls haven't worked for OPEC, why should they work in agriculture? Government and price supports are something the agriculture industry can do without.

Steve Bath
senior
animal science

Cup wars scorned

While our college years may seem to be an appropriate time to expand our belligerent and sometimes violent energies, and Nebraska football games seem an appropriate forum for this excited release, we, as students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, must remember to display some civility, especially when it is necessary to prevent injuries on any scale.

The cup-throwing incidents (wars) that have erupted during the first two Husker football games have resulted in injuries, at least 10, which were reported, during the UCLA game.

There are obviously many UNL students, faculty, staff and other fans who

go to Memorial Stadium to watch the football games. Lulls in the excitement of the game may seem a good opportunity to throw cups, etc., but, on behalf of the ASUN Senate, I discourage students from participating in this kind of activity.

There are plenty of chances to yell, cheer and have fun at Nebraska football games. Let us, as students of UNL, display our excitement and "Big Red Fever" in polite, civilized ways, always remembering that many people want to watch the game. Let us also show the people of the state, who contribute (in the form of taxes and gifts) to UNL, that we are students who deserve a good university education.

Andy Pollock
ASUN president

Argument is false

The problem with the Daily Nebraskan editorial on book banning (Sept. 23) is that it implicitly equates morality with personal preference. But this equation is false — a moral statement ("murder is wrong") can be true, even if no one finds murder offensive and everyone "prefers" the idea that murder is not wrong over the idea that it is wrong. Thus, morality is independent of personal preference. Some parents want to ban "When the Sky Began to Roar" on the grounds that it condones group sex, drug use and disrespect for parental authority. I think these grounds may provide an excellent rationale for banning this particular book at the junior-high level, but

the main counterargument offered in the editorial is: "What may offend one person might not offend someone else." If the parents object to this book only on the grounds that they find it "offensive" (on grounds of personal preference), then this counterargument has some force. But it seems more likely that their grounds have to do with moral considerations — they believe themselves to be morally obligated to see to it that their children do not have access to the book, and in this case, the counterargument is irrelevant.

Letters

If we assume that morality is just a matter of personal preference, then perhaps it follows that these parents have no right to ban this book, since other parents may "prefer" books which advocate group sex, etc. But if this does follow, then it also seems to follow that no lawmakers have the right to outlaw murder, since some people may "prefer" it.

Dave Reiter
graduate student
philosophy

Creationism false

Regarding Chris McCubbin's editorial (DN, Sept. 25) concerning the innocence of the insertion of a passage acknowledging creation science into biology tests:

The most fundamental point of teaching biology in high schools is not to convey an understanding of the subject, but as an introduction to the

scientific method and deductive reasoning. The scientific method, when applied correctly, does not presuppose the validity of the hypothesis under consideration; this is not so in creation science. The creationist rejects data that do not support his concept, thus invalidating his results with a favorable bias. Scientific theory changes in light of new experimental evidence; creationism selects evidence to support dogma.

The classroom, especially the science classroom, is not the place for religious dogma — it is the realm of logical empirical evaluation of evidence, objective consideration of the validity of theory and rejection of that theory in the light of experimental discontinuity. As for acknowledging creation science in biology texts — it makes as much sense as acknowledging the flat-earth theory in a geography primer.

Timothy R. Shepherd
graduate student
chemistry

Iraq lambasted

It is not surprising to hear about peace from Saddam (Iraq) and his followers. Wise, educated people should look deeply at the war's background to see reasons behind this peace seeking and the consequences of such peace.

Seven years ago, in September 1980, Iraqi forces invaded the Islamic Republic of Iran, violating all universally accepted norms and hoping for a quick victory. The international community was regrettably coerced by the leading powers of East and West to remain

aloof from the situation and indifferent in response to criminal atrocities of Iraqi rulers.

It was expected that the modern, strong, well-financed and well-equipped military machine of Iraq would soon overthrow the Islamic Republic, whose military was in a state of post-revolutionary disarray.

However, the Muslim people of Iran, relying on God and the power of committed masses, turned the events in their favor.

Now, as all defeated war criminals have historically attempted, the Iraqi rulers have put a peace-loving mask on their criminal faces, trying to cover the blood of many innocent civilians who were brutally massacred in their bombardments of schools, hospitals and other civilian quarters. While calling for peace, the same war criminals continue using banned chemical weapons and brutally murdering innocent children.

As the United Nations rightly refused to accept the desperate peace gestures of Hitler at the end of World War II, Iran is also determined to bring the aggressors and war criminals to justice. So that aggression, imperialist intervention and violations of international law would not become accepted norms in international community.

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