

Daily
Nebraskan

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Pell Grant priority

Athletes must earn extra spending money

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln will support a piece of legislation at the NCAA convention today in Nashville that will set student-athletes' priorities ahead of other students.

James O'Hanlon, UNL faculty representative to the NCAA, said he will vote for a proposal to increase the limit of an athlete's Pell Grant from \$900 to \$2,100. The grants are based on need and the maximum a regular student can receive is \$2,100.

O'Hanlon said that if the \$2,100 proposal doesn't pass, the convention members will vote on a second proposal that would increase the limit to \$1,400.

Many supporters of the proposal argue that the athletes need more spending money for living expenses than the current limit permits. But they're forgetting one thing: Athletes' scholarships pay for room, board, books and tuition.

Outside of the major school expenses, \$900 should be enough for athletes to "survive" on.

The NCAA members also need to remember that student-

athletes can work during the summer. This gives them a chance to earn extra pocket money to survive on during the school year.

One success of the proposal is that it points out a major flaw in the NCAA rules. The NCAA should allow athletes to work during the school year. Currently, the Nebraska volleyball team's season runs September through December, but the scholarship players aren't allowed to work during the second semester.

This rule applies even to graduating seniors. This was a factor when former Nebraska volleyball player Karen Dahlgren decided to join the professional ranks during second semester instead of staying in school. Dahlgren had said she wanted to work to earn some money before graduation, but she risked losing her scholarship if she took a job.

The NCAA convention needs to be fair to all students when it votes today. Let's make the student-athletes earn that extra spending money instead of just handing it to them.

Proposed law may send high tuition up in smoke

At a time when smokers and non-smokers are fighting for their rights, state Sen. Scott Moore of Stromsburg has introduced a bill that could redirect money raised from a cigarette tax to raise money for college tuition assistance.

Moore's effort should be applauded. Moore, 28, obviously remembered what it was like to pay tuition at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, having graduated in 1983.

UNL students have suffered through tuition increases and departmental surcharges this semester, and the assistance program should bring some relief to their woes.

However, the timing of Moore's bill is ironic. Debates between smokers and non-smokers have heated up in the news lately.

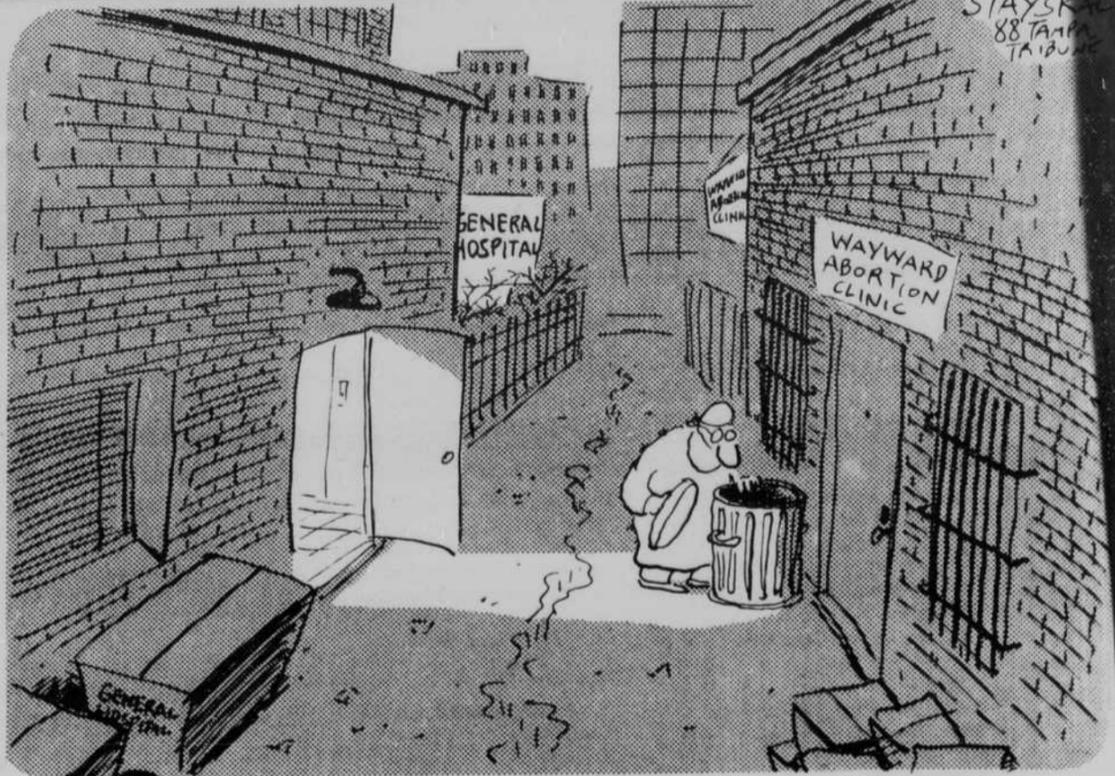
For example, CBS' "60 Minutes" recently carried a story about how more and more ho-

tels are setting up non-smoking wings. One hotel in Dallas even banned smoking.

Moore's bill could raise up to \$2.5 million a year to assist eligible students in public and private colleges. According to an Omaha World-Herald article, the money had been earmarked to pay off bonds for renovation and construction at three Nebraska colleges, including Morrill Hall at UNL. The state used a similar cigarette tax in the 1970s to build the Bob Devaney Sports Center, which doesn't allow smoking inside its doors.

Moore wants the Nebraska Legislature to use about \$12 million in surplus revenue to pay off the bonds, then use the cigarette tax money for the tuition assistance.

At a time when low faculty salaries at UNL are a hot topic at the Legislature, it's nice to see that someone remembered that students have to pay bills, too.



NEWS ITEM: MORE FETAL TISSUE TRANSPLANTS ON THE WAY.

Grammar, not virtue

The monster with the most adjectives wins

It wasn't until I discovered that Time magazine had elected the Ayatollah Khomeini and, much earlier, Adolf Hitler People of the Year that I divined entirely what Time was looking for when it makes its year-end choice.

As a youth, I assumed Time's Person of the Year was chosen a little like the local newspaper's Father of the Year, or Secretary of the Year — nominated by pals at the office or some such thing. I figured Goebels had mailed a list of Hitler's admirable characteristics by Reichspost to the editor of Time, including one or two veiled threats like, "You have relatives in Chicago maybe, hmmm?" Of course the nomination for Khomeini was received in the wee hours of the morning and was delivered on the end of a knife.

But it seems Time has an interesting system that's slightly more fair in these new times of moral ambiguity. After all, evil and virtue aren't the clear-cut adjectives they used to be. As the signifiers float around impotently over an endless series of flaccid signifiers, Time has taken, wisely, to avoiding value judgements.

The contest rules are clear. The entire staff of Time gets together in the big Time conference room, sends Julie — one of the operators there at Time — out for coffee, turns the ringer off on the mauve Time phone and, for three hours, they list as many adjectives as can possibly apply to each of the nominees. The nominee with the most number of applicable adjectives wins, and Time's ace photographer is sent out with his Time pocket 35mm camera to capture the Person of the Year in a dignified pose, preferably not beheading indigent peasants or stoking the coals of the flesh ovens.

Occasionally the year-end winner is an unscrupulous messianic monster because some cynical Time reporters could think of more lively synonyms for unscrupulous messianic monsters than for the bland, ascetic sycophants of virtue who selflessly strive for a better world. Often the adjective "efficient" has been a tie-breaker, giving the messianic monsters the winning edge. Of course, Mother Teresa limping through crowds of lepers giving them sips of milk is majestic, but it's hardly as efficient as

simply lopping off their heads and having done with it. And majestic can simply mean powerful, which a great many messianic monsters certainly are.

There are always a few wide-eyed optimists in the room who stutter in disbelief, "But Mother Teresa is good, virtuous, noble . . ."

"Noble and majestic are synonyms," the cynics counter.

" . . . Loving, nice, uh, good, you know, really good!"

Charles Lieurance



"And the Ayatollah is nasty, vicious, monstrous, scabrous, lunatic, maniacal, messianic, powerful, tyrannical, totalitarian, autocratic, demonic, repressive . . ."

"But . . ."
"And do the trains run on time in Calcutta?"

"Uh . . ."
"In fact Gandhi stopped the trains in Calcutta."

"She has a fine sense of humor . . ."
"Do you really want to be saddled with awarding Mother Teresa Woman of the Year based on the adjective 'humorous'?"

Cynics are hard dogs to keep under the porch.

Lists like this make it easier to write the actual profile of the Person of the Year, too:

"Although perceived as nasty and vicious throughout most of the free world, the Ayatollah's monstrosity seems to be lost on his own people. His scabrous approach to public order have branded him a lunatic, but this is an instance when what seems maniacal resonates in the minds of Islamic Iranians as messianic. The Ayatollah's power becomes the power of Allah; his tyranny becomes the tyranny of God. Khomeini's totalitarian autocracy is far from demonic in the eyes of Islam; it is the way mankind is meant to live until freed from the corrupt burden of the flesh. For millions the repression attributed to the Ayatollah is voluntary; for thou-

sands it is deadly . . ."
And so on.

There are, by historical necessity, years when unscrupulous messianic monsters take a break. Khomeini still metes out dismemberment like parking tickets, but his year has come and gone. 1987 was one of those years when talkativeness was valued. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev won Man of the Year on the basis of adjectives like "talkative, open, amiable, good joe for a red, popular, snappy dresser, provocative," etc. Most of the other candidates had similar attributions, but it is reported that "good joe for a red" clinched it for Gorbachev.

Next year, the possibility of having a madman once again grace the cover of Time magazine is great. The world is in perfect shape for unscrupulous messianic monsters with a jones for genocide. 1987 was the year of sublimated evil, a bunch of obviously grisly folks carrying around the darkness of hell in their leather briefcases, waiting for the appropriate moment to walk into a room and say, "Here in this case I have the answer to your question, let me show the five-part plan . . ." and then unleash the harpie of five-part plans.

My personal favorite is a certain Senor Guzman of Peru, the Maoist theorist who inspired the infamous Sendero Luminoso, a group of hell-spawned dog gutters who have nearly closed off half of Peru as they go on a seemingly indiscriminate Andean killing spree to rival Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge. Guzman is reportedly dead, but it's quite possible he's just hiding out waiting for the bloodshed to topple the first reasonable government Peru has had in decades. There would be little problem coming up with enough fine adjectives to describe the activities of the Sendero Luminoso: "Bloodthirsty, dogmatic, apocalyptic . . ."

Of course, the photo on the cover of Time wouldn't show a picture of Guzman disemboweling the mayor of some Andean village. It would show him, head slightly turned to show his good side, looking to the side and ever-so-slightly upward, toward the inevitable future of public abattoirs and five-part plans. Majestic.

Lieurance is a senior English major and Daily Nebraskan arts and entertainment editor.

Editorial Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names from publication will not be granted.

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