

Daily Nebraskan

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A \$2 million bonus

Legislature should invest money in UNL

State senators learned last week that they will have \$2 million more to appropriate during the next 1 1/2 years, and the money would be well-spent on University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty salaries.

The money would complement an effort by Gov. Kay Orr to solve the faculty salary problem. According to a UNL Faculty Salary Study last fall, UNL, as a whole, pays its teachers \$10 million less than similar land-grant universities.

The Economic Forecasting Advisory Board revised the total tax revenue dollars last week. The board said most of the money will come from individual income taxes and fewer will come from corporate income taxes.

Last October, the board provided a forecast by Orr in making budget recommendations to the Legislature. That proposal includes additional money for UNL faculty salaries and for additional state aid to local subdivisions, according to a Lincoln Star article.

In January, Orr proposed a \$10 million for salary increases for university and state college em-

ployees for the fiscal year 1989. The proposal is currently under review in the Legislature.

Because Orr's proposed \$10 million must be shared with the state colleges, the extra \$2 million would bring faculty salaries up to par.

And something has to be done soon. College deans and professors worry that faculty turnover rates could become a serious problem if salaries aren't improved. The College of Arts and Sciences has been the hardest hit by the turnover rate. Faculty Senate President Jim Lewis has said that the college has had problems filling positions vacated by faculty who have left for higher-paying jobs.

But the money proposed by Orr, coupled with the additional \$2 million, would change all that. The raise would boost morale, encourage professors to stay at UNL and possibly attract new faculty members.

Legislators would be wise to steer the extra money toward UNL salaries. Education has proven itself to be one of the best investments the Legislature could make.



Robertson anxious to go south

Ex-Marine buddies unite, tell who fought in the Korean War

Pat Robertson is eager to get down South where he can start scooping up those delegates. He says that's his territory because Southerners believe in the old-fashioned, hard-nosed, patriotic virtues he likes to preach.

Maybe. But it could also mean that Robertson might have problems precisely because many Southerners believe his pitch.

More than any other part of this country, the South believes that when the bugle sounds, a true American marches off to fight the enemy.

That's Robertson's problem. There are a number of middle-aged ex-Marines scattered across this country who say there was a time when Robertson didn't have that flag-waving zeal to fight.

One is Pete McCloskey, a former congressman from California, who was a highly decorated combat Marine officer in Korea, where he was badly wounded.

McCloskey has more than a little contempt for Robertson, the tough-talking patriot.

That's because McCloskey knew Robertson in 1951, when both were young Marine lieutenants on a troop ship bound for the Korean War.

What McCloskey says he remembers is that Robertson used political clout — his father was a U.S. senator — to stay in Japan while others went to Korea, many to die or be maimed.

About 18 months ago, McCloskey shared his memories with a current congressman. The troop-ship story got to the press, and Robertson was furious.

He said it was a political smear, that his powerful daddy did nothing in his behalf and that he had indeed gone to Korea to face danger.

If Robertson had let it go at that, the dispute would have been forgotten. But Robertson made what appears to be a political error. He filed a \$35 million libel suit against McCloskey.

Because of the suit, McCloskey's allegations haven't faded away. And McCloskey is no longer alone in having memories.

McCloskey tracked down others who were Marine officers on that troop ship, others who knew Robertson and remembered his getting off in Japan.

These ex-Marines have given

sworn depositions to be used when the case comes to trial. If they're to be believed, Robertson isn't exactly a John Wayne character.

And to Robertson's discomfort, the trial is scheduled to begin March 8, Super Tuesday, when Robertson intends to harvest those patriotic Southern votes.

If the trial is held, what will the testimony be?

From McCloskey, we'll probably hear what he said 18 months ago about the troop-ship voyage: "Pat was affable, garrulous and candid. He spoke frankly of his desire to avoid combat and to have his father, Sen. Willis Robertson of Virginia, intervene on his behalf."

There's also a letter written to his wife by a now-dead Marine officer, who is believed to have transmitted telegrams from Robertson to his senator-father.

In the letter to his wife, the Marine said a colonel had boarded the ship in Japan and picked several young officers to remain in Japan.

"It's interesting," he wrote to his wife "that two of them had said they wouldn't have to go to Korea. One was Robertson... I'm sure that his father being the senator from Virginia had nothing to do with it... It is interesting, though, isn't it. See, that's what you get when you choose the wrong parents."

There's also a deposition from a former Marine captain who remembered a conversation with Robertson's pal, the other young lieutenant, before the ship reached Japan.

"(He) sat down beside me in the wardroom and said that he and Robertson were not going to go to Korea but were going to get off the ship in Japan. There were other officers at the table and we all laughed and thought it was just a fantasy."

It turned out to be no fantasy. Robertson stayed in Japan four months, while the others went into fierce combat. When Robertson finally went to Korea, he had a job far behind the lines.

In an interview this week, McCloskey sounded confident that he'd win any court battle with Robertson.

"We've had more than 20 Marine officers come forward to confirm one or more parts of what I said. The incredible thing about Robertson is the hypocrisy, his saying that he was in combat. How fraudulent it is."

McCloskey says that during the four months Robertson was in Japan, about 90 percent of the men from that troop ship were killed or wounded in Korea.

"Now he talks about strong moral leadership to fight the communists in Nicaragua. The humor of it is that when he had his chance, he didn't want any part of it."

Super Tuesday could be the start of a super trial.

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Royko is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the Chicago Tribune.



Mike Royko

There will also be an old letter written by the late senator to a friend, who also had a son, named Edwin, on that troop ship. In the letter the senator said:

"On yesterday, I received a letter from General Shepherd, stating that Pat and Edwin were going to an interesting and historical part of Japan, where they would be given some valuable training before proceeding to Korea."

The general he referred to was Lemuel Shepherd, who was a family friend and commander of the Pacific fleet.

Later, the senator wrote another letter, saying he hoped that "before that (training) is completed the issue in Korea will either have been settled or the united line so stabilized that there will be no excessive casualties."

As it turned out, there were "excessive casualties." Not for Pat, who was in Japan, but for many of the Marines who couldn't get off the ship with him.

One who went on to Korea is now a New York businessman. In his deposition, he says it was "common knowledge" on the ship that Robertson had asked his father to use political clout.

Letters

Reader says people must understand others' lifestyles as well as rights

This letter is in response to Jon Dewsbury (Letters, Feb. 16.) I would like to let Dewsbury know just how closed-minded and prejudiced he is.

I, too, am heterosexual, but to condemn gays merely because their lifestyles are different from straights' is right along the lines of the ideals of the White Supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan and other fear/hate groups.

Homosexuals are people. They think and feel just like everyone else. They have the right to live their lives as they choose, and just because others don't agree, they have no right to inhibit that right.

Dewsbury said himself that he did

not understand why homosexuals do the things they do. That is precisely the problem.

Too many people like Dewsbury don't understand and don't try. Dewsbury needs to take a closer look at himself and his motivations — he just might learn something. The problem is not with the homosexuals, it's with people like Dewsbury who won't take the time or the real effort to understand and let people live the lifestyle they choose.

Sheri Buckner sophomore undeclared

'The Good Life' is much more than profit; reader wants rural farming condemned

The Daily Nebraskan editorial (Feb. 25) contained such an interesting point of view in opposition to Initiative 300 that I felt I must respond.

If we are seeking maximum efficiency in farming with emphasis on wealth for the state and its people, it may be more appropriate to have the governor condemn all the rural farmland in the state. For the sake of the good people of Nebraska, turn the land over as an incentive to coax agribusiness into the state and provide jobs for all the people we've taken off the land.

In fact, it might be more efficient to turn it over to one huge agribusiness. Maybe they would be kind enough to build a set of food centers across the state and bring in their "high-tech" equipment so that the peasants in the rural areas could make a decent wage without worrying about the ups and downs of farm pricing.

I would also think that when we give them the land, we could ask that

they provide each rural resident one or two acres to raise enough food to feed their families, since wages will not support them all.

The problem with implementing this outstandingly efficient, capitalistic system is that we live in a democratic society where the emphasis is placed on the people making up the society. Their needs and wants and the quality of life available to them have value.

When you drive into Nebraska, signs read "Nebraska — The Good Life," and that's true because of the people of the state. "The Good Life" is measured in more than a single dimension of profit and loss. The quality of the environment, wise resource use, family and community life are all part of the equation that is used as a measure by rural Nebraskans in determining the efficiency of their operation.

Mike Adelaine doctoral candidate community and human resources

Letter Policy

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

Readers also 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.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.