

Daily  
**Nebraskan**  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Don't pay RHA

*Dedication, not money, draws excellence*

**T**he Residence Hall Association wants to pay its executives.

That's nuts.

During last week's meeting, Sen. Ken Libby proposed that RHA pay its executive officers. His bill suggests that executives should either be helped with housing payments or tuition or be paid cash. Libby's idea is that a little change in the pocket will help attract quality officers who may be held more accountable for their actions.

Then Marlin Bergmann, president of Abel Hall, chimed in to suggest that senators should be included in the bill because they deserve some thanks for working three to five hours each week.

Under the proposal, RHA executives would pay the president \$200 per semester; vice president, \$150; treasurer and committee heads, \$100; and senators, \$50.

By the way, RHA is financed through student housing fees. In essence, hall residents would pay for the officers they elected.

An informal comparative survey of other University of Nebraska-Lincoln student organizations shows that few, if any, pay or reimburse their officers for tuition or housing. Those funded through student fees include the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, University Program Council, various advisory board members, Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Association.

Their work is strictly volun-

teer. The time and energy students contribute to these organizations is rewarded only by their efforts and respect among their peers.

Although the Daily Nebraskan is funded by student fees, salaries for senior editors and staff members are allocated only through funding earned through advertising dollars. Employees are required to apply and interview for their jobs, as are Campus Activities and Programs student employees, according to Tim Moore, CAP program coordinator.

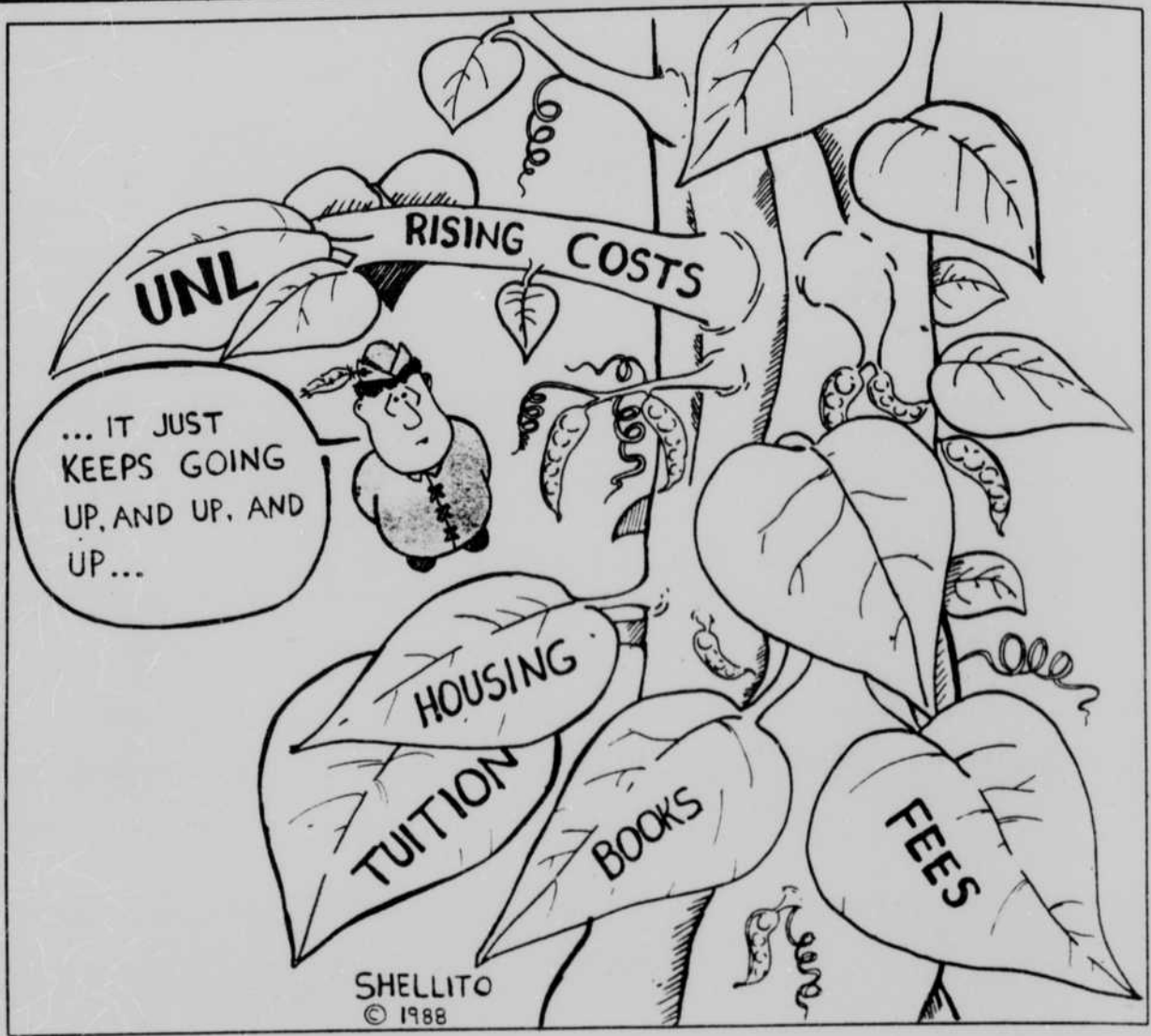
There's a difference between volunteer work and jobs for hire... especially those who are elected to their positions.

Although some RHA executives and senators contribute an admirable amount of time and effort to their positions, they are far from deserving a regular salary.

For example, Russ Johnson recently resigned as RHA president, saying he was "just riding out" his term. How can RHA even consider paying all of its executives when they're "just riding out" their terms?

To use salaries or reimbursements as incentives for more qualified officers could also lure those who are only interested in satisfying their greed. Money isn't going to draw quality. Only those who are truly interested in working for their fellow hall residents deserve the positions in the first place.

After all, money isn't everything.



## Royko content with versatility

*Readers label columnist as racist, bloodthirsty and corrupting*

**A** journalism student recently asked me what I liked best about my job.

That was easy. I told him the paycheck.

"No," he said, "what gives you the most professional satisfaction?"

That was harder, since I seldom think about professional satisfaction. Mostly, I think about getting the job done, turning off the office light and grabbing a beer.

But now that I've given it some thought, I suppose the most satisfying part of my job is that I can be more than one person. If I may boast, I'm sometimes amazed at my own versatility.

For example, lately I have been an agent of the devil, a corrupter of American values.

I've been told this by countless people from all over the country who are angry because I don't share their admiration for Pat Robertson, the preacher turned politician.

They not only write or phone me, but they send letters to many of the newspapers that publish my column. In Paducah, for example, one of the letters was printed below a headline that said: "Royko Just Adds to Moral Decay."

The writer of the letter had said: "Royko and others like him contribute to the spiritual and moral decadence of America."

From his letter, I couldn't tell what the writer's favorite brand of decadence is, so I don't know if I can take any credit for his private antics.

In fact, I can't remember ever encouraging decadence. I assume that those who want to get a little depraved can manage without my help. Take Jimmy Swaggart. I didn't introduce him to that loose young lady. If he had asked me, I would have told him to at least wear fake whiskers. Or Jimmy Bakker. If the

impulsive little fellow sought my advice, I would have told him: "Never, ever fool around with the secretary."

Another example of my versatility came when the late Harold Washington became the first black mayor of Chicago.

During his campaign, I suggested that he fully explain some of the problems he once had with the Internal Revenue Service. I would have asked it of any candidate, white, black or from Mars.

There was an immediate outcry that I was a racist.

After he was elected, I wrote that it was no reason for whites to get into

fearing Americans to describe those who don't worship the way they do.

Some thought I was Jewish, which I'm not, because I have a number of views that some readers thought were too liberal. For example, I've always been against lynching.

But one man found another clue. He said he knew I was Jewish because I have a prominent nose. I dropped him a note saying that Jimmy Durante also had a heroic nose, but he wasn't Jewish. And the man sent another letter saying: "So you're a lousy dago." You just can't please some people.

Yet, things have a way of balancing out. And from time to time, when I've done less than fawn over some of Israel's policies, I've been accused of being an anti-Semite. That made me so upset that I thought about getting a nose job.

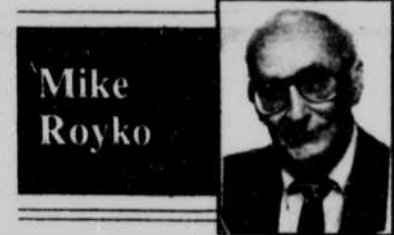
During the Vietnam War, I wrote that we should get out. I was called a commie dupe. When I said that I thought people like Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin were kind of goofy, I was called a running dog of capitalist imperialism. That really made me nervous. No matter who won, I'd be put against the wall.

I believe in capital punishment, so I'm sometimes called bloodthirsty and insensitive. When I've written about police brutality, I've been called a criminal-coddling wimp. Can a wimp be bloodthirsty? Some shrink should study that.

Anyway, to paraphrase that old saying: You can enrage some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can't enrage all of the people all of the time.

Maybe. But I'm not going to stop trying.

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



Mike  
Royko

a dither, that he'd probably do no worse than previous mayors and should be given a fair chance.

I was immediately deluged with phone calls and letters describing me as a "nigger lover."

As time passed, I found reason to criticize some aspects of Washington's administration.

So I was again bombarded with calls and letters calling me a "racist."

It later occurred to me that I had missed a chance to conduct a useful social experiment. I should have saved all of those letters, invited the writers to a big party and stood off at a safe distance and watched the fun.

Over the years, I've also found myself in the role of "kike" or "sheenie" or "hebe." These are words used by some decent, God-

## Letters

### Reader questions new leaders' longevity

I want to thank the VOICE and ARF parties for exposing a problem—the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska is an organization completely out of touch with a majority of the student body.

I've read many complaints of student apathy. A more serious problem lies with the apathy and arrogance of ASUN members. In the March 3 Daily Nebraskan, John Bergmeyer said he believed that ASUN must ignore the opinions of those who voted him in to show that he's not "running scared."

What has ASUN done in the last three semesters? It has eagerly approved any tuition and fee increases that have come its way. What else could it do? ASUN lacks the power or the backbone to stand up to the administration and the Legislature. This is clearly seen when ASUN members

resign. They realize the limitations of ASUN. The only useful thing ASUN can do is lobby the Legislature through the Government Liaison Committee.

Then why do I pay for this token student government when the only guts it has is to disagree with its own constituents? Because ASUN has done something for me. The petty bickering and hilarious joke bills have often entertained me while I was reading the DN.

In conclusion, now that the election is over and a majority of the ACTION party members have something that appears impressive on their resumes, how many of them will complete their terms in office?

Brad Simmons  
sophomore  
political science

### Policy to ban smoking 'alienates' reader

The University of Nebraska's policy to ban smoking makes me feel discriminated against and alienated. I have every right in the world to smoke. Nowhere in the Magna Charta, Bill of Rights or the Constitution is there any law against smoking. I respect the smoking and non-smoking areas in the classrooms and labs, but that does not mean I am

prohibited from smoking elsewhere. If people dislike the smoke in the halls, the smell of ashtrays and the ominous presence of cigarette butts, they must simply adjust to the situation because I do not plan to stop smoking for anyone.

Bryson Bartels  
first-year law student

## Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1988 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Mike Reilly, editor; Diana Johnson, editorial page editor; Joan Rezac, copy desk editor; Jen Deselms, managing editor; Curt Wag-

ner, associate news editor; Scott Harrah, night news editor and Joel Carlson, columnist.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

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.