

Daily **Nebraskan**
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Too little, too late?

Red ink flows from Child Care Project

University of Nebraska-Lincoln officials took the right option concerning the future of the university's Child Care Project, but they never should have had to ponder the center's future in the first place.

University officials decided not to abandon the project, despite the fact that it lost nearly \$100,000 in the last 10 years. Instead, they cut the project's budget and increased rates to generate revenue.

Wise decision. The project offers daycare service at a reasonable price for children of students, faculty and staff members. Besides, the last thing UNL needs is 70 kiddies wandering around campus.

But what concerns the Daily Nebraskan is that the university allowed the debt to grow to such a large figure before anyone decided to do anything about it.

During the last 10 years, the project has fallen on hard times. It had accumulated a \$98,000 debt by last June.

An audit by the NU Board of Regents showed that the project was definitely a financial burden to the university. The project is treated as an auxiliary to the university, but its employees are paid out of a university account.

"From day one, the center has struggled financially," said Daryl Swanson, director of Nebraska unions, who was appointed to oversee improvements in the office. "We wanted to provide excellent care with the lowest prices and it caught up with us."

It's amazing that UNL officials let the debt grow to such a large figure before doing anything about it. Swanson said the project has suffered debts ranging from \$16,000 to \$60,000 before the \$98,000 figure was released in June.

The \$16,000 figure should have caused some concern. The \$60,000 tab should have been enough to get some action.

Swanson said a recent rate increase of \$8 per week will help increase revenue. Budget cuts and improved management could cut into the debt by \$5,000 a year.

But it may be too little, too late.

At that rate, the center will break even by 2008 or so. Just think, the little kids who are running around at the centers now will be getting their college diplomas by then.

Kinda scary, isn't it?

— Mike Reilley
for the Daily Nebraskan

Quibbles & bits

DN congratulates UNL police, others

• This year's Haymarket Festival Sept. 15-17 will include the first-ever event honoring all living war veterans, Mayor Bill Harris said Tuesday.

After turning down a request by Lincoln's Vietnam Veterans of Foreign Wars to host a Veterans Day festival, Harris agreed to the "natural marriage" of the two festivals.

An estimated 60,000 to 70,000 people attended last year's festival, held in conjunction with FarmAid III.

Harris said he doesn't think attendance this year will match that, but an official for Lincoln's Vietnam VFW said the combined festivals will only help the veterans' event.

John Bonebright, director of special projects and public relations, said that the veterans' event "would have been one-tenth the size and have one-tenth the impact" without the Haymarket Festival.

By combining the festivals, Harris prevented the shunning of some very important Americans and an important issue.

The Haymarket Festival will be an important event not only for veterans, but for those Americans who may be too young to understand the perils of war and the honor of serving their country.

• Congratulations to John Schmitz, chairman of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Veterinary Science, who was recently elected to the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Research.

The AVMA Council on Research sets policy on research initiatives and deals with other national and international matters associated with veterinary medical research.

Schmitz was nominated by the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association and successfully ran against nominees from Georgia, Pennsylvania and Ohio at the AVMA's annual meeting in Portland, Ore.

• And last but not least, congratulations to the UNL Police Department for keeping an unwelcome sight off campus.

The evangelist who frequently preaches near Broyhill Fountain, identified on a brochure as Michael Woroniecki, overstepped the bounds of free speech Monday.

According to Lt. Ken Cauble of UNL police, more than 50 complaints were received about Woroniecki, who was allegedly singling out students and criticizing their social behavior. The language allegedly used by Woroniecki, such as "whoremongers" and "scum-sucking sheep," is not only profane and unfairly critical, but slanderous.

If Woroniecki verbally attacks students again, Cauble said, he will be arrested for disturbing the peace.

Amen.

— Curt Wagner
for the Daily Nebraskan

IN THE PAST, POLITICAL FIGURES WERE A CARTOONIST'S JOY. THEY COMBINED PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES WITH THEIR PERSONALITIES.



NOW LOOK!

UNL changes during the summer

Cars on walkways, brain drains make university life chaotic

I have now been writing for the Daily Nebraskan long enough for me to use words like "customarily" in referring to my column-writing habits.

Therefore, I can announce that I customarily use my first column of the year to lament over the many juicy news stories that transpired over the summer, when my poison pen was pacified pro-tem. Well, this fall I will break with tradition (I've been writing long enough to do that, too) and postpone my mid-summer moaning until next week.

This week's column will fall into the usual DN first-week public service genre of informing you, the reading public, about various aspects of life in Lincoln and around good ol' University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Specifically, I wish to speak to those of you who, unlike me, were not lucky enough to spend your summer at the university. Thousands of you are repeating the rituals of building lofts, enduring drop/add and devising strategic hiding places for contraband — all while expecting that the campus is basically the same as when you left it.

Well, it's my duty to inform you that some changes this summer could easily catch you off-guard. Therefore, I have decided to risk this unprecedented (another veteran's word) break with custom to warn you, lest you be found wanting in the preparation department. Here are some of this summer's more auspicious alterations:

• The Great Sidewalk Switch. I'm not sure when, but some time this summer the walkways around UNL became open to all manner of vehicular traffic. We have always put up with the occasional campus mail van, grounds crew truck and moped, but it seems that now every Tom, Dick and delivery person has permission to glide on four wheels from Andrews Hall to the Nebraska Union without taking the long way around. On Monday I saw a U.S. Mail truck clipping down the walk beside Love Library.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but weren't these things called "walks" for a reason? The streets that used to run through the campus were taken out because the powers that be recognized what a disruption and danger

heavy automated traffic was to the inner workings of a university campus.

Well, I'd rather have real live streets instead of these incognito roadways. At least with the former you expect to see them coming. I appeal to whoever might have some jurisdiction in this matter to give the walkways back to the pedestrians. I even find myself relieved when I encounter the obligatory obnoxious biker ripping down the cement at 30 to 40 mph. At least I have a chance against a 10-speed bike.

James Sennett



• The Continuing Brain Drain. UNL was hit once again this summer with an exodus of fine teachers, researchers and graduate students seeking greater opportunities and greener paychecks. Prominent among the latest round of resignations is the loss of G. G. Meisels, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Few, if any, current UNL administrators have done as much to bring about academic improvement over the last decade as has this premiere educator. Always a teacher rather than a technocrat, Meisels could be counted on to give an even break where it was deserved. He's tough, but he could admit when a case had been made, and he was never reluctant to reward innovation. Meisels is headed south, and who can blame him? But I just wanted him to know at least one grateful graduate student is sorry to see him go.

• The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid Deterioration. I know. You're asking, "What's the change here?" But believe me, the quantum leap taken this summer warrants inclusion in this survey.

The black hole in the basement of the administration building has reached nightmarish proportions. Thousands of UNL students have had financial aid awards and reports — filed well ahead of deadlines — delayed well beyond the beginning of

the fall semester.

The office even sent out a letter a couple of weeks ago informing students that school-bill payment deadlines will be rolled back for those victimized by these "unfortunate delays." The letter states that "nearly two-thirds of all notification letters have been mailed," but I have not met a single person who has been notified. Everyone I know is in the other one-third.

The office will give you all kinds of good-sounding reasons for the screw-ups, including the government's new verification program, recent administrative changes, understaffing and most importantly "the installation of a new financial aid management system."

You know what that is. It's one of those high-tech wonders that makes work easier and more efficient. No doubt we will endure many letters and stories in the newspapers during the next few weeks both attacking and defending this bastion of student interests.

Through it all, just remember one thing: other universities, many of them quite a bit larger than this one, get student awards out on time and basically run efficient and cooperative financial aid programs. If the fault is in the system, the boundaries of the system at fault do not stretch far beyond R Street.

Well, that's it — the major summer switcheroos you need to be aware of. I'm sure there are others, but I only get so many column inches for this masterpiece.

Despite the changes, many things still remain the same. Mueller Tower is still there; people still look up at the little lights in the Oldfather Hall elevators; the guy carrying the cross is back on campus; and loud music continues to blare from the greek houses.

In the midst of constant change and adjustment, it's good to know that some areas of our lives require no new assessment. Your classes may all be new, your school bill may be higher, but rest assured: the Huskers will once again finish second in the nation — and in the Big Eight.

Sennett is a graduate student in philosophy who began his financial aid application process in May and is still waiting.

editorial policy

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