

Daily Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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State would suffer

Students shouldn't face surcharge again

Once again, engineering students face a possible \$9 per credit hour tuition surcharge.

Last year's surcharge was supported by Andy Pollock, former president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, on the condition that it wouldn't happen again.

Well, now it may happen again -- and it shouldn't. To stop the surcharge, the Nebraska Legislature must appropriate \$525,000 to the college over the next two years.

The NU Board of Regents requested that money, plus \$1.2 million for lab equipment in other departments in their two-year budget.

But Gov. Kay Orr did not include any funding for the equipment in her 1989-91 NU budget recommendation. According to John Rochman, state budget director, the governor feels she has funded the university's top priorities.

Obviously, there's some discrepancy here.

The engineering college needs the money to replace and update lab equipment in undergraduate programs. Without the new equipment, the college won't meet accreditation requirements set by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology during its 1987 visit to the engineering college.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Robert Furgason said that if the Legislature does not approve the funding, other options will have to be considered.

Those options include the surcharge, transferring funds from other university department budgets or taking money from a temporary instruction budget, which is used to provide extra sessions of courses in high demand, he said.

But Stan Liberty, dean of the engineering college, said he would never recommend the surcharge as an option.

So where will the money come from?

The extra sessions of classes in the engineering college are needed for students to fill their requirements, and transferring funds from other college budgets would mean someone loses a piece of the pie.

And if the engineering students do have to fork out the money for lab equipment, what happens when the chemistry department needs new beakers?

Furgason has already said that if the engineering surcharge is continued for the engineering students, the administration may consider surcharges for other departments with similar lab equipment funding problems.

This is one snowball effect students do not need. Students really can't afford tuition surcharges every year, let alone tuition. And if they can't afford the tuition, they may end up going somewhere else for their degree, possibly out of state.

That means fewer students who bring in money to the state of Nebraska every year.

The engineering college has a national reputation showing it can research for big businesses. Every year, large corporations contract with the engineering college research centers to produce new designs and technology, with the understanding that the college will produce. Without the needed equipment, that production and those contracts would be lost.

Again, money and prestige would leave Nebraska.

Less money for the state of Nebraska? Maybe that will make the Legislature stand up and take notice. And maybe then they'll realize that the engineering college is an important part of one of the biggest money-makers in the state -- the university.

Without putting money into the students' education, they can't expect to get anything out of it.

The Legislature's Appropriations Committee must include money for the engineering college equipment in the NU budget -- before the University of Nebraska Lincoln's engineering programs suffer, students go elsewhere for their education and big businesses grant research incentives to other universities.

-- Amy Edwards
for the Daily Nebraskan



Death justifiable, not enjoyable

Sennett says capital punishment necessary in some cases

When Ted Bundy died in the Florida electric chair a couple weeks ago, part of me died with him. I hope part of you died with him, too.

Don't get me wrong. I am not a rabid, march-on-Washington, anti-capital punishment advocate. In fact, I favor the practice . . . under restricted circumstances . . . for the moment . . . I think. I will at least affirm this hypothetical: If capital punishment is ever justified, it was justified in the case of Ted Bundy.

I have never come to peace with my position on capital punishment; and so that position has wavered quite a bit over the years. As the product of a traditional Southern family, I was raised believing that anyone who murdered, committed treason, or slandered the name of George Wallace was worthy of death. It would be a failure of respect for what they had rightfully earned not to administer the lethal blow.

But as a senior in high school I debated in favor of Furman vs. Georgia and against capital punishment. The facts I studied were impressive. I convinced myself, and began a three- or four-year stint in the anti camp. Somewhere in college I was persuaded back to my original position, though tempered somewhat, only to be lured back to the anti's in Seminary.

And, to borrow a phrase from Linda Ellerby, so it goes. I am currently in favor of some forms of capital punishment for some crimes in some circumstances. Sorry, that's about as definite as I get.

Tony Campolo is a professor of sociology at Eastern College in Philadelphia and a noted Christian lecturer and teacher. On the matter of punishment in any form, he has said that it must always come with regret because the necessity of punishment is a sign that love has failed.

According to Christian theology,

the greatest motivator for proper human behavior is love -- real love, as expressed in genuine concern, self-sacrifice, and a willingness to make another's needs the top priority in your life. We as creatures in God's image were made to desire and respond positively to that kind of love. Whenever we must resort to punishment, it is proof that love has failed, selfishness has triumphed and all of us have become a little less human.

all it was cracked up to be.

They tell me about deterrence. Well, I'm not sure that works. They tell me about retribution, and that makes a little more sense. They tell me about protection of the innocents, and I perk up my ears. Maybe there is something there.

I may weep for Bundy, but I weep for his victims more. And if it takes death to keep Bundy from his heinous actions, if killing him makes even one potential sex slayer think twice before acting, then maybe it is worth it. As I said above, if capital punishment is ever justified, here is a case in which it is. So maybe we did have to kill him. But we didn't have to like it.

And many of us did. We watched him fry and we enjoyed it. University of Nebraska-Lincoln students have already begun circulating Ted Bundy jokes. People in Florida danced in the streets at the announcement of his death. Jacksonville radio stations debated as to whether citizens should reduce their electricity consumption to give Bundy a greater jolt, or increase it to make him stew slowly.

Somewhere along the line, capital punishment stopped being a necessary evil and became a form of entertainment.

Genesis 9:6 institutes capital punishment for the crime of murder. But the decision was one I am sure God did not enjoy. In an effort to instill us with the sanctity of human life, we are told that the only proper repayment for life is life. But the ideal is life -- the ideal is a world without death at all. Death of any kind is death that is to be greeted with sorrow. Death, like punishment, is always a sign that love has failed.

Capital punishment may be justified. Capital punishment with glee never is.

Sennett is a graduate student in philosophy and a Daily Nebraskan editorial columnist.



James Sennett

And that is why a part of me died with Ted Bundy. Once again, I was reminded that the purposes and goals for which we were made and toward which we should be striving have again been lost in the horrid tyranny of necessity. There is still a part of me, and I hope there always will be, that hopes against hope that our primary objectives will experience resurgence.

I still have dreams about lions lying down with lambs, about milk and honey flowing through Palestine, about a world with a shortage of spears and an overabundance of plowshares.

But, they tell me, we must live in the real world. The real world is a world of Ted Bundys. It's a world of child molesters, of secret nerve gas factories, of readily available AK-47's. You can't love a man spraying high-caliber bullets across a California school yard.

Well, maybe they're right. Maybe I do have to live in the real world. But I don't have to like it. When I was a kid I couldn't wait to grow up. Now that I am grown up, I don't think it's

editorial

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letter

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