

Daily  
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## Affordable education Students need a promising future

**S**o a decade-long, nationwide trend toward increased tuition costs has slowed this year.

According to an annual College Board survey, the average tuition increases at some four-year public colleges have dropped from 20 percent in the 1983-84 school year to a mere 5 to 9 percent in the last five years.

Gee, what a relief.

The Chronicle of Higher Education puts the average undergraduate tuition for a four-year public college at about \$1,694, a 7 percent increase over last year.

This increase may seem like a drop in the bucket compared to the increases of the early '80s. But tuition hikes keep coming, and students continue to face cost-of-living increases that surpass the rate of inflation.

"For each of the last eight years, the price of college has outrun inflation, and the majority of students will see that trend continue in 1989-90," the Chronicle reported in its Aug. 16 issue.

In the same article, College Board President Donald Stewart puts all minds at ease by reminding us that a college education is still within the grasp of those who yearn for higher education.

"Planning is the key to paying for college today," he said, "with financial aid providing the boost over the top for many families."

Indeed, John Beacon, director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, is quick to boast that the office has \$35 million in award money for this year -- a noted increase, he said, over last year.

However, most of that money is available to students in loans, not grants. And even if students do take on the burden of a loan, or two or three, many will not make enough in their chosen fields to pay them back in a timely manner if they are expected to live independently.

And planning? True, keeping an eye toward the future is important for parents and students to remember when planning for higher education. But many parents today tell their children to work their way through school, "like I did." A student who attempts to stay out of college in order to save for his or her education is a student who later will be behind in today's competitive job markets.

Where exactly does the buck stop?

Even the cost of attending UNL, what Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen likes to call a "fantastic bargain" -- still is too expensive for many Nebraskans.

Lawmakers and politicians have to make providing an affordable education their No. 1 priority. Otherwise, a student's future is not the only one at stake.

-- Lee Rood  
for the Daily Nebraskan

## Concessions connoisseur protests proposed change

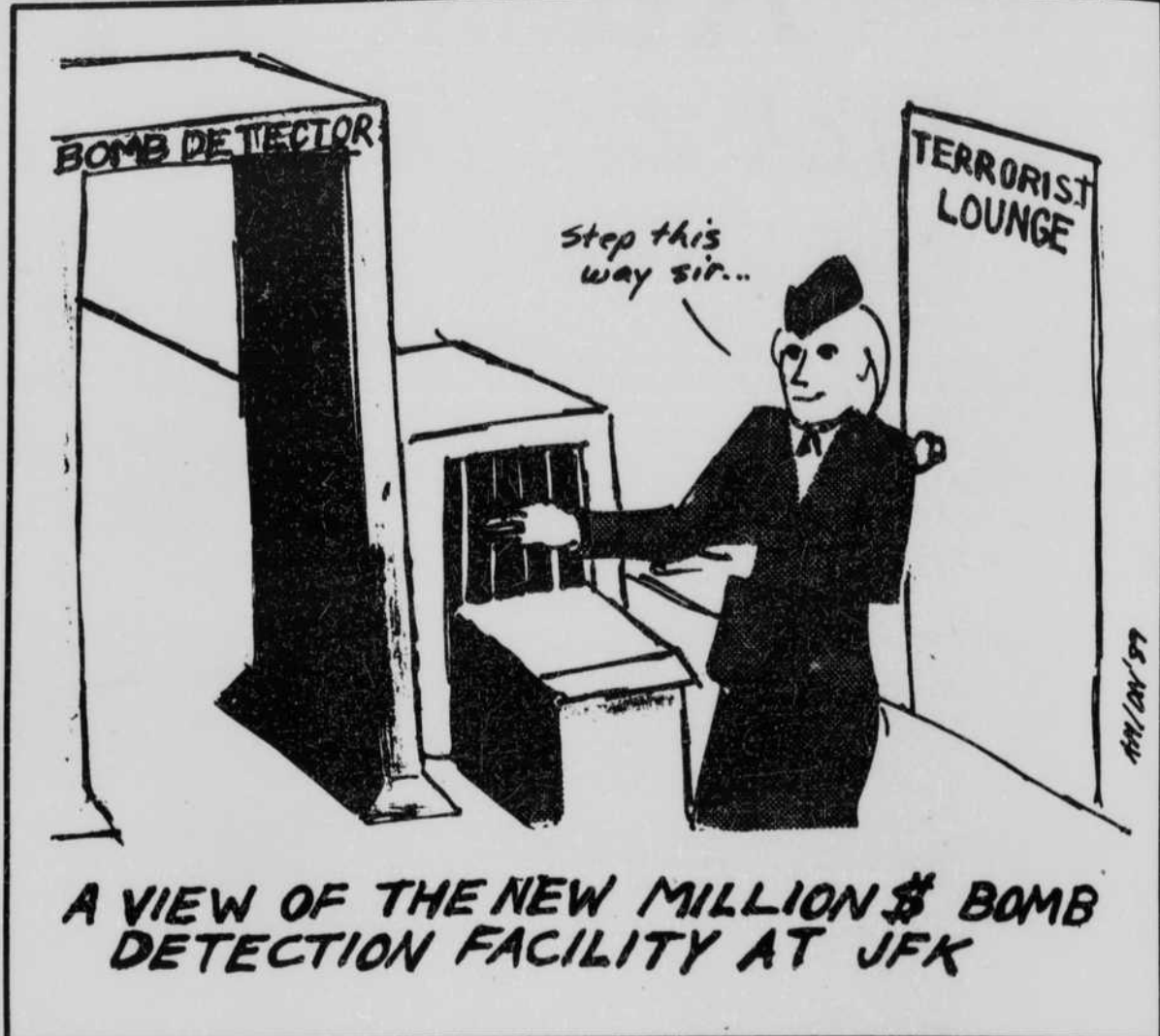
I hope that the university athletic department isn't serious about awarding a new concessions contract to Johnny Rodgers. I really have nothing against Mr. Rodgers, but the fact is that the current provider of concessions is doing an outstanding job.

I do not know who holds the current concessions contract and have no personal interest in it other than to credit them for their excellent work. No stadium that I have attended can compare with the prices. Most of the items are \$1 or less, which is very reasonable. The food and service are always pretty good, and while the

variety is slim, I think most of us really just wanted the basics (Coca-Cola, hot dogs, popcorn) anyway.

This proposal is just the type of move that no one notices until a change is made and we get poor service at a higher price. I hope the Daily Nebraskan and the UNL students who attend games will take a look at this issue and urge the athletic department to leave the system alone. Why change one of the few things on campus about which no one is complaining?

Joe Schuele  
Lincoln



## Pledge programs rarely of value

*Education by fear, public ridicule degrades fraternity pledges*

**E**xactly four years ago tonight, I was fearing the unexpected with my 22 other pledge brothers and 50 active brothers at a cabin out by Milford. That night, we sat around a fire and talked about ourselves, where we had come from and, more important to me, where we were all hoping to go in the next year.

The next morning, my 22 pledge brothers and I crawled out of bed at 7 a.m. to scrub toilets and mop floors.

Hazing in fraternities and sororities is given many different names and rationalized in many ways.

Actives sometimes call it "character building," telling pledges: "This is how brutal the real world is. We're just toughening you up." What better way, they say; is there to teach pledges discipline (than) by making them do 50 push-ups on command?

Another famous fraternal pledge-education tool, which is supposed to save the lost souls and unorganized lives of high-school graduates, is to create pledge activities, allegedly aimed at teaching pledges time-management skills. These activities are supposed to help build unity within a pledge class and dedication to the fraternity.

Rarely do these activities have any real educational value.

Actives tell pledges the privilege of being surrounded by 75 beautiful people doesn't come without hard work. Pledges must show their loyalty to a standard of brotherhood or sisterhood by acts of ritual, like drinking 14 beers at a party and making sure they have a pretty face at all times.

This rationalization touches on the issue of elitism in the greek system which some people might think makes all this talk of hazing a secondary concern and a waste of our time.

The Majority Rules Rule, most widely known for its role in justifying discrimination against minorities in America, also is used by sororities and fraternities to overlook the rights of a pledge.

One fellow greek once conceded to me the conflicts surrounding pledge education. "Well, they are pledges so they shouldn't have the same rights as actives." What a concept. As if all human existence ought to be separated into these two strata:

those who have rights and those who don't.

Behind all of these "fraternal doctrines," which attempt to justify an unjust system, are men and women who are only slightly conscious of their actions and the effect that they have on an 18-year-old pledge -- also called a maggot, or squeak, or even associate member.

Yes, fraternal doctrine has created a system where the abused become the abusers. The mental anguish and physical pressures of pledgship by hazing culminate with the right to become the cause of some young pledge's torment.



David  
Rohlfing

And you say, "Well, if a pledge doesn't like it, he or she can get out." True. And some do. But the unfortunate thing about greek hazing is that it takes its greatest toll on human beings who are in the midst of an already-confusing and unstable transition from high school to college.

The young and insecure minds of 18-year-old college freshmen seem to be an invitation for someone or something to take control of their lives.

Rather than haze and degrade other human beings, fraternities and sororities could offer support to young college students. If programs for new members focus on the REAL needs of a college student, joining that greek organization can be a beneficial experience for him or her.

With hazing, the opposite occurs. Pledgship focuses on the preordained needs of "The House" and its fraternal doctrine. The fraternity pledge who doesn't need the social support can see hazing for what it is and get out.

Unfortunately, college students who need the security and support of others, may pledge a fraternity or sorority blindly in order to fulfill

personal needs, even though it may have a detrimental effect on their physical and mental health.

Pledges who need the security of social acceptance and a positive self-image the most probably are most oblivious to seeing what education by fear, physical discomfort, thought control, public ridicule and authoritarian leadership is doing to their spirituality and intellectual endeavors and their physical well-being.

This not only explains why "frat rats" exist but also why religious fanatics and drug and alcohol abusers abound on the UNL campus.

The cycle of hazing is mean and cares little about a pledge's feelings, fears, goals and values.

So how do we break the cycle of pledge abuse? The media has long used informative tactics to try to get fraternity and sorority members to confront the issue of hazing.

The rational approach of educating through awareness has helped many greek houses examine their pledge education programs and do away with pledge-destroying activities.

But hazing still exists and the deceiving justifications still are being used in pledge programs.

Actives have invested much of their own emotion into hazing pledges. As long as the hazing system stays in operation, the actives reap the rewards of their pledgship. If the system is interrupted, the world they thought they could depend on collapses. To expect actives who were hazed to relinquish their investment in the hazing system is asking an enormous sacrifice.

But it is one that must be made. Fraternity and sorority leaders need the support of their local and national fraternity advisers, the UNL administration, the Panhellenic Association and InterFraternity Council, as well as the support of the student body, to deal with hazing.

Fraternity and sorority members need guidance and resources to help them develop alternative new-member education programs that focus positively on the needs of individual college students.

David Rohlfing is a senior English/history education major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.