

Readers discuss parking, movies, library

UNL uses revenue for improvements

I have read with interest the column by Brian Svoboda and the letter by Richard Allen concerning the parking problems at UNL. As one of the representatives of the Faculty Senate on the UNL Parking Advisory Committee, I would like to respond to the comments made.

What does UNL do with the parking money -- both permit sales and violations revenue -- it collects? The answer to that question is contained in the annual budget of the UNL Parking Advisory Committee, debated in open session by committee members representing students, faculty and employees of both campuses. The main items are maintenance, bond debt retirement, and improvement of existing facilities; indeed, not only is there no money left over, as Mr. Allen blithely assumes, but we reluctantly had to raise the parking fees from \$40 to \$50 this year because we wanted to assure that operating costs would be covered from permit sale revenue so as to have violations revenue for improvements. Have the two gentlemen looked at the Westbrook lot recently? Have they seen the resurfacing project in Lot 16? Have they observed the new huge graveled parking lot at 19th and R streets? No, I am afraid that the only parking garage that could be built would have to be financed by new bond debt and by user fees of roughly \$45 per month.

"We need parking facilities now!" cries Mr. Allen (Or is that a pseudonym for the other logical talent, Andrew Meyer?). You have parking facilities, but regrettably they are up to five blocks away from the student union. Investigations and surveys conducted by the Parking Office show that there are at least between 700 and 900 parking stalls empty at any given time at UNL, even at peak user times. No, they are not adjacent to the classroom buildings at the center of campus; yes, it may be necessary to start five minutes earlier

and to walk for 10 minutes. Let me give you the good news first: there is no shortage of parking space at UNL, although there may be a shortage of ultra-convenient parking space. The bad news is that this convenient space in the center of campus will get substantially more expensive and restrictive in the near future in order to force users farther out to the always available spaces on the periphery. This is in line with the Parking Advisory Committee's policy of adapting the cost of parking to the quality of service provided: reserved parking and parking in the center of campus are higher quality service than gravel lots at the periphery. Give us some time!

Lastly, the parking ticket issue. Parking tickets are issued to vehicles that are parked in violation of the parking regulations published and distributed to all permit holders and usually posted quite visibly. Appeals mechanisms exist, violators pay for the improvement of facilities for all users. The meetings of the Parking Advisory Committee are public; come and see what happens to the permit fees. I have scrutinized the parking budget for two years, much to the chagrin of several offices that provide substantial services, but I have not found any room for substantial savings. All members of the Advisory Committee will be delighted to have constructive input from any member of the university community. But please, get the facts first.

Franz Blaha
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Review programs miss good movies

Mark Hain and Becky Tideman's "Become a movie snob; reviewers offer own helpful hints" (DN, Sept. 15), is generally dead on target.

Siskel and Ebert are the KFRX of movie criticism; top 40 shallow elitism for those silly enough to fall for it. Videocassettes allow everyone to become familiar with the history of

film. Rent some of the old black and white classics on tape to see what was happening before "Do the Right Thing" and "sex, lies and videotape." Lots of it is excellent work.

But I don't think you need to be a "snob" to despise Ted Turner. Taking a beautiful old black and white film like "The Big Sleep" and arbitrarily adding color wherever one feels like it (my favorite example is the bright pink wallpaper in Phillip Marlowe's apartment in the colorized "Maltese Falcon") really wrecks the film.

And if you're really interested in films, you're going to "embrace obscurity," because you'll know about a lot of great films that don't get reviewed on Siskel and Ebert and the other "movie review" programs.

For example, "Heathers" was recently a big hit, but only one reviewer that I know of (J. Hoberman in the Village Voice) tagged it for what it was: a shot-for-shot, plot-for-plot remake of Renee Daalder's "Massacre at Central High," made over a decade ago. "Massacre" is in many ways a better film than "Heathers," but if you don't see "obscure" films, you'll never realize that, for all intents and purposes, "Heathers" is a ripoff of the earlier film. Or that "Raiders of the Lost Ark" is a rip of "Secret Service in Darkest Africa," or "No Way Out" a remake of "The Big Clock." And that, in most cases,

the original is better.

The main issue here is that one has to make up one's own mind about movies, or books, or records, and not put too much trust in others to do the judging for you.

Movies are a popular art form, and always have been. The more films you see, the more you'll know.

Wheeler Dixon, director
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Reader finds Love helpful, informative

As with most procrastinators, you, Kim Beavers, blame someone else for your lack of work (DN, Sept. 18). The Love Library is not to blame for your stupidity, you are.

If the so-called "wind tunnel" knocked you unconscious, a good sneeze must send you into planetary orbit. I admit there is a gust, but nothing strong enough to even topple a toddler. Also, if anything, the doors should be easy to open since that is the way the gust goes. Of course, you probably thought "PULL" meant "PUSH".

Next, there is Love South, Love North and the Link. Love South is the original structure, North is the new structure, and the Link links the two together. There are plenty of signs telling you which part of the building you are in and where you're going to.

By the way, there are maps to the library. One is stuck to the information desk and there is also one on back of the stacks directory pamphlet. All these information pamphlets are located in the Link, and only a moron could miss them.

If you cannot find what you're looking for, ask the librarian at the information desk. I personally have asked them many questions and was given quick and concise answers to them. Also, it is not the library's fault if students, like yourself, mutilate magazines by tearing out articles. If you had not waited so long, they could have sent for a copy of the article through interlibrary loan.

I transferred here, and with little trouble was able to locate everything with the aid of pamphlets and the librarians. The library also sponsored tours for anyone interested before the semester officially got under way. The only one to blame for your lack of library knowledge is yourself. For your information, I recalled all this information from memory, and the last time I did research at the Love Library was in May.

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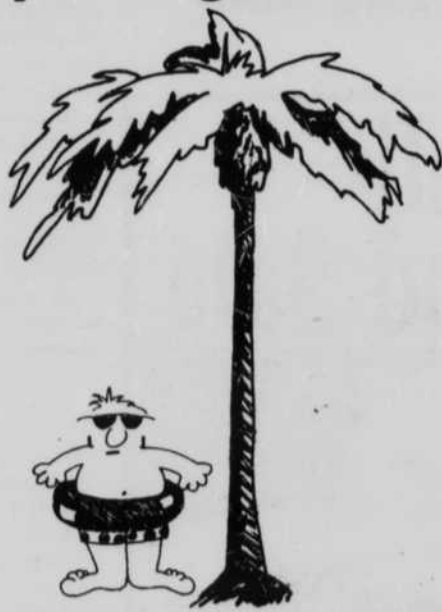
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