

Daily
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Time for change

Greek system improvements long overdue

Walt Keim, an alumnus of Delta Upsilon Fraternity and Christian campus minister, delivered a message well worth heeding Monday night in the Nebraska Union Ballroom.

The Greek Affairs office brought Keim, a nationally renowned speaker from Oregon, to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to help fraternity and sorority members address problems within UNL's greek system.

If UNL's fraternity and sorority members want to prevent the dissolution of their houses, Keim said, they need to shed their "Animal House" image, and return to the more admirable ideals of the greek system's founders.

In order to do so, he said, fraternity and sorority members should drink responsibly, "lay off" drugs, be sexually responsible, stop hazing and conduct themselves in a way they will be proud of later.

A few additional improvements could be added to the list, but it's not a bad start.

Fraternal organizations do offer a great deal to college students and society -- but only if members respect and adhere to the noble reasons such organizations were founded.

Keim noted that many of the United States' leaders are fraternity and sorority alumni -- 85 percent of the U.S. Supreme Court justices, two-thirds of all Cabinet members and all but two presidents.

Admirable.

However, he also noted that the greek system has changed in recent years. Some members today care little about what a fraternal organization can offer, and focus instead on the system's "party" reputation.

Keim warned students of the numerous alcohol-related accidents occurring at fraternities and sororities, adding that, "as a campus minister I have to bury you when you don't listen to me. I would much rather watch you get married."

All UNL students could benefit from that message.

Unfortunately, UNL's fraternity and sorority members also must contend with issues such as hazing and discriminatory behavior. Though many UNL students outside the system also contribute to unsavory behavior on campus, such action by fraternity and sorority members could cost them their national charters.

If those UNL fraternity and sorority members who packed the ballroom Monday night listened to Keim's message, UNL has something to look forward to.

An improved UNL greek system could benefit future members and improve the system's image in the community -- two changes that are long overdue.

-- Lee Rood
for the Daily Nebraskan

WITH THE RECORD \$58 MILLION PRICE TAG STILL GROWING AT THE REAGAN LIBRARY, ONE WONDERS....



Andy Manhardt/Daily Nebraskan

Congress must reduce deficit

Arguing over pet projects wastes time, stalls planning process

How many billions upon trillions of dollars does this country have to owe before Congress gets serious about reducing the federal deficit?

We've got so much debt piling up that the figures have become meaningless. In 1988, the U.S. deficit was \$155.2 billion. Well, so what? The country didn't go under, did it? So Congress keeps pushing the limit and now it is predicted that the 1989 deficit will check in at about \$165 billion. It looks as if 1990 will be even more promising.

The fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, so far has no budget. No, not because Congress decided to eliminate all programs for a year and save us a whole lot of money.

Right now, senators, representatives and the president are too busy arguing for their own pet projects to work together on solving the economic problems facing this country.

So while pet projects kept the 1990 budget on the back burner, Gramm-Rudman kicked in. Gramm-Rudman automatically reduces the budget to acceptable levels when Congress hits a wall of inertia.

In theory, that's nice. But G-R isn't too particular about what gets cut. The law is kind of an equalizer, making even cuts straight across the board.

So while every program is left hurting over Congress' inability to make its own decisions, some financial bases just aren't being covered -- like money to cover federal checks.

When money to back up the checks ran out, concern emerged that even social security checks could not be issued or would bounce. To cover federal checks, the U.S. borrowing limit had to be raised to an all-time high. Funny thing though, only a handful of senators and representatives showed up to vote for the increase.

Apparently, most didn't want their name associated with the \$3 trillion vote. Americans can look forward to paying about \$170 billion in interest on the loans again this year.

What issues in Congress were more important than passing a 1990 budget, which would have made the borrowing increase unnecessary?

One example is the debate on the capital-gains tax cut supported by President Bush. The cut would decrease taxes on stocks, bonds and real estate purchases.

Bush proposed the reduction. Af-

ter considerable debate, the House passed a bill supporting the reduction. Democrats then screamed it was a perk for the rich. Republicans retorted that the spend-happy democrats would never change, that they want to increase everyone's taxes. The capital gains portion of the bill was side-stepped in the Senate. Everyone then went back to the legislative drawing board.

Through all this rhetoric, the public learned that the capital gains reduction would generate \$9.4 billion in the first three years of implementation and then lose \$5 billion each year thereafter.



Chris
Carroll

If the tax cut passed, it would make Bush look good while in office. But then it would lose money every year.

These short-term politically motivated proposals do nothing to reduce the federal deficit. Bush shouldn't have suggested it. Democrats in the House of Representatives shouldn't have crossed the partisan line to support it.

But this is how the legislative system works. Representatives and senators attach proposals they want passed to bills that eventually must pass, like the deficit reduction bill, and then a whole bunch of trade-offs are made.

This is why nothing really gets done in Congress.

Last week the senate finally passed a deficit-reduction bill, but not until it had picked up hundreds of amendments to benefit farmers, loggers, low-income families, the poor, the sick, the oil industry and higher-income retirees. To finance this bill and meet deficit-reduction requirements, Congress had to add \$38 billion in tax increases.

It's ridiculous that pet projects were attached to a deficit-reduction bill.

The extracurricular activities that come up when planning the annual budget, including protecting pet projects or appearing to be a good republican or democrat, must stop.

The United States owes too much

money for its elected leaders to waste time on political side-stepping. Every budget decision must be weighed against this reality.

Congress has at its disposal concrete suggestions on how to reduce the deficit. Two reports exist that specifically detail ways to reduce the deficit. One proposes deficit decreases of \$40 billion a year while the other suggests reductions totaling \$152.4 billion.

The study that suggested reductions of \$40 billion annually was compiled by the Committee for Economic Development. The non-partisan study, by corporate chiefs and university presidents, calls for tax increases and cuts in major programs, including Social Security and Medicare. But, the group specified that tax increases would go directly to reducing the deficit rather than increased spending.

These suggestions would face political opposition. But taxes either must be increased or expenditures greatly decreased to impact the deficit.

The Grace Commission conducted the other study, which also called for cuts in federal social-service programs. The commission questioned the need for 986 federal social-service programs. The commission also reported that there are 2,478 ways to reduce the deficit by cutting government waste. Had all the suggestions been implemented, the commissions suggests that the government could have saved \$152 billion. Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan formed the commission while in office.

If there are 2,478 ways to reduce the deficit, then Congress has a lot of options. But each and every suggestion is sure to cut into the turf of some member of Congress.

Too bad.

It's time to give up the turf wars, get out the calculators and reduce the deficit.

It no longer is a question of which programs deserve money and which don't. It comes down to there being no money and admitting that current programs are thriving on borrowed money.

Senators and representatives shouldn't continue bartering with America's economic freedom.

Carroll is a senior news-editorial major and Daily Nebraskan columnist and supplements editor.

opinion READER

Money spurs T-shirt sale

Imagine everything around you, clothes, buildings, music, art and everything else, a bland generic color.

This seems to be the direction that the University of Nebraska is heading. Minority groups complain about everything from "offensive T-shirts" to Homecoming posters. The only way to do something is to do it as bland and plain as possible. If you don't you will end up with some minority screaming for blood.

Gargi Sodowski wrote a letter (DN, Nov. 8) stating "Phi Kappa Psi should publicly apologize to the university community... They need to actively persuade fraternity members and friends not to wear the T-shirts."

These "offensive" T-shirts portrayed a brown-colored jungle girl driving a tricycle out of a jungle. Minority groups claimed the shirt was offensive and degrading to blacks. The T-shirts were not show-

ing anything factual, it was simply a cartoon.

Minority groups seem to be complaining that everyone is against them. This "out to get us" attitude only causes problems. I have seen offensive T-shirts. That is, T-shirts created solely to offend someone. The Phi-Psi's T-shirts were done to raise money, not to offend.

Variety is the spice of life. "Offensive" T-shirts need not be bought if they offend the individual. I suggest the minority groups who are complaining follow in the footsteps of recovering alcoholics who don't complain about alcoholic T-shirts, or non-smokers who don't seem to mind if someone wears a Camel T-shirt. Wake up Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee, stop crying wolf.

Dave Coder
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