

## Daily Nebraskan

Editorial Board  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Eric Pfanner, Editor, 472-1766  
Victoria Ayotte, Managing Editor  
Darcie Wiegert, Associate News Editor  
Diane Brayton, Associate News Editor  
Jana Pedersen, Wire Editor  
Emily Rosenbaum, Copy Desk Chief  
Lisa Donovan, Editorial Page Editor

### Cuts won't help

Lid would cause unsolvable problems

Although a proposed 2 percent lid on state and local government spending increases has not even been voted on, it already has claimed some casualties.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources has placed a freeze on hiring and other expenditures pending the outcome of the Nov. 6 vote on the lid.

The ballot initiative proposes limiting annual government spending increases to 2 percent -- about 3 percent less than the rate of inflation.

Because the lid appears to be retroactive -- dating back to the current fiscal year -- university departments and other government entities may have to come up with some quick spending cuts if the proposal passes.

Planning ahead generally makes sense.

But in this case, it represents a panic move. The lid hasn't even passed yet.

Elton Aberle, head of the animal science department, said he thought the freeze was the proper step to take:

"If the lid doesn't go into effect, we've lost a little bit of time and that's all we've lost."

Aberle said the department couldn't extend offers for two openings in its faculty. If the lid failed at the ballot box, those offers would be made and it would be business as usual for the department. If it passed, though, the department wouldn't be able to offer several courses in spring because of the faculty shortage, Aberle said.

Unfortunately, time and a few courses aren't all that would be lost.

Aberle said the hiring freeze caused the department to cut some student positions that had been filled before Sept. 1.

Alan Moeller, assistant vice chancellor of IANR, estimated the number of students affected at fewer than 50.

But those students deserve to keep their jobs. They shouldn't be punished for a shortsighted proposal that sounds attractive until it is put on paper.

IANR Vice Chancellor Irv Omtvedt said factors other than the threat of the lid contributed to the hiring freeze. Many Nebraska counties, with which the institute has partnerships, have reached budget limits. Federal money to the institute also is threatened, he said.

Still, coming when it does, the hiring freeze sends the wrong message to Nebraska voters. It suggests that UNL could cope with the effects of the lid by planning in advance and by making careful cuts.

That obviously wouldn't be enough. NU officials already have estimated that the equivalent of one of UNL's larger colleges would have to be cut each year if the lid passed. The budget for the second half of the current fiscal year would have to be chopped by 18 percent because of the retroactive nature of the lid, those officials estimate.

IANR officials said the hiring freeze would give the institute greater flexibility if the 2 percent lid passed in November.

But no amount of flexibility or careful planning would be enough to offset the long-term effects of the lid.

-- Eric Pfanner  
for the Daily Nebraskan



### Deciding fates of the notorious

Woody, Aretha, Robert resolve afterlives of politicians on judgment day

We're sitting at the gates of heaven. Some of the world's greatest self-proclaimed judges -- Aretha Franklin, Woody Allen, Robert Plant and I -- are trying to decide the afterlife of some notorious politicians.

After Iraq and the United States finished blowing the world to bits, we have come together to judge at the only place still standing -- Lincoln's Tam O' Shanter Lounge and Steakhouse.

The gavel sounded. And that was it. Adolf Hitler was released into the abyss, shouting "I'm sorry, I didn't mean to do it, dewit, dewit, dewit..."

"I don't know, you guys, he seemed sorry," I said, watching the figure become smaller and smaller and finally disappear into the big, dark hole. "Shut up, Donovan -- it was Hitler, for God's sake."

Allen never had much sympathy for the remorseful.

"But..."

"No buts, Donovan. Besides, you're outnumbered. Right, guys?"

"Yes, yes, yes," they muttered. We ushered in our next candidate.

"Next?"

"My name is Richard M..."

"We'll call him Dick. Do you mind if we call you Dick?"

He shook his head, smiling. "That's quite all right."

I leaned over to Aretha. "This is not the Nixon we heard about in 'All the President's Men.' I loved that movie."

"Let's not start basing our opinions on a movie. Let's get the facts, just the facts. Besides, you thought 'Fast Times at Ridgemont High' was the biographical story of Sean Penn's youth."

Plant insisted that we get on with the interrogation.

"Now, now, Dick, answer honestly and thoughtfully. Are you sorry about the Watergate scandal because it was sneaky and unethical? Or, are you sorry about the Watergate scandal because you got caught?"

"I am not a crook." Plant was ruthless. "Well, this 'I'm not a criminal' bit may have convinced President Ford, but it doesn't work for me."

"What do you guys think?" The gavel went down again, just like a bad performance being gonged



Lisa Donovan

on the "Gong Show."

"But I'm not a criminal, nal, nal, nal, nal."

"Next?"

"State your name."

"Joe Bowman."

I began the formalities this time. "From your records here, we see that you were greatly involved in political and social issues while in college, but lacked ethics."

"Let's see here, you were involved in some pre-election, under-the-table agreement to support a presidential candidate if he would fire the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska's director of development."

"Do you have anything to say for yourself?"

He merely handed a letter to the council of judges.

"Says here that he was sorry he manipulated the election back in 1990."

"I don't know about the rest of you, but I've heard enough sorries."

Plant added, "You, Mr. Bowman, tried to qualify your statement in the form of an apology. How could you say in one sentence that the deal was made in the best interests of the university, and in another statement, say you knew the deal was an underhanded plot by the presidential candidate to acquire support?"

"And all of this in the name of the STAND party. How do you feel knowing that you took advantage of your

party members."

There was a deafening silence and the gavel went down.

"Next?"

"State your name."

"Phil Gosch."

Aretha began, "Mr. Gosch, you did some wonderful things as a young man -- your resume shows that among them you were a capable student government president."

I interrupted. "Except one thing. You didn't step down when your deal with Bowman was protested."

"Phil, you made a deal. Then your supporters rallied around you. And then you were sitting pretty."

Gosch was silent. Almost as silent as when a UNL student stood up at a Senate meeting and asked him to resign once the scandal came out into the open.

"Your record speaks for itself -- you wanted to affect a lot of change as student regent and student president. One of your most notable accomplishments was taking a stand against the NU Foundation's investments in South Africa. Unfortunately, this and other efforts were dwarfed by the deal."

Aretha pointed out that student government really didn't have a lot of options.

I conceded.

"The only way to get rid of Gosch would be his resignation or a recall election. Gosch liked power too much to give it up."

"And a recall election would have required a signed petition by 33 percent of the student body to require the Electoral Commission to schedule and conduct a special election."

"Considering only 16 percent students voted in the March 1990 election, a recall would be pretty close to impossible."

We all looked at each other. "The students are no better."

The gavel went down.

Donovan is a senior news-editorial major, the Daily Nebraskan editorial page editor and a columnist.

### Gays should not be condemned

Bri Frimodt, I truly believe that you need to stop and examine a subject before you use your pen to write about and denounce a group and their actions. Your letter "Think before spouting pro-homosexual words" (DN, Sept. 17) shows that you have no comprehension of this issue.

Homophobia, according to Webster's Dictionary is the "hatred or fear of homosexuals or homosexuality." You stated in your letter, "I'm certainly not afraid of gays."

Afraid or not, you certainly show ill will towards them and their actions. Who are you to decide what is natural or right?

The First Amendment assures us that we have the freedom of expres-

sion. This amendment does not deny people that freedom on the basis of race, gender or sexual preference.

Just because someone acts in an alternative way to what you consider conventional does not mean he or she should be condemned.

If you don't approve of being called a homophobic (as they say, if the shoe fits...) then you need to open your eyes and your mind to this issue, and learn to better understand it. Because to me, it seems that thus far you have no perception, just delusion of homosexuals and homosexuality.

Cindy Hope  
sophomore  
English

### letter

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to sub-

mit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Letters should be typewritten.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.