

## Daily Nebraskan

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## Give it up

### National Guard needs to sacrifice funds

Some sacrifices just have to be made. Legislative Bill 10, introduced Monday, would decrease tuition assistance for Nebraska National Guard members by putting a \$500 cap on the amount of tuition assistance a guard member could receive each year.

If passed, the bill will go into effect next July.

The bill would barely affect Nebraska's small colleges. At Southeast Community College's Lincoln campus, students' aid would not be hurt because the average tuition amounts to only \$412 a year. The effect at the state's major university would send ripples a little farther through the system.

The legislative fiscal office estimates that there are 439 guard members receiving assistance. They receive an average of \$978 a year. That is nearly \$439,000.

Sen. Roger Wehrbein of Plattsmouth said the bill would trim more than \$300,000 from Nebraska's budget. In the state's poor economic times, it's tough for any organization to escape budget cuts.

The Legislature is looking to cut millions of dollars from the state's budget; it should start with areas of fat that can obviously use a little trimming.

Senators should ask themselves what kind of return the state is getting for investing thousands in the education of a handful of students. Then they should pass LB10.

The proposal does create a problem for students who based their commitment to the guard on the promise of 75 percent of their tuition. Students should be given the option to back out of their contracts with the group if the state decides to back out of its agreement with the students.

New recruits, however, should understand that their tuition assistance ends at \$500.

One student who voiced her opposition to the bill Wednesday said its passage would force her to leave Nebraska to continue her education. The student called the tuition assistance her lifeline to an education. Surely students who depend upon the National Guard as their sole source of funding for tuition are eligible for other sources of aid.

Such students would not be forced off campus. Instead they would have to put a little more time into researching other financial aid options.

The tuition cap is justified if it helps to relieve any cuts that might be made to the university. Further cuts in educational funding may lead to increased tuition, which — without passage of the bill — would in turn lead to a higher bill for the state through the guard's current tuition-assistance plan.

The cap may also mean that recruiting efforts for the guard be stepped up. Many college students join the National Guard simply because the program pays nearly all of their tuition for a minor commitment.

Asking the National Guard to make this sacrifice won't make them a sacrificial lamb. Leaders will simply have to find another selling point.

The guard is necessary. The members' usefulness in emergency situations can't be discounted or predicted. Cuts may lead to setbacks for the group, but it won't shut it down permanently.

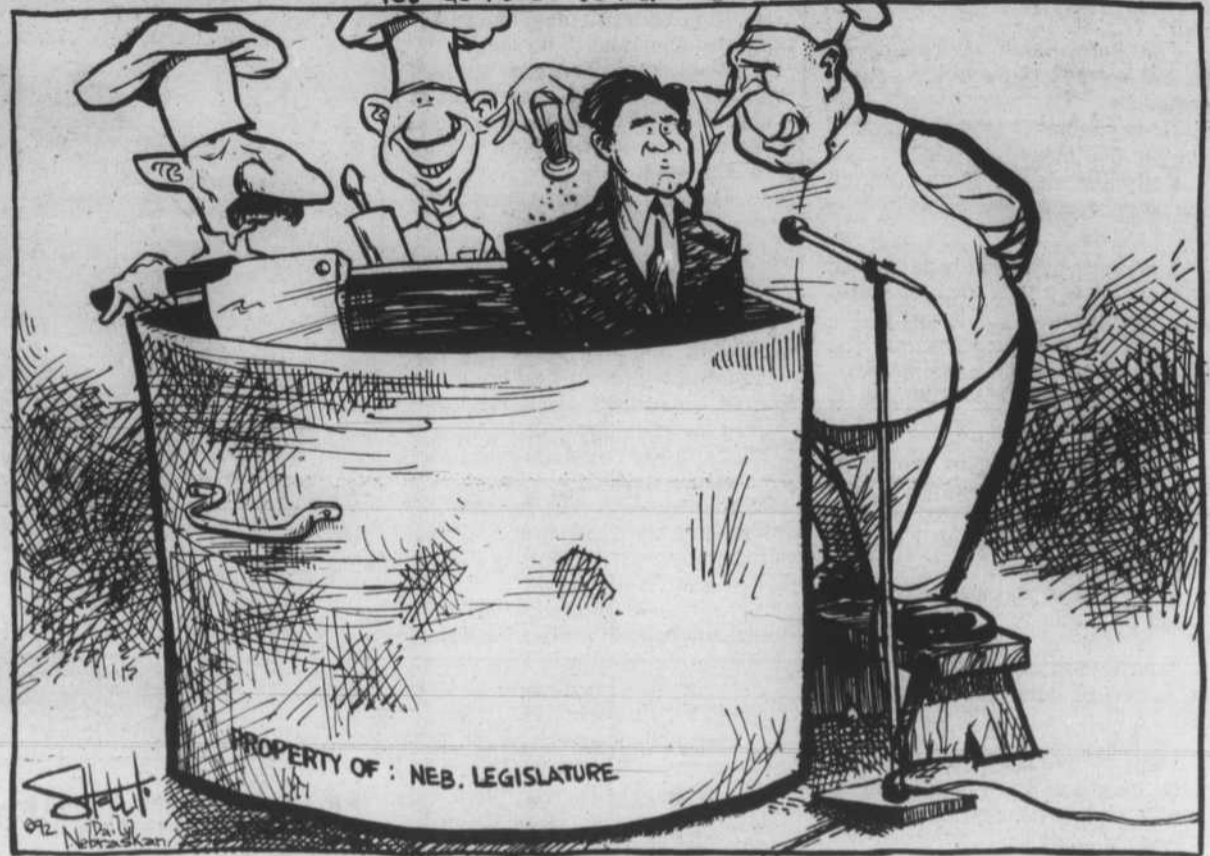
### EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1992 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents. Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.

### LETTER POLICY

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 or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. 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.

SO CHANCELLOR SPANIER, IF INDEED WE DID CUT FROM THE UNIVERSITY HOW WOULD YOU GO ABOUT DOING IT ... ?



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Religious freedom

I listened to George "Jed" Smock, or rather students slandering Smock, on the afternoon of Sept. 23. While I do not personally agree with his philosophy or theology, I feel the atrocious behavior of the students toward this gentleman was uncalled for. Nobody forced students to stop and listen. They stopped of their own free will and were free to leave.

In the United States, the right to free speech is guaranteed in the Bill of Rights of our Constitution. So is the right to freedom of religion. Nobody forced me to believe the way I do, and nobody is going to make me change my beliefs until I am willing and ready to change them.

For some, Smock's lifestyle is a bit odd, but to each his own. I must admire his tenacity. This gentleman has come to our campus year after year, and he has listened to and responded to students addressing the same issues again and again. We all know where he stands, and he knows where we stand.

Let us live our own lives in our own way. Perhaps if we all were mutually tolerant, the need to convert others would be unnecessary.

Alison Duba  
senior  
English

#### Paper towels

I am a resident of Burr Hall. Over the past several weeks, I have pondered the issue of the absence of paper towels in the residence halls nearly five times a day with the daily ritual of washing my hands.

Reading the DN, I have considered the opinions and alternatives suggested by various students, and I have taken these words of wisdom into consideration to make a motion of my own. My suggestion is simply to print the DN on paper towels. We'll call it the residence hall version. My reasons are as follows:

1. The DN is picked up by nearly every resident of the halls during the day.
2. The amount of paper used to print the DN is more than an adequate amount needed to dry one's hands for a day.
3. Most of the paper used to print the DN is not recycled, rather thrown away.
4. This would create no additional need for paper.
5. The added advantage could be obtained at little or no extra cost.
6. Students who protest student funds going toward the DN could find at least one use for it.
7. Many DN's end up in the restroom

anyway.

8. The paper would be recycled much easier since it is generally all thrown away in established "collecting bins." Because of the ease of recycling, this plan not only magnifies the use of resources but also is environmentally sound.

9. With the use of paper towels, sanitary conditions could favorably be restored, thus increasing the standard of living.

10. Use of biodegradable soy ink on paper towels would promote Nebraska agriculture.

Implementing the plan: The DN could be put in dispensers similar to the old paper towels. If needed, pages 1-10 could be in one dispenser, pages 11-20 in another dispenser and 21-30 in another. Distribution of DN's would take slightly more effort since they would need to go in each restroom rather than a bulk location. The possibilities are numerous.

This plan may sound preposterous, but I believe it deserves due considerations.

Tobias J. Wehrman  
senior  
agricultural economics



#### Ross Perot

I am writing in response to the editorial that states that Ross Perot would not make a good president because he is not a true candidate ("False candidate," DN, Sept. 23).

Since when does one's ability to sling bull have anything to do with being a good leader? Come now, how many promises are Bush and Clinton making now that are actually going to be kept? Remember, "Read my lips, no new taxes?"

I think Perot is doing the right thing by staying out of all of the juvenile mud-slinging. He doesn't need to campaign; each time Bush and Clinton try to make each other look bad, they just end up making Perot look better.

It is time we started putting less emphasis on a politician's personal life and more on his wisdom, maturity and ability to lead. Perot must know something about decision making that "true politicians" don't. After all, one

doesn't make \$4 billion in big business out of smiles and promises.

Julie Kittredge  
freshman  
civil engineering

#### 'Doom, gloom'

To Jeff Hankins and Sam Kepfield: What a breath of fresh air it is to read your columns in the Daily Nebraskan. You guys truly bring some balance to the campus and that liberal piece of trash called the Daily Nebraskan. It is plain to see that the Daily Nebraskan, its editors and cartoonists are caught up in the doom and gloom of the politically correct.

Keep up the good work guys; the only thing that would make me happier than reading your columns in the Daily Nebraskan would be to see your columns in Lincoln's leftist liberal loony ledger — the Lincoln Journal-Star.

Bruce Wertz  
freshman  
general studies

#### Free speech

This letter is in regards to the violence that happened to one of the men who was preaching outside the student union on Tuesday.

Yes, I do believe in freedom of speech. I'll be one of the first people to admit that I, too, was yelling and ridiculing the men who were preaching. However, there comes a time when we have to draw the line between freedom of speech and violence.

While preaching, the man was grabbed by approximately four young men, who then proceeded to throw him in the fountain. He could have been injured.

I'm not saying we need to agree with these men who preach, or even remain quiet while they're talking, but let's not overstep the line. It's OK to yell and get up close to them without their permission, but let's also try to be semi-mature and get our points across without hurting others.

Out of all the young men who did this, only one had the decency to apologize. But that in no way makes up for what was done. Also, for all of us who were there and believe that what happened was wrong, I'd like to apologize to the man that this happened to.

Remember freedom of speech is acceptable, violence is not.

Tammy Timm  
freshman  
special education