

Daily
Nebraskan
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EDITORIAL

Only the start

Budget cuts make university less effective

The first thing people should realize about the budget cuts announced Wednesday by UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier is that they are only the beginning. They are the delayed continuation of what started last year with the hours of budget cut hearings and debates.

The administration should be commended for coming up with the newest list of budget cuts without the long, drawn-out process of last year. But the quiet attractiveness of the new method should not replace the value of outside input.

The process isn't over. All the eliminations, all the cutbacks and all the reductions handle only the 1.5 percent, \$2.2 million cut mandated last fall. They say nothing about the future cuts being considered by the Legislature right now.

They do say a lot about the future of the university, however.

They say that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is no longer such a good choice if a student wants to study theater or dance; the cuts reduced play productions and deleted a portion of the dance curriculum.

The budget cuts say that summer courses at UNL will no longer be as effective as they once were; the plan calls for larger classes and reduced compensation for the instructors.

They say, in effect, that the university is no longer able to help students the way it once did; the Academic Success Center and Writing Lab both fell casualty to the new cuts.

But on paper, the budget cuts are relatively easy to take. They are numbers, titles and bottom lines. They aren't people with faces and families, but that is exactly who these budget cuts affect.

The administration must be sure to consult them and the university students the next time the Legislature's ax falls.

Labor on

Chavez's cause must not be abandoned

Wednesday about 60 students, faculty and administrators gathered to pay tribute to civil rights advocate Cesar Chavez, who died Friday. The tribute, sponsored by UNL's Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, was held in front of the Nebraska Union and lasted more than an hour.

Chavez was famous for launching a drive to raise wages and improve economic conditions among Mexican-American farm workers in the 1960s. He stands as a symbol of the capacity individuals have in America to change their country.

Marty Ramirez, a counseling psychologist at the University Health Center, was one of nine speakers at the tribute.

"(Chavez) was not as articulate as Martin Luther King and not as educated as John F. Kennedy, but what he did for people puts him in that category," Ramirez said.

All speakers sounded a common note: the need to remember and carry on the work to which Chavez devoted his life.

Forgetting Chavez's work would be a terrible mistake. Part of the great tragedy in his passing is that there are so few individuals willing to work for social justice today. His death leaves a vacuum in human rights leadership that desperately needs to be filled.

It is important that we remember and celebrate Cesar Chavez and what he stood for. It is also important that we work to ensure that his legacy does not die.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1993 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.



TODD BURGER

Tradition and history important

Sunday my family went out to Hallam to help Grandma get to her church's centennial celebration.

Grandma was injured from a fall and wasn't sure if she could make it to the celebration. But she went, and she was glad she was able to witness this combination of history and present-day happenings together.

The program was full of songs from the past, which brought back a flood of memories for some audience members and created new memories for those too young or forgetful to remember the years gone by. A hundred years is a long time.

One lady impressively belted out the Depression-era standard, "Happy Days Are Here Again." Her demeanor was determined and a bit melancholic. Her big, confident voice reminded me of the gutsy style of Kate Smith singing "God Bless America."

Of course, as someone else commented, some of the emotion emitted in her performance could be attributed to the physical discomfort caused by her leg injury. She had to hobble up to the front with her crutches. If she was hurting, it only added to the determined courage in my eyes.

Children sang, and we listened. How much will they remember of this day, on which they helped bring history alive for their elders?

There were other entertainers who sang, but mostly in small groups. They had differing levels of singing ability that only added to the experience. Each freely contributed in his or her own way, unaffected by the rigorous demands of a professional performance.

"I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" was entertaining, but it would have been more pure for the audience had it not been co-opted by Coca-Cola.

One younger man sang better than average. He obviously had training



The food was roast beef, baked potatoes and green beans: stuff that real men and women ate, maybe even way back when. And then, they let us eat cake.

and talent. His long hair made him stand apart in a small-town setting where most men wouldn't permit their hair to grow past their collars.

Aside from the program of songs, there were memories in the church basement in the form of pictures, written accounts and documents. Originally, it was a German-speaking congregation because of the high number of immigrants who had populated the area. Grandma said they didn't get around to "speaking American" until the year before her confirmation. There's only one left, she thinks, from her class of six.

The ranks get thinned out when you're 80 years old.

I asked Grandma how she coped as a youngster when she couldn't understand the foreign-tongued church service.

She replied, matter-of-factly, "It was boring." But, still, her parents made her go. And she liked it.

Today, we seem to have lost that

unquestioning respect for authority. History puts into context our present-day doings. By having history, people have vital traditions to uphold. Religion, even if one denies it, is strong because of its tradition.

Church members were documenting the centennial observation itself by the light of their flash cameras. One guy even was using a video camera with a prolonged view, which bothered me. I find it hard to look dignified and act in my ordinary, mundane manner with a camera flashing in my face. It was fascinating to look at the historical mementos, but I found myself reluctant to be part of a memento in the making.

Looking back in time prompts me to also look to the future. What will they think of us 100 years from now? What are we as a community starting these days that will be worth commemorating with a heartfelt celebration?

We did get that wonderful Wal-Mart up and running this week in Lincoln. And it was well documented, with the ribbon cutting and all. Future shoppers may pay homage to us, who had the wisdom and thriftiness to have our discount dreams realized.

Alas, even if Wal-Mart is viable in old age, it won't have the meaning that a venerable church does to its members in a small community.

After the program, we went to the town's gymnasium to eat. The dinner was paid for by free-will offerings, made even more honorary because nobody was stationed to guard the money bowl. The food was roast beef, baked potatoes and green beans: stuff that real men and women ate, maybe even way back when. And then, they let us eat cake.

On Sunday an institution was made more relevant by celebrating its history. Tradition is validated by continuing onward.

Burger is a junior philosophy major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Seating

I would like to express my anger that the student seating at football games has been moved. It seems that the administration of this university, as in so many other ways, has lost sight of the students that attend it. While I would admit that football games at UNL have grown bigger than to be just for the student body, it is still our university. It should be our right to keep the seats that have been assigned to us in the past.

It is unfortunate that only two students wrote to (UNL Athletic Director) Bill Byrne about the planned

change of seating, but outside of the students groups that he attended, few that I know of had heard of the plan. Had I known about it, I would have written earlier.

I truly urge the university to consider this change. If you thought the student sections were rowdy when students had seats good enough to see the game, wait until you see us when we can't see the game from our seats.

Michael Bedke
international affairs
junior

Retraction

On behalf of the women of Alpha

Delta Pi:

Although we have a few members associated with the Students for America organization, we are not promoting the ideals of their newspaper as a house. We were unaware that our name was appearing in the first issue. We respect the right of individuals to hold and express their own opinions. Although all of our members are students "for America," we have different ways of supporting our country's diversity.

Kimberly Arvin
president
Alpha Delta Pi