

Daily
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EDITORIAL

Tuition quandaries

Five percent increase raises questions

The NU Board of Regents' unanimous approval last Saturday of a 5 percent tuition increase might cause some occasional grumbling from part of UNL's student body, but the raise is warranted if the extra fees go to helping save departments and university jobs.

But the question is will it?

The majority of students who will be affected by the increase will be resident undergraduates, whose tuition will go up from \$61.50 to \$64.50 per credit hour.

But the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is ranked 10th among its 11-member peer group in 1992-93 for basic cost of attendance, with only the University of Kansas being cheaper.

Overall last year, Nebraska was \$1085 less expensive in basic costs as compared to its fellow counterparts in the Midwest.

So UNL students' complaints about the upcoming tuition raise are unjustified.

Unless, of course, if departments continue to be cut and university employees continue to be eliminated.

With the recent cuts to several UNL departments and 36 faculty, administrative and support staff positions being eliminated at the end of the month, it would seem that funds created from the tuition increase could help not only save some of these areas, but future areas as well that will no doubt feel the blade of the budget-cutting axe in the near future.

True, the fees that will be generated from the tuition hike probably would not be able to save all departments from cuts or all of the employees from receiving their final UNL paychecks next week, but it could help alleviate some of the financial burden that are causing these cuts.

The Nebraska Legislature's recommendation in April for the tuition raise was believed to be a necessity to keep the high-quality of faculty and staff at the state's largest academic institution.

UNL student regent Keith Benes said at the regent meeting last weekend that "we're doing what we have to do to maintain the quality of programs at the university."

But in order for UNL's student body to see these tuition hikes as vital and justified, something positive and productive must come from them.

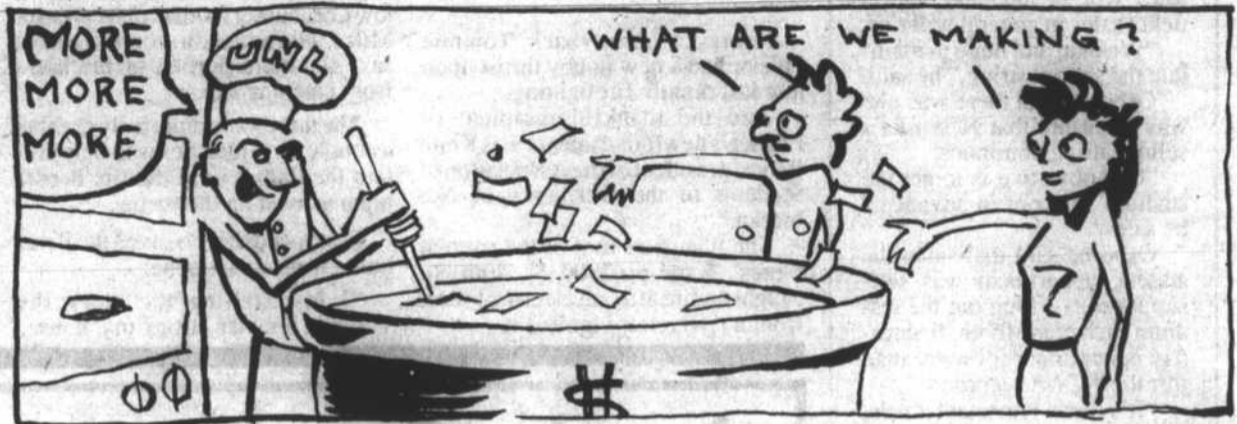
And cutting departments and firing employees on the eve of their implementation in the fall isn't the way to do it.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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SAM KEPFIELD

Hormones, not harassment

Teenagers looking lustfully at one another, making teasing remarks. Guys "accidentally" brushing against girls in the hallways. Both sexes grabbing one another. Sounds like the high school I went to 15 years ago. Sounds like any normal high school in America today, with normal teenagers.

But, now, horror of horrors, we learn that this activity, formerly attributed to racing hormones, is in fact the vilest form of behavior known to our society today, sexual harassment.

According to a study by the American Association of University Women, 85 percent of girls say they have experienced harassment. Surprisingly, 76 percent of boys said they had as well.

While praised by radical feminists as proving how girls are being oppressed by men, a closer look at the study shows that it is social science research at its worst, akin to studies showing blacks as genetically inferior to whites.

The AAUW cast its net far too broadly, including such things as being the subject of graffiti on restroom walls, or being looked at wrong. Defining mere looks or comments as sexual harassment does not fit the definition of real harassment. When all of the politically correct gobbledegook is taken away, the rates for being forced into unwanted sex are roughly the national average. Even then, it might be claimed that such behavior is sexual assault, but "date rape" is another can of worms.

Someone ought to take these researchers aside and shout a few words of common sense into their ears. IT'S HORMONES, NOT HARASSMENT!!

Adolescents are, by definition, incapable of thinking straight. That first powerful rush of hormones overrides all other brain processes. It's a left-over from more primitive days when



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a boy was a man at 15 and ready to procreate after killing his first wild beast, with no delayed development through high school.

And, notice if you will, it occurs on both sides. While 66 percent of boys admitted to this behavior, 52 percent of girls said they had sexually harassed others. But, of course, all we hear about in this study is how girls are affected, how they drop out because of low self-esteem aggravated by sexual harassment. Is it because boys are such brutish louts that they aren't affected?

The AAUW had an objective in mind when they began this study, and they worked backward from that to rationalize their findings. Nan Stein of Wellesley College, a big advocate of this sort of research, has called playground antics such as boys lifting up girls' skirts "gender terrorism," in politically correct/radical feminist lingo. Stein and the AAUW are part of what author Christina Hoff Summer called "the gender bias industry," people and organizations who exist

solely to find sexism, real or (mostly) imagined, and punish it.

The sad thing is that some schools already take this seriously. Listening to a group of counselors on "Nightline" detail their heroic rescue of a victim and the banishment of the tormentor to re-education, one almost thought they were making themselves out to be comic-book superheroes. I can see it now — the new Sensitivity Police Liberal Action Team (SPLAT) Comix from DC! If only this were a comic, then we could laugh at it.

Hannah Arendt once defined a totalitarian regime as one where the lines between public and private behavior are blurred. This seems a perfect description of what the AAUW and NOW are trying to do. They seek to publicly regulate every little nuance, every word, between the sexes to fit their own twisted agenda. Relations between the sexes are coming to resemble the elaborate court protocol of Louis XIV's court at Versailles.

If there is a problem, it's one of a general breakdown in order and discipline in schools and society. We bombard kids with sex on TV, in movies and in print all day long, and we claim to be surprised when they (or their hormones) act on those messages. Funny thing is, those who wanted to "liberate" speech and remove censorship are those who are now crying the loudest about its aftereffects.

Dan Quayle and Pat Buchanan were criticized about wanting to politicize private behavior — abortion and "reproduction." But this little bit of stupidity from the AAUW ought to show that the knife cuts the other way, that the totalitarian leanings of NOW and Big Mother are a far more pernicious threat to individual liberty.

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