

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

Fair trade

China deserved economic sanctions

The U.S. government finally came through Wednesday and did something it should have done long ago. The United States placed economic sanctions on China after concluding that Chinese companies had violated international arms control agreements by selling missile technology to Pakistan.

U.S. law requires that sanctions be applied for violations of the Missile Technology Control Regime, which bars the transfer of missiles with a range of more than 186 miles.

But China says the M-11 is not covered by this document and has not signed the agreement. However, the country had agreed to abide by the regulations to avoid trade sanctions.

The sanctions imposed Wednesday mean a two-year ban on exports of U.S. technology to China. This will cost American companies an estimated \$400 million to \$500 million.

U.S. leaders have contemplated issuing these sanctions for months. But this is not why this action is long overdue.

Sanctions should have been imposed about four years ago when Chinese government troops rolled tanks into Tiananmen Square, killing many Chinese students who were there because they wanted democratic reform and a voice in their government.

The United States should have shown its opposition to this blatantly inhumane act sooner. No government should be allowed to kill its own people.

But because our government did not protest this act with sanctions then, these new sanctions are all the more necessary.

And in a time where the global situation is unstable, it is obviously unsafe and dangerous to have powerful missile technology transferred randomly around the world. Pakistan could easily become involved in a conflict and the issue of whether these missiles were rightly and legally obtained would become important.

Iraq obtained Silkworm missiles from China. These missiles presented a threat to U.S. forces during the Gulf War. Continued sales of arms by China to other nations could further threaten U.S. troops in the future.

The sanctions may cost American companies some profit. But the dangers China has presented by selling missile technology, and the past wrongs China has committed in the Tiananmen Square killings, show sanctions were vital to punish China for its mistakes.

People's fort

Judge wronged Citadel student

In Charleston, S.C. this week, a battle is being fought that should have been won long ago.

A federal appeals court judge on Tuesday blocked a woman from enrolling at the Citadel until it hears more evidence on whether she should be allowed into the state-supported college.

A U.S. district judge had ruled earlier this month that the 18-year-old Shannon Faulkner could enroll in classes but not participate in the corps of cadets while her sex discrimination suit against the college was heard.

Now Faulkner will have to start over in her fight to attend the college. That is a miscarriage of justice.

Attending the state-supported Citadel is a right Faulkner deserves.

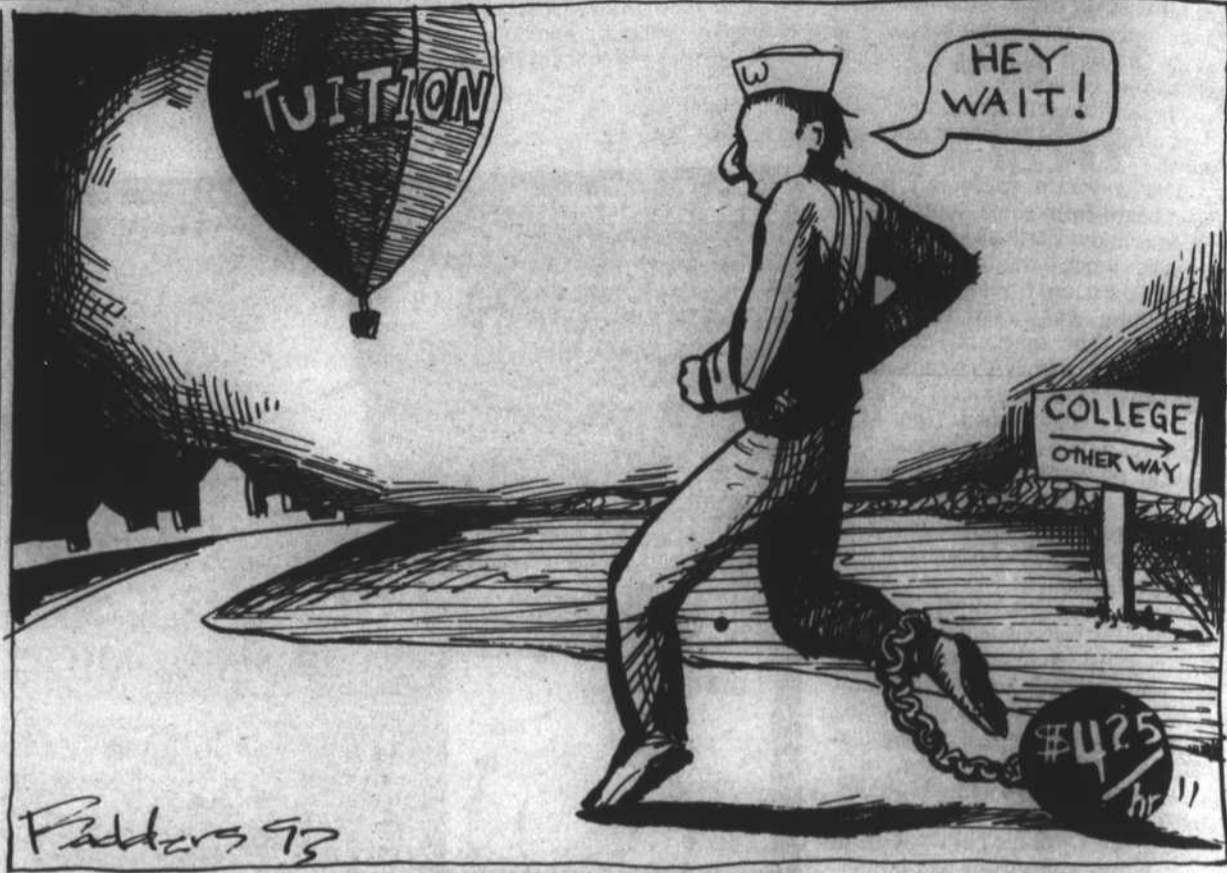
If the college was privately funded, the case would be different. But Faulkner has every right to attend a college that is supported by state tax dollars paid by both men and women.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 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.



MATT ZIMMERMAN

UNL needs student involvement

Those of you that have sufficiently recovered from back-to-school shock may have noticed the changes that have gone into effect over the summer. Yet again, the budget ax took a swipe at our lovely campus, and once again we'll be returning to a school that offers a bit less and is a bit less capable of performing its tasks.

You'd never know it, though, if you listened to the power players in this entertaining budget show. The newest budget cuts have been squashed! The university is saved! We finally have made a commitment to higher education!

Hardly. Everyone seemed to have conveniently forgotten the multi-million dollar cuts from '92-'93 that we were still on the hook for. The echo of self-congratulations from this great victory was deafening, but the real question was apparently drowned out: Where do we go from here?

Backpedaling is never a very effective way to move forward, but that's what we're trying to do. Chancellor Spanier made a comment earlier this year opposing the \$14 million of proposed cuts, saying "Any time you reduce the university's budget by a couple million dollars, we can't claim we're emerging as a better institution." How true. Nevertheless, we are doing remarkably little to regain the ground that has been lost in recent years.

A 5 percent increase in tuition is a good first step, but it is ridiculously inadequate. Essentially, it was a PR move designed to fool people into thinking something was truly being done.

The basic problem remains. Keeping tuition low is clearly a much greater priority than keeping the quality of education high. How could the \$14 million worth of proposed cuts have gotten as far as it did if this wasn't true?

It's nice to think that UNL should be able to provide a quality, big-university education at a low price to anyone in the state who wants it. One has to be realistic, though, and make some tough choices. The regents and the legislature apparently have decided that quality should be the first to go. I disagree.



It's a nice thought that UNL should be able to provide a quality, big-university education at a low price to anyone in the state who wants it. You have to be realistic, though, and make some tough choices.

Because of the recently implemented faculty cuts and loss or defunding of student support services like ADAPT, the Academic Success Center and the Writing Lab, many students will find it more difficult to make it through a degree program.

Not only will the top high school graduates see UNL as a less appealing institution because of lower quality and fewer programs, the average student will be more inclined to go to a school that provides more support and assistance. Ironically, the people who are supposed to gain the most from low tuition could actually end up being the ones turned off by it.

So who's to blame? Gov. Nelson? Maybe the Legislature? They certainly haven't helped matters much. It's easy to point the finger at them, and most people are doing just that. Unfortunately, they are just reflecting what the people of the state of Nebraska think.

Our government is not dedicated to higher education because its constituency isn't. I don't know how many times this summer I read or heard, "The university is the largest employer in the state, so you guys should take the biggest cuts." Disturbing sentiment from a populace that should realize its stake in the education of its children.

No, we can't blame the governmental higher-ups because I don't believe they think a problem exists. Enrollment remains high, tuition remains low. Everything's all right.

We need to look a little closer to home if we want to find a scapegoat for our problems. The source of all of the problems concerning budget cuts and the lack of funds, my fellow students, is you.

The obvious reason that Gov.

Nelson and the Legislature don't take our demands seriously is that we have no demands. When we want something, it's more like a whimpering request or a polite suggestion. The student body hasn't demanded a thing in all of the time I've been here.

A former lobbyist for the Government Liaison Committee remarked after the defeat of the recent cuts that "if students wouldn't have rallied, the \$14 million would have been closer to reality." Nice idea, but I would hardly call a march of 150 students, 0.6 percent of the student population, a groundswell of support and unity.

Don't get me wrong, I wholeheartedly applaud the marchers, the members of student government and the student lobbyists who stood up and fought for all of us. These people are, unfortunately, the extreme exception.


Get involved this year. If you are halfway serious about the future of this school, call Chancellor Graham Spanier and demand more tuition increases. We are paying unbelievably low amounts of money to attend this school in comparison to students at similar schools across the country. And besides, you tend to care more about something when you are paying the real price for it.

Don't let something like prayer at graduation be the most important issue in the student consciousness this semester. It already has been the last two semesters. Your future is at stake here. Whether or not you say a prayer at graduation will not have a significant impact on your future. Don't allow our current decline to continue, or you may be saying the same thing about your education.

Zimmerman is a junior English major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.



P.S. Write Back



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The Daily Nebraskan wants to hear from you. If you want to voice your opinion about an article that appears in the newspaper, let us know. Just write a brief letter to the editor and sign it (don't forget your student ID number) and mail it to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 'R' Street, Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, or stop by the office in the basement of the Nebraska Union and visit with us. We're all ears.