

OPINION

Friday, December 9, 1994

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Daily Nebraskan

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EDITORIAL

'Oh no, UNO'

Smith recommendation right for Nebraska

The wait is over.

Finally, after weeks of speculation, University of Nebraska President L. Dennis Smith announced his recommendations for the future of the state's engineering education.

For months, Smith skillfully avoided revealing his opinions on the debate about creating a separate engineering college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

But Smith disclosed Thursday his recommendations about engineering education in a report to the NU Board of Regents.

What Smith says is needed: \$3.35 million to correct current deficiencies in facilities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and UNO, and a permanent increased expenditure of more than \$1.5 million to meet the state's engineering education needs.

What Smith says is not needed: an independent engineering college at UNO.

Smith, in his first year as NU president, has proposed sensible solutions to Nebraska's problem of engineering education needs that are not being met.

The Daily Nebraskan commends Smith for not giving in to a powerful Omaha lobby that has been crusading for a separate college in Omaha, no matter the cost.

Regent Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha, a leading proponent of creating a UNO engineering college, called Smith's report a "big-time disappointment."

Of course it was, considering only one result would have satisfied Skrupa.

"It's going to keep us in a North Dakota syndrome," she said. "We're back to the cows and corn economy."

That comment speaks poorly of a Nebraska education leader.

It is unfortunate that the resolution of this issue will come just more than one month after Skrupa was re-elected to a second (and, she said, her last) term as regent.

Nebraskans now must weather these six years, in which she will continue to put her personal agenda above the best interests of the University of Nebraska.

However, Skrupa said one thing Thursday that probably is true — that the money pledged by Omaha business leaders to defray part of the cost for a UNO college will vanish.

Exactly.

David Sokol and his cronies are not serious about improving Nebraska's engineering education. An Omaha college would, in effect, serve them.

It must be remembered that these were businessmen who "wanted to help." But they only wanted to help themselves. A small initial pledge for an Omaha college certainly would have done that in the long run.

And Nebraska taxpayers and tuition-payers would have been left to supply the money that would run the unneeded college.

And that is what is at the heart of the issue — an Omaha engineering college is not needed.

Yes, it would be nice if UNO had its own engineering college. But in these times of tight budgets, wants must give way to needs. And when UNL's engineering college runs under capacity, a UNO college cannot be justified.

The facts tell the story.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1994 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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'What if'

In response to Aaron Sandlin's letter (DN, Dec. 7, 1994), I thought he needed to be reminded that the officers involved were acting in an official capacity. Also, here is a great "what if" question to ask "Deputy Dan." What if a man swings at a colleague of yours and then starts to fight with your colleague and you fight back to help him? It's called self defense.

You are speaking from the context that the police officers just walked up and started beating up Renteria for no reason. That's not what happened. By the way, you said you hated the law and what police officers stood for. Well, if that's the case, why are you living in this country, attending UNL and working in America?

Think about everything we have in this country, then imagine what it would be like without law enforcement or the fire department or the law, period. What kind of job do you do? Every time you go to work, do you face the chance that you may not come home alive? Do you run into burning buildings to save people? Do you have to wear a gun and a bullet-proof vest to protect you while you work?

What have you contributed to society that allows you to criticize public safety officials who greatly contribute to the way of life we enjoy today. Police officers stand for protection, piece of mind, honesty, integrity, peace keeping, the law and, most importantly, the Constitution of the United States. You hate these things?

Rick Task
senior
criminal justice



James Mehling/DN

Kudos

I am about sick and tired of everyone writing in and bashing the columns penned by Jamie Karl and Shane Tucker. I have not seen one letter yet published that supports these fellows in their efforts to get people to think with traditional common sense.

I faithfully read their columns and more often than not find myself cheering their courage to take a stand for what they believe in and for what about 60 percent of the student body believes in. I mean, c'mon, this is Nebraska, one of the few remaining states where family values and the Bible remain the most important elements to the majority of the people.

I feel that the views of Tucker and Karl are finally giving the majority of the student body equal representation in the Daily Nebraskan.

Brian Butry
sophomore
broadcasting

Forced resignation

As a faculty member in the Departments of Civil Engineering and Biological Systems Engineering and a concerned citizen of the state of Nebraska, I am truly saddened and extremely disappointed by the forced resignation of Dr. Stanley R. Liberty, dean of the college of engineering and technology.

Indeed it is a travesty when individuals with as much energy and enthusiasm for engineering and technology education as Stan Liberty must be sacrificed, clearly, to appease parochial political interest. Under Stan Liberty's leadership, the college faculty have worked very diligently to expand and improve the research base of the college, to develop an enviable engineering and technology curriculum and to expand the outreach and extension activities to the entire state.

The accomplishments of the college in all areas of service to the state have been numerous and notable. I am indeed very proud to have been associated with that effort. In fact, as of Wednesday, the college of engineering and technology stood at a historic peak of productivity.

When such effort and hard work is acknowledged in the manner of removing the person that has been leading such effort, I am afraid that the esprit de corps of the entire faculty is at stake. I find the decision to remove Stan Liberty from the deanship of the college of engineering and technology to be a demoralizing one and surely will not serve the best interests of engineering education in this state.

M.F. Dahab
UNL associate professor
civil engineering

P.S. Write Back

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.