

# OPINION PACKETS

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## Dollars and sense

*College costs match success with debt*

From the staff at The New Hampshire at the University of New Hampshire.

DURHAM, N.H. (U-WIRE) — Soon, most of you will be up to your ears in debt.

A national survey released last week said the average student's debt has more than doubled in the past six years, mostly because of higher tuition and a switch in financial aid from grants to loans.

This isn't good for those of you who will watch much of your hard-earned paycheck get used, not for food and clothes and the necessities, but to pay off the bills you accumulated during the four (or more) years you spent in college.

Of course, the ramifications of this development are numerous. Students will put off buying a house or a new car.

But students won't be the only ones to feel the heat. Parents will be forced to make some changes while their children have to fork over thousands after they graduate. Graduates will look for jobs closer to home so they can live with Ma and Pa for a couple of years.

Back in 1991, the average student debt was \$8,200. Now, it's \$18,800. Fifteen years ago, 41.4 percent of financial aid came from federal loans, 54.6 percent from federal grants. Now, federal loans make up 58.9 percent, while federal grants make up 39.7 percent of financial aid. (The remaining 1.4 percent comes from other sources.)

Times are changing.

And while the ridiculous rise in tuition is part of the problem, federal support is also responsible. Of course, we go to school in a state that pays so little attention to the problem of money for education that it is almost embarrassing.

And while the situation is changing, it's not going to help the people who are going to school right now. Gov. Jeanne Shaheen is trying to push things in the right direction, but a lot needs to be done.

Over the summer, the University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees passed a 14 percent in-state tuition increase, the largest in about a decade. Now, every full-time, in-state UNH student pays \$580 a year more in tuition than he or she did last year, even though even the most fervent UNH supporter will admit the education we're receiving this year is not \$580 better than the education we received last year. Inflation is one thing, but it just doesn't add up.

High tuition is a great way for the rich to get richer, while the poor get poorer. A lot of poor, hard-working 18-year-olds can't go to college because they know they'll never be able to pay off all the debt that would accumulate.

Meanwhile, there are some lazy rich kids who float through high school, then have Ma and Pa foot the bill for college. Sure, the chain can be broken, but the odds are stacked against it.

The most ironic thing is that it's society that demands us to get an education in order to be successful. At the same time, it's also demanding us to put ourselves in debt. Is this the way it should be in the freest country in the world?

Well, that's the way it is right now.

*Haney's*  
**VIEW**



*DN*  
**VIEW**

**For sale: cheap**

I read of the exclusive marketing contract between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and PepsiCo in the "Reporter," the newsletter of the University of Nebraska Foundation.

Corporate sponsors should support universities for what they do, not for what they promise not to do. Raising funds through restriction of choice runs counter to what universities are about, that of being forums for free and open exchange of information and ideas.

In the "Reporter" article, Brenda Barnes, president and chief executive officer of Pepsi-Cola North America, is quoted as saying "UNL is clearly a crown jewel among the nation's state university systems." UNL is a good university, maybe a great university, but it is not a crown jewel. The money flows, and the hyperbole begins. The fact that the editors of the "Reporter" chose to print Barnes' quote indicates that respect for truth is already an early victim of the PepsiCo deal.

What is UNL providing PepsiCo for about \$2 million a year for the next 12 years? The opportunity to imprint on the buying habits of students for the rest of their lives. Imprinting is what universities are about, but historically this serious business has been entrusted to professors, not soft drink distributors. At \$2 million a year, this sacred trust has been sold cheap.

Ron Struss  
Eau Claire, Wis.

**Damn it, Janet**

I would like to express my severe disdain for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in its decision to



MATT HANEY/DN

cancel the Halloween midnight showing of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" at the Culture Center for no apparent reason whatsoever.

Like many others, I spent plenty of time getting ready and all dressed up to go have a good and sober time. I was quite angered to find that cancellation notice posted on the door.

Granted, "Rocky Horror" is a little risqué (transvestites, bisexuals, Meatloaf) to these good ol' Midwestern folk, but with all the many posters about down with homophobia and discrimination round campus, isn't it blatantly hypocritical of the university to cancel "Rocky" on the basis that it's "not suitable for UNL students?"

And isn't the university devoted to promoting healthy, sober alternatives to the frat parties and all the drinking involved? So why cancel an event that would kill two birds with one stone?

I spoke to many people who, when they learned the show was canceled, went immediately to someone's house to get drunk, for lack of anything better to do on a Friday night.

That doesn't reflect back well onto the university either, does it?

Kelly Romanski  
freshman  
news-editorial

**Due credit?**

In the latest edition of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln staff newsletter, "The Scarlet," Chancellor Moeser praises the university landscaping staff for its hard work in clearing off the campus after the terrible storm we just witnessed.

What I would like to know is if the chancellor has any intention of honoring the many fraternity brothers who banded together and helped out so many people on and off campus who were in trouble because of downed trees and other weather-related maladies.

It is unfortunate the public must rely on local news coverage of these heroes because the head of the university refuses to notice them. Could it be because they are supposed to be a bunch of drunk, stupid, woman-degrading punks? It's sad that with all the good fraternities do for this community and communities around the world they only get press when some politically important tragedy strikes them internally.

Jason Fredrick  
UNL film/video  
producer/director

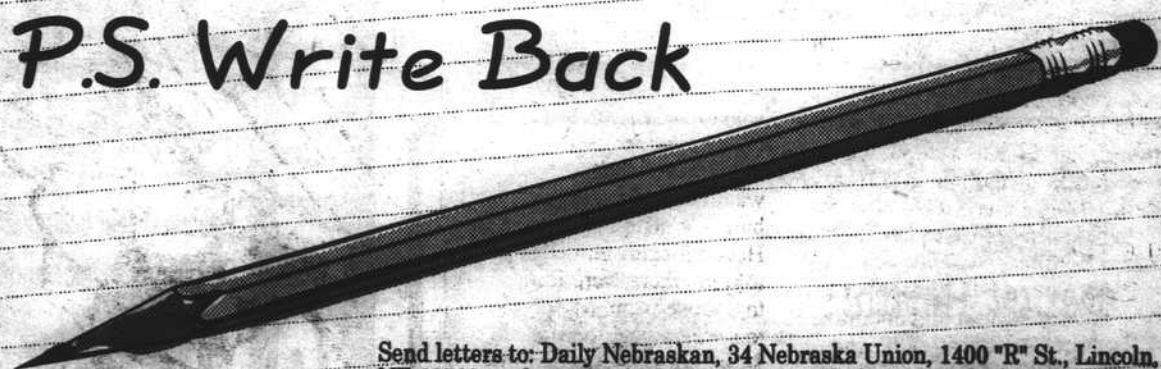
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