

OPINION PACES

EDITOR
Paula Lavigne

OPINION EDITOR
Matthew Waite

EDITORIAL BOARD
Erin Gibson
Joshua Gillin
Jeff Randall
Julie Sobczyk
Ryan Soderlin

Our VIEW

Education financing Fee increases raise question of necessity

From the Daily Texan
University of Texas at Austin

AUSTIN, Texas (U-WIRE) — Harvard graduates, sometimes described as smug, often quip that there are two kinds of people in the world: Harvard graduates and those who only wish they were. This arrogance has encouraged stereotypes of Harvard, but one aspect of Harvard that cannot be contested is its price.

Last week, Neil Rudenstine, Harvard's president, addressed this issue with a curious statement.

"Financial aid based on need is the most direct, effective, cost-effective and economically practicable way to reduce the net cost of college for many students," he told the National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education.

Harvard's deans set tuition and fees, which is much more decentralized than other universities. During Rudenstine's presidency, the rate of tuition increase has declined — of course, that means that costs are still rising. And it doesn't change the fact that Harvard is one of the nation's most expensive institutions.

It hasn't occurred to Rudenstine to address why students need the money in the first place: Higher education is too expensive. Administrators would rather offset the cost by encouraging government largesse than adopting other solutions, like lowering of fees and tuition. Sadly, this dependence on government funds is not confined to the Ivy League.

Here at the university, it has become fashionable to blame legislative parsimony for tuition and fee increases. UT administrators, rather than cutting or rerouting existing funds, demand more state money — and they quarrel when legislators do not honor those demands. So long as administrators refuse to cut or curb existing spending, the price of higher education will continue to rise. As students struggle to get by with part-time jobs and administrators attempt to beckon the disadvantaged, the university must address its own costs.

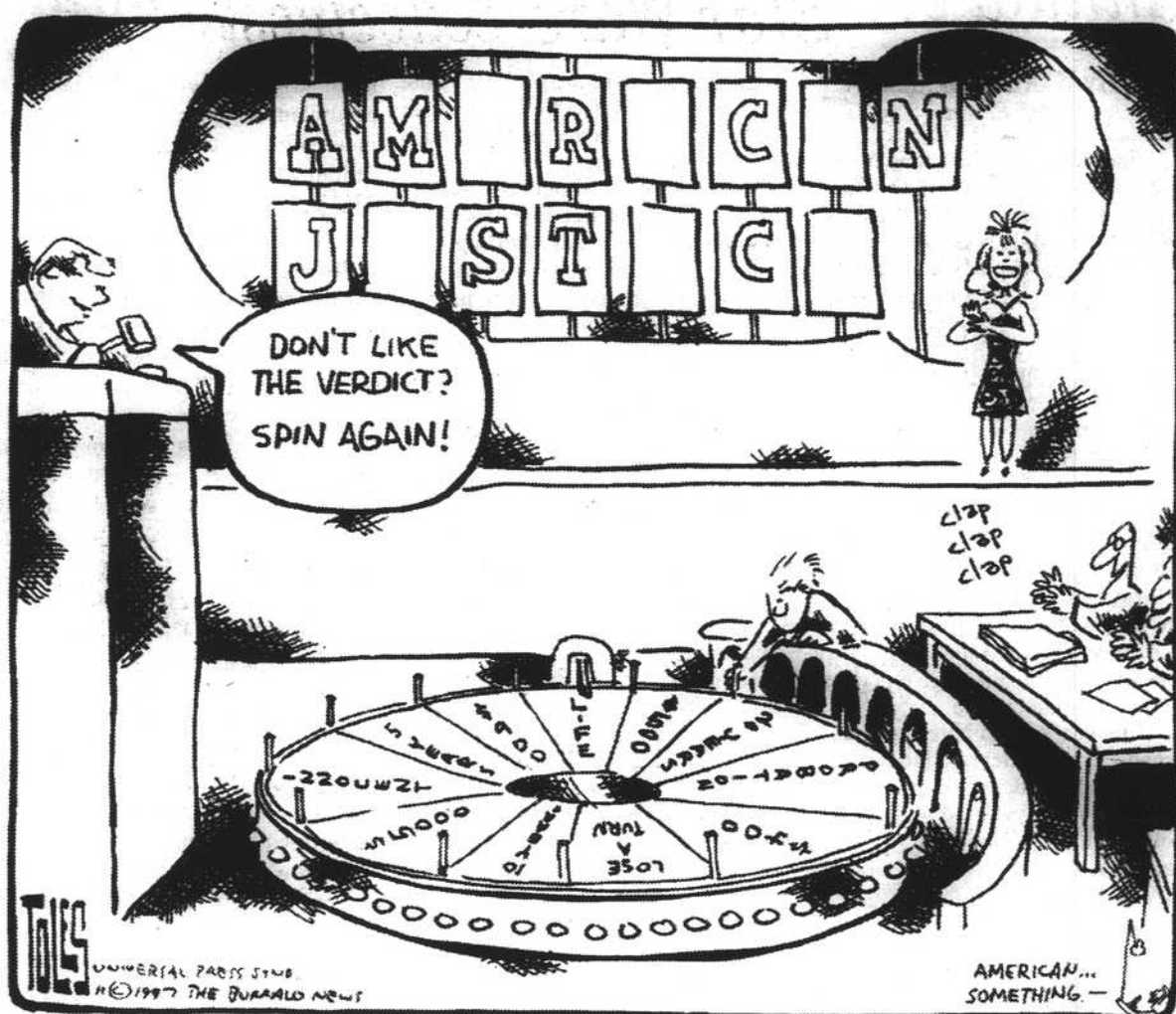
Fee increases stem from the obsession with "student services," which began as amenities and are now perceived as entitlements; the health center, student legal services and are now perceived as entitlements; the health center, student legal services and the recreation center serve as excellent examples.

In its attempt to declare its independence from the community, the university offers everything from counseling to weights.

As the cost of an education rises, should the university provide these services?

Administrators must realize that the purpose of the university is to provide an affordable education — not an engineered utopia.

Cartoonist's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Come forward

The Chancellor's Commission on the Status of People of Color is disturbed by the Academic Senate's vote against observing Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a formal UNL holiday.

Citing superficial reasons for rejecting the King holiday and a proposal for focusing on King during classes, we have once again missed an opportunity to send a positive message to our students and to the citizens of Nebraska, and have sent instead a rather dismal message to the many people of color and others at UNL — of insensitivity and lack of commitment towards diversity by this university.

We challenge all university administration, faculty and students to focus their attention to this unfortunate event and to consider its implications. Adopting King's birthday as a campus holiday would free all members of the university to attend commemorations and presentations honoring King and fostering his universal message of nonviolent social change.

A King holiday at UNL, moreover, would go a long way to signal a much needed genuine commitment by this institution to diversity and inclusion. We hope, as Mrs. King said, that all members of this institution — students, administration, staff, and faculty, "come forward."

Patrick Nickoletti
and Rodrigo Cantarero
Co-chairmen of the
Chancellor's Committee on the
Status of People of Color

Well allow me to retort

Although the MU-Nebraska game was a week ago, after reading the letters from Nebraska fans in our student paper, I felt I had to respond.

There has been a lot of criticism from the Nebraska fans, and even from our own fans, about the way Mizzou fans acted after the game last weekend. Every letter I have seen talks about the courteousness of the Nebraska fans after their victory. However, I am forced to say I did not witness much of this in the wake of what was for us, a heart-wrenching loss.

I am a member of Marching Mizzou and perhaps we received more than our fair share of taunting from the Husker fans because we are easy to pick out. We had one person with a cowbell who shouted mindless criticisms of our team. Another fan taunted a friend of mine, eliciting a frightening reaction. We also had fans cut through the area in front of the band and under the conductors' ladder. They pushed through without bothering to apologize.

Finally, during our pre-game show, we play our school alma mater, "Old Missouri." All students and alumni stand and remove their hats while we perform. It is a solemn moment and the stadium is usually extremely quiet, except for people singing. However, last week there were Nebraska fans yelling "Go Big Red" loudly enough for me to hear on the football field. That's really tacky, guys. It may not be your school song or have any special meaning to you, but at least respect us and be quiet.

I don't think MU holds a monopoly on bad behavior during and after last week's game. I do want to particularly congratulate the NU band. We have played host to several bands this

season, and you were one of the best. The last one that came was both annoying and of poor quality. You guys didn't bring cowbells and you knew more than one song. It was a much better experience than some of our other games.

Jennie Coughlin
University of Missouri-
Columbia

Stayin' alive

After reading the feature on raves in the Nov. 11 DN, and watching video clips of raves on television, I felt an odd, Twilight Zone-like unease steal over me.

Am I the only late-'70s UNL alumnus to recognize the unholy ghost of disco rising from its well-deserved grave?

Am I the only one who recognizes that familiar thump, thump, thump? The light shows? The sexual posing and preening?

Am I the only one who thought that "Saturday Night Fever" was actually a pretty depressing film because John Travolta's character was a such a sorry, dim bulb trying to shine in a grim and shallow circle of club hopping and tacky sex?

The joke got pretty old in a hurry, back then, and I suspect all of us who ever went to "Uncle Sams" on Friday nights will probably deny it, and will quickly change the subject.

I turn 40 in a couple of weeks, and I sit and ponder what a wonderful thing cultural amnesia is, and remember what it was to be young without the sense to be embarrassed.

Paul Marxhausen
Engineering Electronics Shop

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials are the opinions of the Fall 1997 Daily Nebraskan. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, its employees, its student body or the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. A column is solely the opinion of its author. The Board of Regents serves as publisher of the Daily Nebraskan; policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. The UNL Publications Board, established by the regents, supervises the 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 student employees.

Letter Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor and guest columns, but does not guarantee their publication. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Submitted material becomes property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Those who submit letters must identify themselves by name, year in school, major and/or group affiliation, if any. Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. E-mail: letters@unlinfo.unl.edu.

P.S. Write Back

Send letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 "R" St., Lincoln, NE 68588, or fax to (402) 472-1761, or e-mail <letters@unlinfo.unl.edu>. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification.