

OPINION PACKETS

Our VIEW

Cap the lid

Restrictive initiative trouble for students

UNL's main focus in the future could be scraping for money to make ends meet, not striving to become better, if big business has its way in November.

If passed, Initiative 413 - a proposed amendment to the state constitution - could cut 20 percent from university budgets according to University of Nebraska estimates.

Entire programs could be eliminated from the curriculum, and university officials have predicted tuition would rise dramatically.

The amendment would limit the amount of tax dollars the state could take in each year - effectively capping state spending at current levels, with small adjustments made each year for inflation.

But so far, only a small group of students has banded together to fight the tax lid that would put a major fork in the road of UNL's planned path to greatness.

Students Against the Lid, a group that has formed under the leadership of student government President Sara Russell, is fighting hard to get students to join forces against the amendment.

At a rally against the lid Saturday in Omaha, U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey said the amendment would have negative effects not only on education, but also on health care and other public services.

He said educating the voting public about the amendment's effects would be the key factor in swinging the large and important undecided vote.

An Omaha World-Herald poll released Tuesday showed 26 percent of Nebraskans were still undecided on how they would vote on the amendment.

With 41 percent of those polled in favor of the amendment and 33 percent of those polled against it, Kerrey's call to action must not fall on deaf ears - students and others affected by the lid must organize and publicize the lid's devastating effects.

Citizens for Nebraska's Future, a thinly disguised group of big businesses supporting the lid, contends that the amendment would not harm education, and would be a needed break for taxpayers.

But a state that recently has had surpluses in its coffers is not taking advantage of its prosperity to improve its services.

The University of Nebraska is consistently underfunded as administrators struggle to use meager means to compete with richer peer institutions.

The proposed lid will only make UNL's financial situation worse and will cripple its efforts to improve.

Students must rally against this initiative to save the university from terminal mediocrity. And to save their pocketbooks.

Start by attending today's Students Against the Lid meeting at 5 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Mook's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Street sense

I don't believe I have a cold heart. Well, maybe I do, but that's not the issue. My issue is that I'm annoyed. Wednesday's front page human interest spread on "Habitat for Humanity" showed a student subjecting herself to the life of a homeless person.

This is nothing but misplaced effort and a degradation to the truly homeless. I have spoken to homeless persons who are dismayed at this method of bringing attention to their "cause." Living in a box for several hours on a street corner or "playing" homeless only points to the lack of dignity we as a society show to the homeless.

Once you're back in your dorm room warming some Top Ramen in your microwave, drying yourself from your warm shower, and calling friends to make plans for the rest of the evening on O Street, the game's over.

I doubt if society would approve if students took turns wearing a sign on a street corner that read, "Hi, I'm gay," or used costume clothes to illicit the appearance of being severely overweight. The fact is, you only mock the homeless by pretending to understand their plight.

My point - I would be offended if my situation in life were used as a billboard to draw sympathy by persons who never can and never will know that situation intimately. Magnify that and imagine the indignation a homeless person may feel walking along the street and seeing a student taking her one-hour turn at playing homeless. It's a sad state when one's social conscious can be appeased by spending an hour in a box.

Eric T. Sanford
College of Law

Very homeless

On Tuesday, the Union Board approved a policy which restricts access to the northwest study lounge to those with a UNL ID after 6 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.

Nebraska Unions Director Daryl Swanson has said repeatedly that the union is safe. But his justification for this policy Tuesday was, in part, safety. Apparently non-students, such as my mom, are a threat to safety.

Of course, if you have a UNL ID, you may attack anyone who does not in the northwest study lounge after 6 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. I feel safe now, don't you?

Anyone who would propose and approve this policy in order to make the union safe has got to be an idiot.

The real reason for this policy is to

keep the homeless away from students in the study lounge at night. The homeless, you see, make some people uncomfortable and nervous.

America has tried this kind of thing before, of course. City buses, like the union, are public property. African Americans were once forced to sit in the back of the bus because they made whites uncomfortable and nervous. And I thought Americans didn't do this sort of thing any more.

Not only has the Union Board done an idiotic thing, it has done an immortal thing. And Swanson was there to make sure that they approved this policy, doing whatever was necessary to push it through, including contradicting himself.

The board will meet again before Thanksgiving to evaluate the policy. I urge you to show up and write letters. Perhaps we can persuade the board that this policy is rotten in spite of Swanson's rhetoric.

Rodney Cupp
graduate student
philosophy

Get God now!

As a born-again Christian, I felt compelled to respond to the hysteria of last week as well as the articles written on Wednesday in the Daily Nebraskan.

Let me first say that I appreciated the article written by Adam Klinker. The true message of Christianity is, as Adam said, "faith, compassion, love and forgiveness." Many of you who are reading this letter had the opportunity to listen to "Brother Jed" and others

like to point out that Jed does not represent what a true relationship with Jesus Christ is all about. Jed made many erroneous comments about Christianity. Two of his comments I find very important to refute.

First of all, he made the statement that once someone becomes a Christian they no longer sin and are therefore perfect. That is absolutely false!! Comments such as that one lead to the belief that all believers see themselves as better than everyone else. God tells us that "all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God." As a Christian I have the ability, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to not sin. That does not mean that I will always choose to do what is right. Believers still struggle with sin.

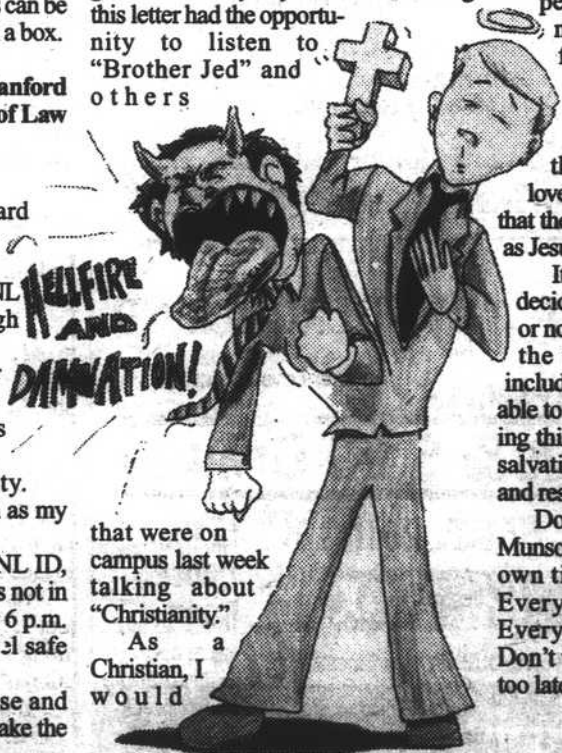
The second incorrect idea brought up by Jed is the idea that it is his or any other Christian's responsibility to judge whether people are going to heaven. This is where a lot of people like to jump on the "God is love" bandwagon. Yes, God is love, but He is also a God of vengeance. If God was not a God of love, every person that has ever lived would spend eternity in hell. But, by God's grace and love, He sent His only son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross to pay the penalty for sin. That is the ultimate expression of love.

There is a flip side, however. Even though He is a God of love, He also makes it clear what is not acceptable. Just because He loves, does not mean that everyone from any lifestyle will be allowed into heaven. Yes, Jesus paid the penalty for sin, but that free gift must be accepted by repentance from sin and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. It does not mean, as Jed says, that you will be perfect for the rest of your life. It means that you are so thankful for the love that Jesus Christ has shown you that the goal of your life is to be perfect as Jesus Christ is perfect.

It is NOT my job as a Christian to decide whether you will go to heaven or not, but it is my job to let you know the truths of Scripture and that includes that things that are unacceptable to God. I urge anyone who is reading this letter to accept the free gift of salvation offered to you, by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Do NOT follow the words of Todd Munson and try to find religion on your own time, when it is right for you. Everyone has a need for a savior. Everyone has that need right now! Don't wait, because tomorrow may be too late!

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Teachers College
junior



MELANIE FALK/DN

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