

OPINION PAGES

EDITOR
Erin Gibson

OPINION EDITOR
Cliff Hicks

EDITORIAL BOARD
Nancy Christensen
Brad Davis
Sam McKewon
Jeff Randall
Bret Schulte

Our VIEW

Silent statement

With a budget cut, UPC is forced to make choices

Faced with a budget cut, choices must be made.

The Committee for Fees Allocation sent a clear message to some student fee users Tuesday: Do more with less.

Though CFA pledged earlier this semester to hold the line on spending, it voted Tuesday to increase student fees \$14, raising fees from \$240 to \$254 each semester.

Part of the increase was because of a state-mandated 4 percent salary increase pending in the Legislature.

Each year, a group of students forms the CFA, and pours over the budgets of fund-using organizations. The group is sometimes forced to make difficult budget cuts.

Most fee-using organizations, including Campus Recreation and the Daily Nebraskan, provide stellar services for what they receive.

Some fee users, however, could follow the way of big-business, and "downsize" to trim costs.

Both the University Program Council and Student Involvement were denied parts of their budget increase requests.

UPC's budget increase request was cut 10 percent Tuesday, which one CFA member said would force the programming group to evaluate which shows and musical acts are most important and popular.

JEFF WOODWARD
CFA member

CFA didn't deny the increase to be malicious, but instead it realized that UPC needed to, well, get its acts together.

"I don't want UPC to go away," CFA member Jeff Woodford said. "I want them to shape up."

Often, UPC members say the organization doesn't have enough money to lure big-name acts to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

It's indisputable that Lincoln doesn't quite have the reputation in the entertainment world of Lawrence, Kan., or Ames, Iowa, but the programming council certainly can draw more than a washed-up rap group once a year.

With its pared-down budget, the Daily Nebraskan agrees with CFA, and charges UPC to bring students more for less.

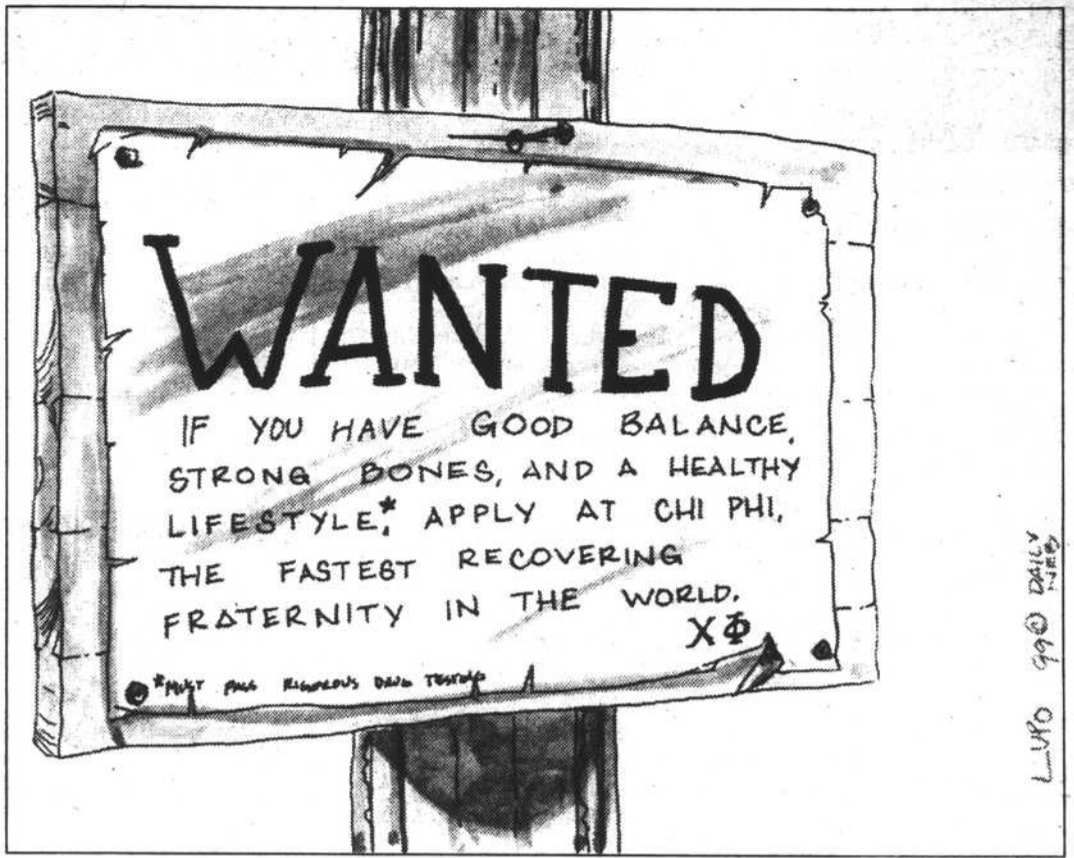
While it's important to bring musical acts, comedy shows and plays that aren't of Top-40 popularity, it's also possible for UPC to cut down on smaller shows and put more money toward a few bigger ones.

Few students attend small concerts in The Crib, and frankly, a concert during the mid-afternoon can be annoying to students hungry for a quiet place to study.

UPC's events aren't a total bust, with appearances by old-school rap group Run DMC, Simpsons animation director David Silverman and MTV's Loveline topping the list of student favorites.

The organization should build on these successes and put more money toward programming of its caliber - programming that people actually attend and enjoy.

Lupo's VIEW



DN LETTERS

So you say ...

Throw out the political parties, "convicted" or "acquitted," and let's get down to the heart of the matter. The problem is the decision-making of William Jefferson Clinton. It makes absolutely no difference whether what he actually did is our business or not. He made many decisions out of totally selfish motives (which he has admitted to) and that reflects on him as a person. We DO have a right to know about the character and integrity of a man who can affect the entire world with one statement.

How can any justification be found in saying it was all right for Clinton to lie because the question shouldn't have been asked? That's like saying it's OK to kill somebody because you don't think they should own a gun! There is no correlation between the two whatsoever. Also, is it any solace that Clinton is morally in the bottom third of the people in this country? According to the polls cited in "Our View" (2/15), two out of three people in the U.S. think it's allowable to cheat on your spouse as long as you don't lie about it!

If Clinton is truly sorry for what he did, then it was good of him to apologize. However, that doesn't change the fact that he is not above the law. In America, there is supposed to be "justice for all," even the president.

Jayson Bishop
sophomore
computer engineering
Jeff Hemje

sophomore electrical engineering

Suspicious facts?

I am writing in response to Mr. Peterson's column "Suicidal tendencies" (Feb. 12). In it, he states that in the Netherlands "babies born with Down's syndrome and spina bifida are now routinely euthanized." This statement is false and defaming to the people of the Netherlands. In my country, babies are never euthanized, regardless of their condition at birth. Under Dutch law, such an act would be considered murder, and those guilty of it would be punished accordingly.

I feel deeply offended by Mr. Peterson's portrayal of my country as a place where newborns are "routinely" killed according to the whims of parents or doctors.

Considering Mr. Peterson is a news-editorial major, he should be careful to verify the source of information before allowing his columns to be published.

Sander Arendsen
department of biochemistry

Contesting assertions

I want to compliment Matt Peterson on his column on euthanasia. I agree with part of his conclusion that death should not be ruled out as a final option for those in severe physical pain.

However, I am disturbed by what Peterson writes about the euthanasia policy in my country, the Netherlands.

The allegation that babies born with Down's syndrome and spina bifida are routinely euthanized in the Netherlands is false. Peterson's information is coming from unreliable anti-euthanasia Web sites such as http://www.worldmag.com/world/issue/05-23-98/cover_1.asp.

The accusation that comatose patients have sometimes been put to death in our country without individual or familial consent is, at least, one-sided.

Euthanasia is illegal in the Netherlands. However, doctors are not prosecuted for it if the patient is in hopeless and intolerable pain, if the patient has voluntary and well-considered given permission and if at least two doctors agree on the procedure.

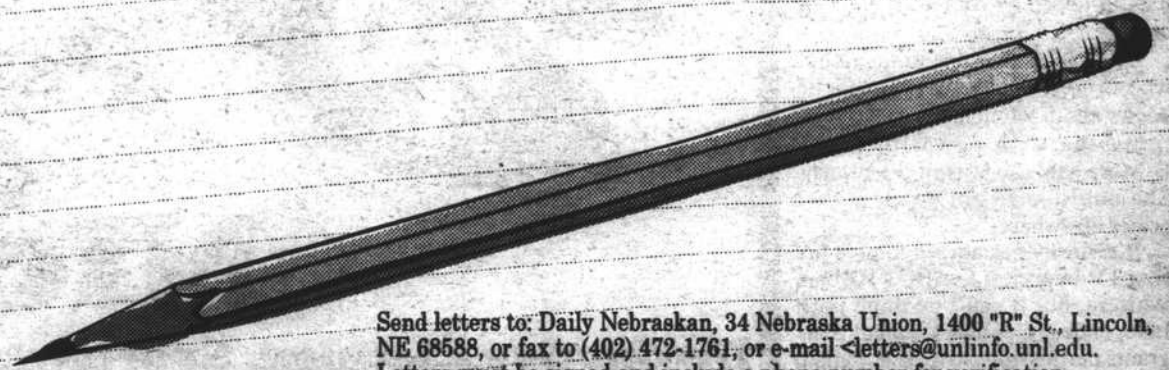
My country has adopted this policy to prevent situations like the shooting of his terminally ill wife by the 74-year-old Nebraskan Bob Olrich.

In the Netherlands, people can say goodbye for eternity to their terminally ill and suffering loved ones in a more human way.

Richard Luyken
finance
graduate student
exchange student in finance
from the Netherlands

Editor's note: The information for the column "Suicidal tendencies" has been called "suspect" by more than one letter writer, so the locations from which the columnist took his information are presented here: <http://www.ohiolife.org/euth/neth-hist.htm> and <http://www.chninternational.com/chninfo3.htm>.

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.

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials are the opinions of the Spring 1999 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.