

# OPINION PAGES

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*Our*  
**VIEW**

## Pocketful of change

*UNL student fee policy makes sense*

Here's our 2 cents – and you can have it back.

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear a case today involving the use of student fees.

At issue is whether public universities should be able to use mandatory student fees to subsidize campus groups that pursue political goals.

We don't really care how the court decides, and neither does the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

It won't much affect any of us.

UNL decided nearly 20 years ago that students who disagree with the public forums their student fees subsidize should be able to get their money back.

As a result, students can decide to give up their subscription to the Daily Nebraskan or forgo events sponsored by the University Program Council, for instance.

In return, they will get a pocketful of change – in the cases mentioned above, the grand total would reach \$3.83, to be exact.

That may not seem like much but, for some people, it's the thought that counts.

This was true for Scott Southworth, a law student at the University of Wisconsin. Southworth brought the original suit against the school. For him, the effort to get a small fee back made a big statement.

Southworth sued the university, saying the \$15 per semester fee that helped fund liberal campus groups forced conservative students to subsidize political views with which they disagreed.

Spokespeople from the University of Wisconsin defended using fees to subsidize campus groups.

The groups the fees subsidize bring forward issues that wouldn't otherwise be discussed, they said.

This isn't the case at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Controversial speakers who come to campus are often sponsored by groups that use their own means to fund them.

There are some cases where the University Program Council will cosponsor speakers that might lean to the political left or right.

But students who disagree with the use can get their money back – and maybe buy a Whopper.

Most likely, students won't take the time to get the refunds back. Less than 1 percent at UNL take the time to do it.

If other colleges and universities adopt the same policy, regardless of the Supreme Court's findings, they will likely find their forum remains intact.

And students will feel better about the deal.

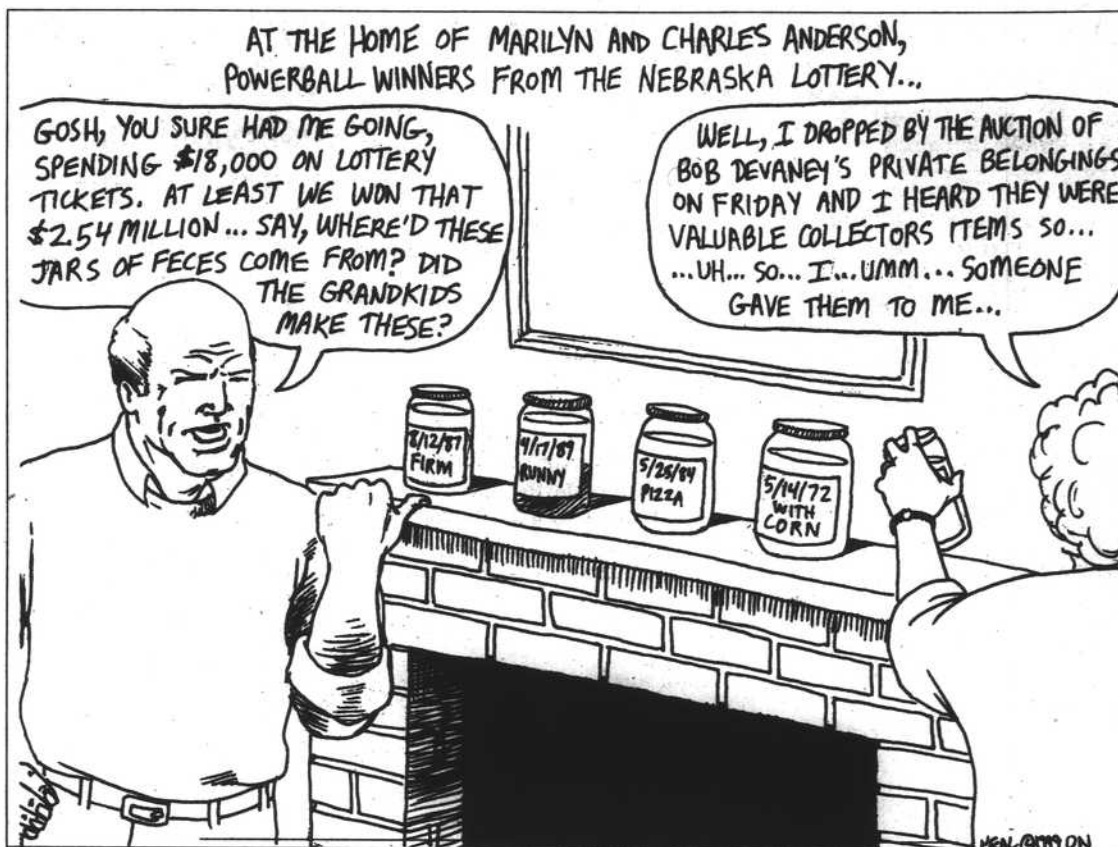
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*Obermeyer's*  
**VIEW**



*DN*  
**LETTERS**

**A Polite Aggie**

Dear Nebraska Band:  
Don't worry too much about the "yeah, whatever" response you received from your crowd during halftime on Saturday, while the Aggie band received several standing ovations.

Our band doesn't get much respect at home, either.

Some people are just too spoiled to know a good thing when they see it, and judging by the success your football team and marching band have had over the years, I'd say your crowd is pretty spoiled.

If it's any consolation, I was awestruck by your performance. That was perhaps the best college marching band performance I have ever seen in the style in which it was done.

No, it was not the rigid, military style of our band; in fact, it was quite the opposite.

But that's what I loved. It was new, different and fun to watch. Your drill writer is to be commended.

Thanks, Nebraska Band, for a fun halftime. Too bad most of your fans missed it while they went and got their hot dogs.

Chris Johnson  
College Station, Texas

**Another Polite Aggie**

I would like to thank you and your fans for a wonderful weekend. I have traveled all over this nation and particularly Texas, and nowhere have I found more welcoming and congenial fans.

I am a senior member of the Corps of Cadets, and this weekend I had the privilege of standing on the field for the game.

I was extremely impressed by the spirit and support you have for your team.

While I am not happy with the outcome of the game, I would like to congratulate your team and welcome all of you down to Texas to see how loud Kyle Field can be.

If you come, I only hope you will be as well-received as we were and have half as much fun.

Trent Tompkins  
class of 2000  
Texas A&M  
University  
Corps of Cadets

**A Bitter Husker**  
This past Saturday, my

friends and I left earlier than normal for the Huskers/A&M game so that we could get a parking spot in the lot between the Beadle Center and Cather-Pound.

We had parked in that same lot for the first four games for free.

Well, we were ever surprised to find out that when we turned into the lot, there were people telling us we had to pay \$5 to park there.

My question is what in the hell does Parking Services have against the students here?

If we are able to park in a lot for free for the first four games, why is that lot turned in to a pay lot at the end of the year?

I am glad to know that since I paid \$117 for my parking permit, I am not able to use it when parking is at its worst.

Is it really that hard to cater to the students for once?

The decision-makers at this institution need to realize why they are here in the first place, because without us, they would be without a job.

Casey Leth  
junior  
actuarial science

**Forcing In Tolerance**

I journeyed to the University Health Center a couple of weeks ago and made an amazing discovery.

The university charges married couples more for health insurance than it does for t w o

single people. In my Spanish class on Monday, I was thrilled that a captive audience was shown a movie that contained pornographic scenes and homosexuality.

It seems UNL is discouraging marriage and condoning and promoting premarital sex and homosexuality.

I just wanted to thank this fine institution for throwing morals out of the system and forcing tolerance in.

Chase Petsche  
senior  
English

**Pest**

In Friday's "At Large," the cartoon depicting China Disney included the "one child policy" among the bad things China did/is still doing.

Isn't it true that the vast majority of our animal neighbors on this planet naturally "know" how to keep their numbers in check?

In fact, the few who transgress – mostly insects – we call "pests."

But in all fairness, seeing how we fill and impact the planet, shouldn't we consider ourselves a "pest" too?

And in this one issue at least, might China not perhaps be a world leader rather than the all-around skunk?

Christian Richter  
graduate student  
chemical engineering



MELANIE FALK/DN