

Guest
VIEW

Big Brother arrives

Who needs a mind with corporate sponsorship?

January 2001 (Lincoln) – Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Jim Main announced today an exclusive contract with Schlotzsky's Deli for provision of university lunches and dinners. The contract would provide that all meals with visiting speakers, vendors and interviewees would be held at Schlotzsky's, who would undertake to host all such events for a fixed fee of \$5 per guest.

"We spend an incredible amount of time each year deciding where to eat, making reservations and processing reimbursements," said Main. "It's time to put this on a centralized footing."

In response to faculty criticism that Schlotzsky's does not have the variety of food that other restaurants provide, Main noted that as part of the contract, Schlotzsky's had guaranteed to add a selection of Thai, Indian and Mexican dishes.

"Sure, some people are change averse, but once they try Schlotzsky's Kielbasa Refrito in Chili Sauce, Knockwurst with Bamboo Shoots and Ginger Coleslaw Curry with Basmati Rice, they'll realize how much time they wasted dining at other restaurants."

NU President Dennis Smith's office released the statement:

"Centralizing our lunch and dinner provision will greatly improve the efficiency of our operations and give the state taxpayer a better bang for their buck."

Asked to comment on the deal, Regent Chuck Hassebrook said: "Centralizing our lunch and dinner provision will greatly improve the efficiency of our operations and give the state taxpayer a better bang for their buck."

Ultimately, Smith said, the university would like to centralize all university dining – official and non-official.

"If we take the decision about where and what to eat out of the hands of the faculty and staff, they'll have more time to spend on the university missions of teaching, service and ... er ... that third thing."

March 2003 (Lincoln) – University Vice President for Business, Finance, Research and Teaching Jim Main today announced the university had signed an exclusive contract with Academic Press for all university publishing. Until now, faculty had dealt with a large number of different publishers, with a host of different arrangements for publishing costs, royalties, etc.

"It's a mess," he said "We spend too much time worrying about where and how we'll publish, and not enough time on content."

From now on, all faculty manuscripts will be submitted to a central university office, which will work with Academic Press to choose an appropriate journal or book form. In turn, all library materials will be purchased from Academic Press.

"In the rare instances where faculty request a non-AP journal or book, the vice president's office will consult with AP to see if they can negotiate a subcontract with the second publisher. We don't believe that this will be required much, though."

President's Smith lauded the new deal. "We spend too much time as a university worried about process, and not enough time on product. This will allow us to focus on the important matters."

Asked to comment, Regent Don Blank said, "We spend too much time as a university worried about process, and not enough time on product. This will allow us to focus on the important matters."

July 2004 (Lincoln) - University Über-Kommisar for Everything Jim Main, in a joint press conference with vice chancellor for that third thing Marsha Torr, announced today that the university had reached an exclusive contract with the Department of Agriculture for provision of all external funding. "Until now," Torr said, "university faculty have submitted grants to an unbelievable number of different agencies - NSF, NIH, DoD, NEA, yadda, yadda, yadda. We spend a large part of our time writing grants and dealing with the separate require-



Scott Eastman/DN

ments of the individual funding agencies."

Now the need to write proposals would be completely eliminated, and every faculty member will receive a fixed amount each year to carry out research.

"Free from the burden of writing proposals, we will have so much more time to spend on the really important stuff," she said.

Main added that although the Department of Agriculture had little experience handling research in areas like physics, medicine or the humanities, they would be adding new staffers to deal with these fields.

"Fields are something the Department of Agriculture understands," he noted. "It only makes

sense for a land-grant university to work exclusively with DoA. I mean, we do have the 35th-ranked ag school in the entire country."

Regent Charles Wilson, asked to comment, said, "It only makes sense for a land-grant university to work exclusively with DoA. I mean we do have the 35th-ranked ag school in the entire country."

July 2006 (Lincoln) – A report from Supreme High Commander of All University Operations (Praise him!) Jim Main's office said that morale among UNL's three remaining tenured and tenure-track faculty had never been higher, since all non-mission-oriented operations had been taken over by the university administration.

Fifty-two-year-old Assistant

Professor of actuarial science Andy Roid said, "I love it. At other universities you have to worry about making a million tiny decisions every day – what time to set your alarm, what color tie to wear, what to have for breakfast – it's nerve-racking."

"Here at UNL, the office of the sub-associate vice chancellor for scheduling delivers my wake-up call, chooses my clothes and even delivers my breakfast for me to my assigned seat at the university cafeteria. Until now, all this stuff was a huge burden on my mom."

Professor of literature Ima Subby added breathlessly, "I think it's kinda exciting."

None of UNL's 2994 adjunct faculty could be reached for comment, most citing fear for their jobs.

Gerry Harbison is a professor of chemistry and a Daily Nebraskan guest columnist.

Puritanical America

Sex and swear words have long tradition



"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for a government of any other." – John Adams

"The Constitution of the United States, for instance, is a marvelous document for self-government by the Christian people. But the minute you turn the document into the hands of non-Christian people and atheistic people, they can use it to destroy the very foundation of our society. And that's what's been happening."

– Pat Robertson, 700 Club

There has been much discussion in recent years about the depraved state of American society. Almost every facet of modern life has been blamed for this at one time or another, including promiscuous sex among young adults,

females' swearing in public with impunity and the destruction of family values by "Pulp Fiction" and Marilyn Manson.

Religious leaders, politicians and other upstanding citizens are furious about the recent collapse of society, and with good reason. I mean, no reason. How quickly the past is forgotten or, perhaps, ignored. The social "ills" that some predict will bring the downfall of America and our values have existed since the first society formed eons ago.

The fact is, America's past is quite sordid.

Since the days of the Revolution, we have been a very sexualized country. The stereotypically demure Puritans had a practice known as "bundling" or "tarrying" (Fischer, "Albion's Seed"). This custom allowed a courting couple to climb into bed together to test compatibility.

If both parties were satisfied, they were married immediately. If not, they parted ways, frequently forever. Unless, of course, the woman left the experience feeling the warm glow of expectancy, in which case they wed. This was the case nearly one-third of the time.

Bundling was so casually regarded

by the last quarter of the 18th century that it "was but a courtesy" for a young man to ask the young lady of the house if she cared to retire with him (Bryson, "Made in America").

Within the next 50 years, official public attitude took a decidedly conservative turn. Any word containing the scandalous syllable "cock" or "tit" was altered, so that words such as titbit, cockroach and cockerel became tidbit, roach and rooster.

However as Bill Bryson writes in "Made in America," "In perhaps no other time in history was sex so rampantly repressed but so widely available."

In 1870, New York alone was estimated to have over 620 brothels! I'm sure you've all heard the campaign promise of one brutally honest politician of that time and place: "I guarantee a chicken in every pot, and three or four."

And our generation is doing a very fine job of desensitizing society to many fine words.

Many of our most "improper" words have actually been around for centuries. The f-word probably originated from the Latin "futuo," the French "foutre," or the German "ficken," all of which have the same signifi-

cance (Montagu, "The Anatomy of Swearing").

Just as fads come and go, the words considered worst by society have changed dramatically over time. In the Shakespearean period, such lively phrases as "I am the rankest cow that ever pissed," "kiss my blind cheeks" and "stap my vitals" were prompting Spanish Inquisitors to roam the countryside of England and persecute actors and theatergoers in the name of propriety. (Bryson, "The Mother Tongue").

Actually to their credit, those oaths are much more interesting than what I hear floating around campus today. But as Americans, we aren't allowed to be that creative, so we stick to good old tactlessness. It's the American Way.

As we all well know, swearing leads to violence. And violence leads to the breakdown of society and the persecution of old ladies and their small dogs. It's just part of the vicious sex-swearing-violence triangle everyone learns of in grade school.

So, as those whores on jackanapes in Hollywood have increased the amount of sex, cursing and violence in films, maniacs across the country have been emulating their every move.

Violence in America actually didn't exist until one Hollywood-type, Warren

Beatty, invented it for a Democratic fund-raiser in 1978. Just look it up in a dictionary. Of course, you won't find anything about it in there, because the liberal media controls dictionaries.

Violence is a problem; there is no arguing that. I would contend, though, that America's condition is not deteriorating because of movie violence.

I'll be glad to let my children see any movie they want. It absolutely has to be better than having a conversation like this:

"Pappa, can me and Billy go watch the mob lynch a Negro? They think he might have looked at some white lady."

"OK, but you boys keep out of trouble. And don't stay out too late; remember, we have church tomorrow."

Quentin Tarantino may not be spreading a message of love, but at least he isn't lynching "Negroes."

Students of the past will tell you that there is always a lesson to learn from history. I've taken that advice. I've concluded that Marilyn Manson is a smaller danger to America than a court-supported Ku Klux Klan. I've learned that I am my grandpa's favorite grandchild because he has "never heard me swear." And I've decided that I should ask that cute blonde to tarry tonight, because it's tradition!

Chris Gustafson is a sophomore agricultural economics major and Lucas Stock is a freshman English major. They are Daily Nebraskan columnists.