



to the editor

Letters appear in the Daily Nebraskan at the editor's discretion. A letter's appearance is based on its timeliness, originality, coherence and interest. All letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name, but may be submitted for publication under a pen name or initials. Use of such letters will be determined by the editor. Brevity is encouraged. All letters are subject to condensation and editing.

Paraphrase or plagiarism?

Dear editor:

"With him in there, there's hope. Vote John Vihstadt. . . ." I quote from the Daily Nebraskan, March 22, 1972. I am careful to note my source. This is a letter on plagiarism which I do not support either in regents or editorialists. While putting together some information regarding gun control, it occurred to me that there is more than a superficial resemblance between the Different Drummer in the Daily Nebraskan, March 22, 1972, and an item

recently circulated around UNL, *Newsletter*, Vol. 1, No. 1, issued by the National Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

While it is obvious that people writing on the same topic may cover similar information or put forth similar ideas, the strong parallels between the articles seems unlikely, especially when one considers such remarks as:

"Should this data be collected, the results could be nationally disastrous. If it fell into the hands of those who lead us into despotism and tyranny. Like information was gathered by Hitler and Lenin while in the process of seizing power in their respective countries." (Vihstadt).

Compare:

"...but should that information be collected, the results could be nationally disastrous should it fall into the hands of those who would lead us into tyranny."

"...such information was gathered by Hitler and Lenin prior to the consolidation of their dictatorships." (*Newsletter*).

Both sources are responding to Sen. Edward Kennedy's concern with gun registration. Proposed legislation by Celler and Mivka, reference to the Bill of Rights and names of the organizations supporting gun control occur in both articles. The same organizations are named in both—ADA, National Council for a Responsible Firearms Policy and Fellowship of Reconciliation—which is identified in both articles as "an organization of left-wing clergy."

I do not oppose editorialists reading—indeed it is to be greatly encouraged. But I would like to know how independently these great (?) minds arrived at the same thoughts. Paraphrase and quotation are defensible in scholarly use. Is the Vihstadt article defensible?

Pat Burch

Editor's note: Columnist Vihstadt acknowledges the use of the committee's newsletter as a reference source. The nature of the information utilized, however, was pure historical fact, and as such can be found in any history book or government publication or document. This is not a question of opinion or value judgment, and as such, does not agree with the definition of the word plagiarism.

NEBPIRG support

Dear editor:

I have become aware of a group of students who are seeking to organize the Nebraska Public Interest Research Group (NEBPIRG) as an attempt to help many students become interested and knowledgeable in government.

As a state senator, I wholeheartedly support this concept. I feel that there is so much research and help that these young people could offer to government that I believe their contributions could and would be truly astounding.

In closing, I understand this group is asking you to help them collect their contributions to the organization when other school payments are being made. I sincerely urge you to honor this request which I feel to be very modest.

David H. Stahmer
Senator - 8th District

Keep off the grass

Dear editor:

This is an emergency, in fact, a matter of life or death. Would all you environmentally concerned students take a look at yourselves from the viewpoint of grass plants? To us you look like a herd of clod hoppers.

You are killing us. It is spring, and we are striving to breathe and grow and yes, even multiply. Give us a chance to beautify your campus and purify your air. Or would you really prefer more bare dirt or concrete? It doesn't matter to us whether you are black or white, male or female, in a hurry or just strolling. You pack down our soil and crush our tender blades.

A straight line may be the shortest distance between two points, but it isn't necessarily the most interesting or beneficial. Give us a chance to do our thing.

Your neighborly grasses

"the survival of st. joan"

a rock opera
presented by
kosmet klub

apr. 14, 15, 16

8 pm

u of n coliseum

tickets available at:

the hitchin' post

nebraska union

\$2 advance

\$2.50 at the door

★ FLAIR! ★

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2. Now—color in the picture according to these color guide numbers. (6). Orange (9). Purple (5). Brown (2). Red (3). Blue (12). Olive. Please do not color unnumbered areas.

POSTER" OF ONE OF THE CANDIDATES!

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