

# Artistic dirt pile eliminates grassy eyesore

That pile of dirt: there's something very beautiful about it. That pile of dirt might tell more about the UNL campus than anyone really wants to know.

That pile of dirt, of course, is the one between Andrews Hall and Teachers College. The reason for contemplating it is that it seems as if it may be with us for a long time. Besides, it's pretty.

It had a name this summer, Mt. Wright or something like that. Eventually it became anonymous, but because it preferred to. It is entitled to a name, for it has come a long way. But it knew it wasn't a mountain.

To say it has come a long way is gross understatement, for it probably began as an ugly green space. Green spaces, especially green spaces with trees on them, fell from favor in the automobile age and the area was paved. It became a parking lot.

A parking lot is a giant step up from a green space. It doesn't require mowing and cars can be kept on it. But this parking lot was destined for greater things and eventually it became what it is, a pile of dirt. As a pile of dirt it is tremendous, for it combines

## keith landgren desperate remedies

the finest in aesthetic and practical values.

Its most obvious use is as an obstruction. Persons can't see Andrews

Hall very well because of it and that's certainly a virtue. Hamilton Hall is nearly invisible now and so is Teachers College. Parts of these buildings are still visible from other directions,



unfortunately, but the pile of dirt is at least a beginning.

The pile of dirt is artistic at times, thanks to Nebraska weather. On rainy days the pile of dirt covers all the dull gray sidewalks around it with brown goo. In windy weather it coats people and animals, well, everything, with pretty beige dust. The UNL campus is lucky to have a pile of dirt with such taste.

It has a unifying function, because it is the only geological formation of any consequence on the campus. It's no mountain and will never be one, but it is ours. Other universities might boast of their natural splendors, mighty oak trees or particularly bright freshmen, but UNL has a pile of dirt. What of the future?

Oh, it will probably be with us through the winter but no longer. A pity, that, because on a campus where two buildings like Teachers College and the Administration Bldg. can stand together without blinking, the despicable thing seems to fit. But it is unfair to expect a structure grown to such heights from a mere green space to remain a pile of dirt. Maybe it will turn into a garbage dump.

## to the editor



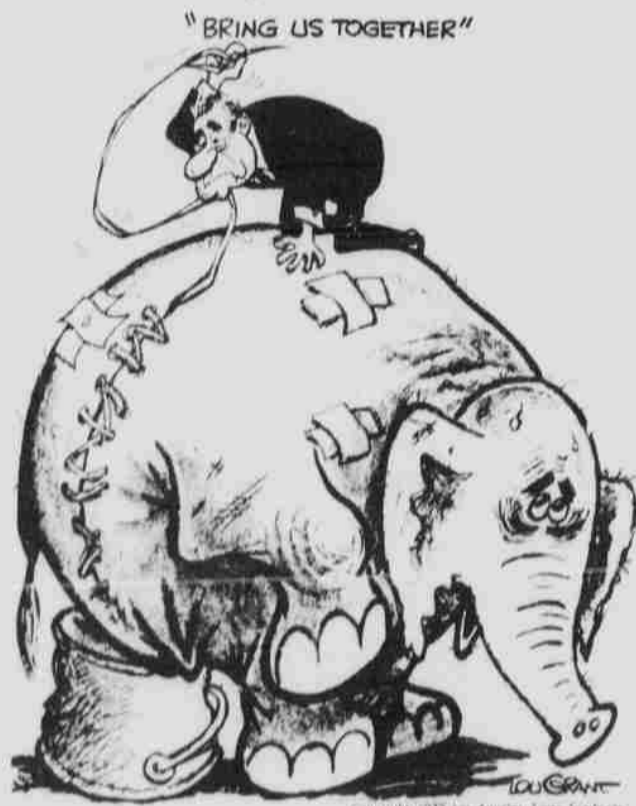
Letters appear in the Daily Nebraskan at the editor's discretion. A letter's appearance is based on its timeliness, originality, coherence and interest. All letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name, but may be submitted for publication under a pen name or initials. Use of such letters will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

### Facts of case

Dear editor,

I find it necessary to write a letter to the editor in order to clarify the more important facts in my case with Millard Lefler Junior High School Principal Robert Knaub and UNL.

Some of the facts are: 1. There is no dress code for the Lincoln Public Schools; therefore I violated no policy as Knaub contends. 2. I was not relieved from student teaching until a week and a half into my semester. Nothing was said at the outset about wearing blue jeans. 3. Many other student teachers in various schools in Lincoln are allowed to wear blue jeans. Why not me? 4. I did not elect to leave Millard Lefler as Bert Alfrey contends, but was kicked out formally by Knaub. 5. I offered to give in and abide by the supposed dress code, but was banned from student teaching for no given reason.



Knaub hides behind what he says is his right to refuse a "guest" student teacher in his school. "It's a privilege that you are here," he told me. I'd like to know what kind of privilege it is to student teach, since I had to pay over \$200 for the right to take nine hours of student teaching? Are student teachers "paying guests?"

Knaub thinks he can downgrade me by making false allegations about my dress also, (e.g., wearing workshirts.) I never wore a workshirt as he contends, and he knows this.

Knaub said I was kicked out for not dressing like other teachers. He would rather lie back on this position than to face me in an open discussion. Why didn't he kick me out for my hair length? No one else in that school wore their hair like me.

The worst part of this is the lack of support I received from University officials. Contrary to what Alfrey says, I have seen the mysterious "Mike Johnson file" in his office and I have not been able to read it. In an attempt to cover up the true facts, Alfrey has continuously given rearranged accounts of my dilemma to the press and faculty members. To top this all off, it was he who ordered me to take the alternative course from John Lux.

Lux has insisted that I take what Alfrey calls "Mickey Mouse courses" to make up for my student teaching. These courses include the NUSTEP courses in Teachers College which I took more than a year ago and in which I received straight A's. This was not something I agreed upon, but was the only course forced upon me by the University.

Although Knaub was lying in his allegations against me, he was right in one thing: I don't intend to give an inch. I'm not about to let anyone screw me the way he and certain University staff members are trying to do. If a policy applies to one person, it applies to all, and not just a few, or else there is no policy.

If anyone doubts my sincerity in this fiasco, I would remind them of one thing: By making this stand I will probably never teach in any school. But all my education will have been worth it if I can get rid of just one more piece of crap that no one will ever have to face again.

Mike Johnson

### Wrong way

Dear editor,

I believe Mike Johnson went about seeking a change in the wrong way. He can't change the school system's dress rules by rebelling as he did. He should have approached the board on the subject. He reacted undiplomatically and didn't think of possible consequences.

What will this do to the possibilities of others in student teaching or who plan to student teach? He was given the rules, but still went ahead and wore blue jeans. Was he told not to return until he changed his style of dress? Principal Robert Knaub thinks not: "Johnson was not 'dismissed' from student teaching at Millard Lefler, but chose not to come back."

Rules are rules: we all have to give in sometimes. Face it, Johnson, this is one of those times. There's a difference between casual and sloppy dress. Save the legal fees and invest them in something better, or find a field in which jeans are accepted.

Lynn Westlund

### False alarm

Dear editor,

I would like to say a few words regarding the setting off of the fire alarms in the residence halls on Sept. 25 during the power failure. It seems the residence hall occupants continuously are proving their immaturity by their senseless and foolish abuse of the fire alarm systems.

I wonder how many of these jokers realize that pulling on those "little red boxes" when no fire exists, it creates undue chaos and is committing a felony punishable by both sentence and fine. It also may be the eventual cause of death or serious injury.

Also, each fire alarm that the Lincoln Fire Department answers is charged to the University. If you haven't figured it out yet, whatever costs the University costs the taxpayers of Nebraska and whoever pays your tuition and housing. It is fine if you or your parents have the money to throw away, but some students have to work long hours just so they can go to college and get an education.

Just as important, the Board of Regents is aware of what is going on and pranks don't help our image as mature adults. It is clear why the regents won't give us any more favors. It is because they don't think that we are old enough or responsible enough to handle ourselves in a mature manner.

If we want to see longer guest hours, closed doors, and possibly alcohol on campus, we are going to have to prove ourselves. We already live together. Let's see if maybe we can't grow up together and possibly reach these goals.

Scott Steen

### Few cheers

Dear editor,

What concerns me is the lack of cheering at Nebraska football games for anything other than "Go Big Red." To many, cheering and showing emotion and excitement is just part of the game and makes it more enjoyable.

At first I couldn't understand why the card section was so quiet. It took a while to realize that you can't yell over the yell-leader even with the loudspeaker system.

Why the game gets rough is when a team needs fan support, but at NU that's when it's lacking the most. Many people require the prodding of an enthusiastic yell leader. What we have is one whose expressionless monotone voice sounds as if there is a live bomb under his platform and he's afraid of yelling too loud and setting it off.

Maybe the yell leader isn't really supposed to "lead" cheers and show emotion. Perhaps, as here, he



should just recite a cheer and offer it to the students. Few persons can become excited over a system like that.

I'm unsure how to solve the problem. I think the present yell leader could do the job if he took it seriously. If his performance at tryouts was anything like his Saturday afternoon fiascos, I really can't see how he was legitimately selected. I remember a year or two ago there was some controversy over yell squad selections, especially the male members. Apparently this problem was not solved. More people need to be involved in the selection process, so that a yell leader like we have now isn't a self-perpetuating entity.

This would be a good place to start regaining the old "school spirit", so visibly lacking at NU.

Bill Roesler