

Longer interim needed

UNL Chancellor James Zumberge has given his "sweater speech," and if heating oil shortages continue he might be forced to deliver an "overcoat address." If he does, one of the wisest measures he could announce that would conserve energy would be the lengthening of the interim by at least two weeks.

Such a move, which reportedly is being considered, could save the University as many as 500,000 gallons of fuel. It also would save money on electricity, since longer days at the end of the lengthened school year would require less use of lights.

Greater savings could be brought about through the consolidation of all Saturday and night classes into a few buildings. The longer interim would provide more time for University administrators and academic planners to do this.

Other every-saving benefits would come from the lengthened school year. Better weather during more of the year would mean students could bicycle, hitchhike or walk to school, thus saving gasoline.

The lengthened interim and subsequent energy savings also would be a gesture of goodwill by the University toward the people of Nebraska, since it would free more heating oil for home use.

While this plan has its advantages, it also has its drawbacks. Students wouldn't have an early summer vacation and so would have less time to earn money for the next year.

But the merits of such a move outweigh the drawbacks. If the University faces the sort of fuel shortage that has been predicted, lengthening the interim would be one of the wisest measures possible.

Michael (O.J.) Nelson

'IMPEACHABLE SOURCE'



Don't just sit there; Lincoln in winter offers diversity

Since September, when a list of things to do in Lincoln appeared in this space, a lot of things have changed. True to expectations, the weather has grown increasingly colder, the football season has drawn nearly to a close and a handful of people have suggested a thousand new ways to cope with the changed circumstances. Here, then, are some of those suggestions.

Swimming feet in Slaybill Fountain is possible except under extremely unusual circumstances.

Wandering outdoors and bicycling are still reasonable, but even in winter there are still plenty of days. The bicycle crowd is a thing to see in winter, though, and a cyclist on a snowy December day is a sight worthy of the highest admiration.

dancers at the Morocco to a six pack to go are a dozen great places to meet people. The idea of hundreds of students, truck drivers, and janitors getting together on one street to learn from each other is tremendously appealing.

The Nebraska Union, for all its imperfections, is still worth visiting. The coffee in the little machine on the west side of the Crib serving line makes better coffee than the big machine for some reason. It's a hassle having to get a cup from the other side, but at 16 cents no one should have to drink coffee from a foam container.

Lincoln's taxi system is surprisingly efficient and inexpensive. That's worth remembering if it's Saturday night and home is somewhere besides downtown. A cab also is a way of alleviating one of the most ludicrous sights in the city: people who have spent ten minutes getting downtown driving for half an hour to find a parking space.

Lincoln has some of the finest buildings in Nebraska and the great thing about being an architecture fan is that it doesn't cost anything. The Capitol Building is a free lesson in high quality visual art for anyone.

Tall glass rectangles are lazy architecture, so the County-City Building, the NU Systems Building and the First National Bank are best ignored. Go, instead, to Sheldon Art Gallery and see how a museum director and an architect reconciled their differences. Norman Gesky and Philip Johnson have produced a useful building that also is one of the most beautiful in Nebraska.

The Charlie Chaplin films in that building, by the way, are said to be all they should be: a careful look at one of America's great geniuses. If college means anything, it means discovering other people's ideas of truth. Chaplin's views are among the finest and are as masterful today as they were when his films were made.

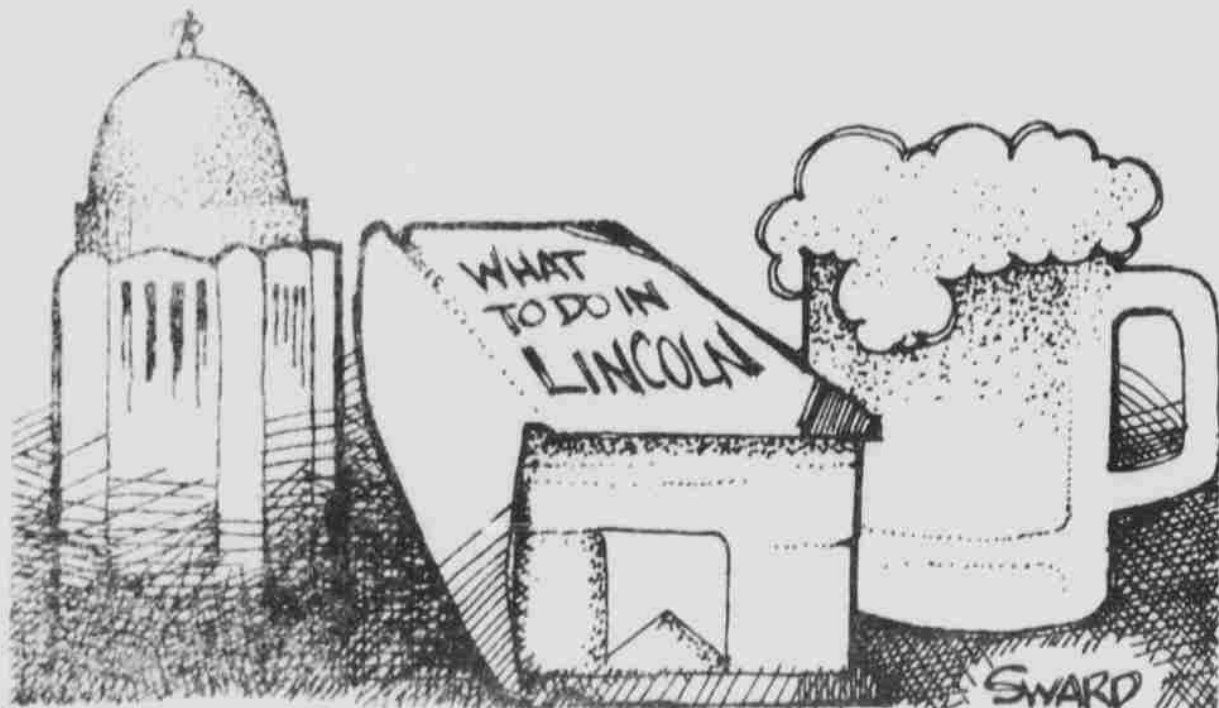
Doing nothing is no longer a good suggestion. There's enough of doing nothing going on already and it's a bore. Do something, somewhere, and do it well.

Keith Landgren desperate remedies

Reading is always worthwhile in winter and Lincoln has some great bookstores. The stores on campus aren't bad; Akademia, for instance, can be fascinating.

Long's, at 905 O St., is one of the least interesting yet one of the most interesting places in town. Browsers are welcome, parents are incredibly inexpensive, and kids can't order anything in print. He sells mostly old books and some real treasures can be found on his shelves, such as an aging first edition of *The Industrial Republic*, a neatly forgotten ideological treatise by Herbert Spencer.

If it isn't Sunday, and most of the time it isn't, Lincoln has R Street. From the Morocco Lounge to Merm's Liquor Store is only seven blocks, but between the belly



to the editor



Maternal slavery

Dear editor,

Pat Bouse of Family Services was reported as saying that the rights of the father who may want to adopt his child while the mother desires an abortion, are still in question. I am sure this is true in Nebraska.

However, this past summer in Florida a judge ruled that forcing a woman to carry a child was involuntary servitude, which is unconstitutional and comes frighteningly close to slavery.

When will people realize that abortion is to be a matter between a woman and her doctor?

Jim Balters

Last word

Dear editor,

I want to call you to task for an editorial sin you committed in the Nov. 2 issue. In it, a letter from Allen Zimmerman accused your editorship of political bias and slanting the news, citing specifically a public opinion poll the **Daily Nebraskan** had conducted and published concerning the demise of the Nixon regime.

Your printed response to that letter was similar to the doubletalk from the White House which you so rightly and skillfully criticize.

You didn't respond to the general charges of bias and slanting the news. You are biased. If you discovered information about Nixon that when published would add the very last straw to the back of the presidency, you'd lie awake all night relishing your victory.

Zimmerman's specific criticism of your unscientific (therefore possibly biased) polling technique was intended as an example of slanting the news. He's right: if you were pro-Nixon the poll would have had an entirely different tone.

Zimmerman's charges show nothing but his own naivete. Of course an editor is biased. And any human work is shaped from the biases of its maker.

Zimmerman's charges stem from a naive belief in objectivity. Behind his charges however, was the tone of complaint that your editorship is steamrolling his views. The complaint of steamrolling could have been nullified by simply printing the letter and letting it stand.

Instead, you choose to squash Mr. Zimmerman with a doubletalking last word on the subject. A complaining letter writer always has the disadvantage. Having the last word is an editor's prerogative and the use of that power displays the editor's basic sense of fairness.

In your "Editor's note" you said, "It (the poll) was based on random man-on-the-street interviews." Overlooking the vagueness of the verb "was based," this sentence states in essence, "We were fair."

But in the very next sentence you state, "In no way should the survey be considered a scientific sampling." This tone is obnoxious, as if to say: "You idiot (Zimmerman), do you think the **Daily Nebraskan** can hire George Gallup?" And it contradicts the phrase in the sentence before it: "random man-on-the-street interviews." Was the poll random or not? Scientifically random or "intuitively" random?

Your editor's note is double talk. It's supercilious, and it's defensive where no defense is necessary. It exemplifies the kind of steamroller posture Zimmerman was complaining about.

I hope that you and editors across the nation will press the attack on Nixon until that scoundrel and his cronies are put out to pasture.

Willie Morrissey