



to the editor

Watch-bird

Dear editor,

Re: J.G.'s letter to the editor headlined "Grounds Gripe", (Daily Nebraskan, March 8).

Normally I would consider an unsigned letter not worthy of reply. The majority of unsigned letters are in the same category as anonymous telephone calls.

In the first place, J.G., your initials don't correspond to any of the supervisory personnel of the Grounds Dept. with whom I am acquainted. Therefore, I was wondering if you have been appointed official watch-bird of the department's activities? It would seem to me that anyone who can keep tabs on what someone else is doing for most of the day can't be accomplishing too much himself. If you are a university employe, perhaps the state could save some money by getting rid of you.

In the second place, groundkeepers on this campus start out at the princely salary of \$2.50 an hour. Depending on the amount of group insurance coverage they take, they clear about \$300 a month. That sum, by any stretch of the imagination, is not a living wage at the present level of inflation. I've read several articles in recent Daily Nebraskans about how inflation has eroded professors' salaries. If it erodes theirs, it completely washes away ours.

In the third place, J.G., since you don't seem to think the grounds crew does any work around campus, let me clue you in. One of the nearest and dearest memories to all of us in the department was the great fun we had in our "winter games" or snow removal as some people call it. In these games, we come down to the shop at 4 a.m., mount our little tractors or take our little shovels in hand and venture forth in search of new drifts to conquer. Most of the mornings we did this the temperature was in the minus 10 to minus 20 degree category, but little matter. After all, that's our job, isn't it, J.B.

It seems only fair to mention that the department did receive several complimentary letters for our snow removal efforts. It's nice to know some people are gracious enough to appreciate what others try to do for them. Since hedge trimming seems to be your forte, J.G., I would like to extend a personal invitation to you to drop over to Selleck Quadrangle someday soon and help me out. I am in the process of trimming my barberries—that is, when I can get at them between my various and sundry other duties, such as cutting wood for the fireplace in the Nebraska Union, picking up paper for recycling, spading shrub beds, raking leaves, laying sod on the athletic field, patching streets and picking up cigaret butts.

Finally I would like to say that it seems a shame that people like you, J.G. have to get out of your element and make blanket accusations of things when you don't really have a foggy notion of what's going on. Oh well, that's democracy I guess.

Dean C. King

Poor choice

Dear editor,

Ann Henry's choice of State Sen. Ernie Chambers as a target for a letter requesting support for alcohol on campus was poor (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 22). Chambers considers alcohol to be the worst drug available and has stated his position that alcoholism is the worst drug problem in this country.

It is most unfortunate that the ability to possess an addictive crippling drug is a sign of maturity while education is considered child's play.

We would all be better off if we rid ourselves of the false idea that alcohol consumption is a sign of maturity.

One solution would be to legalize alcohol possession for all ages (or at least remove all the present prohibition) and educate people about the addictive nature of alcohol.

At the same time, we should become aware that education is not something you get as a child or in school but is a continuing process for all.

Martin Pals

Editor's note: Henry reportedly wrote letters to all 49 state senators, not only to Chambers. Chambers chose to make Henry's letter and his reply public.

Free and clear

Dear editor,

I would like to reply to the amnesty editorial (Daily Nebraskan, March 15) and to all those who believe our country should give free and clear amnesty to those who avoided their military obligation during the Vietnam war.

"Why a military obligation?" is the most frequent retort one hears when talking of draft evaders. While I'll be the first to admit that the war in Vietnam was a terrible blunder by certain politicians, I also must remember that the draft has been used in virtually every war this country has ever fought, with the exception of the Revolutionary War.

At the same time, this was not the first unpopular war. Few wished to participate in the Civil War once the initial fervor died down, and few wished to travel to Europe just for World War I.

Yet this country is and has been based upon the democratic principle that all the members have a responsibility to take part. Just as the ASUN elections are a farce when barely 11% of those represented take part, no one can reasonably expect this country to operate without citizen participation.

Now to address the problem of how draft evaders should be allowed to return. First we must all remember that many who were called did go to Vietnam, and that they were offered no second chance. I also wish to point out that many who decided not to go for moral or ethical reasons either applied for conscientious objector status or, failing that, served in medical units, in stateside defense or civil service jobs or went to jail.

For these reasons, I feel it should be obvious that if those who fled from possible service or imprisonment to live in Canada wish to return, then their return must be comparable to the suffering and service of those who stayed to take their places. In short, a 2-year obligation in a service position appears to be overly lenient, considering that they fled not only from the war but also from the system they now wish to return to.

I'm sorry, but I cannot agree with the editorial. I think the bravest never left their country, "right or wrong."

James C. Underhill Jr.

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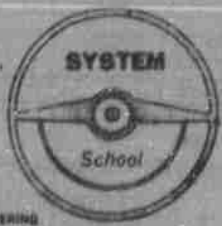


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