

editorial / opinion

Resignation reveals true side of cynic

Bruce Nelson resigned today. Calling his Daily Nebraskan column "a futile weekly exercise in polemics," Bruce tendered his resignation with the lighthearted explanation, "The true cynic should just retire, sit back, and be amused by the circus around him." Then he became serious about why he was quitting. "If I'm sincere," he said, "if I give a subject a lot of research and thought and approach it straight, either no one reads it or they're bored stiff by it. If I put the same subject with arrogance and egotism and insults, it gets a great reaction.

"But in neither case does anyone really think about the subject. One way puts people to sleep; the other polarizes them."

Those words say something about The Real Bruce Nelson, but in case the message isn't clear enough, we'll elaborate. The now-former author of "Cynic's Corner" is a close friend, so we know he won't mind if we expose him for what he is: a fake.

The man who has for more than a semester presented himself to Daily Nebraskan readers as callous, pessimistic and hardhearted, actually is

a confirmed idealist and a bit of a romantic.

He is deeply concerned about the social problems he addressed in many of his columns.

He thoroughly researched every topic he wrote about, whether his approach to it was to be serious or outrageous.

He wanted to create change with his columns, to get under readers' skins so deeply they would act instead of just react, to make people think instead of vegetate.

He believes he failed.

We're not so sure he did, though we often share his frustration.

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Sign of the times: Remember Rick and the Rockets, those remnants of the revolution? They gave a revival concert at Centennial College Tuesday night, and we hear the event got off to a slow start. It seems some of the band members are now in law school, and were delayed by late-running activities there.

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Double takes: The Chicago Daily News reports that virgins are decreasing in number on American campuses, according to what the Daily News called "(a)nother of the ongoing random samplings by Playboy Magazine."

Rebecca Brito

to the editor



Dear editor,

During the last football game, I was given the opportunity to see the game from a very interesting viewpoint: the press box. I was given a pass that admitted me to that mysterious building on top of the west stadium.

But during a pause in the 45-0 romp, I looked at my pass and noted this inscription: "No Women Or Children Permitted In Working Press Area".

Now, really! Why complain about discrimination in other sectors of our community when there is an even more blatant form of discrimination practiced by our own Athletic dept.? Who are they trying to kid?

Sure, there shouldn't be little kids running around disturbing people busy at work in any situation, but why not allow women sportswriters in the press area?

Maybe it's about time we bite the hand that feeds us and look a little closer at the practices and policies of our own Athletic Dept.

Joe Eisenberg

Editor's note: Women reporters are allowed in the press box. Our sports editor, Larry Stunkel, says he understands the message on the passes is intended to keep sportswriters' families out of the press area.

But we agree, the message as written is sexist, and reveals the Athletic Dept.'s narrowmindedness toward women as sports reporters (the view is shared, unfortunately, by many professional newspaper editors).

Circulation commended

Dear editor,

I would like to thank the person or persons delivering the Daily Nebraskan on campus. It used to be that Bancroft Hall was lucky to get the paper a day late. This year, I can get the current edition every morning. Thanks again.

Andy Mattson

Editor's note: Credit goes to circulation staffer Brian Franzen, whose delivery route includes Bancroft.



Long hard climb



Busing trapped in desegregation game

By Marsha Jark

*You've got to be taught before it's too late
Before you are six or seven or eight
To hate all the people your relatives hate
You've got to be carefully taught.*

Oscar Hammerstein III

The following is a dialogue about busing between Tweedledum, an idealistic student in Teachers College, and Tweedledee, a high school sophomore in a 97 per cent white high school.

Dum: I've been reading about the busing troubles in Louisville and Boston. A lot of kids have been boycotting classes because they don't want to be bused.

Dee: Yeah. Busing isn't a very good way to achieve racial balance if kids have to ride all over the city.

Dum: I agree that busing is a dumb idea, but don't you think it's necessary? It's been 21 years since "separate but equal" schools were declared unconstitutional, yet segregation hasn't been ended. "Separate but equal" equals inequality.

Dee: I don't see why kids have to suffer for it. I don't want to have to go to a crummy school that's far away, just so each school will have at least 46 and two thirds per cent white kids.

Dum: I agree. In the game of desegregation, kids are pawns. It's another kind of discrimination when they say, "You're a black kid? You're deprived so we're going to send you to a nice, new school. You'll just about

fill our quota for black students." They are treated like numbers.

Dee: If you agree with me, how can you still be for busing?
Dum: Look, how many black students go to Block High now?

Dee: About 20 or 30, I guess. At the most, 30.
Dum: Block has about 1,600 students. So those 30 students constitute less than 5 per cent of the student body. How are students going to get to know other people, unless they see each other in everyday situations like school or work? You can't reach bicultural understandings by staring at each other from opposite basketball stands.

Dee: Yeah, but the black students at Block stick together. They go to different classes, but they all sit together in the cafeteria. They go home to the same neighborhoods. And that's another thing. If you're bused somewhere, you can't stay after school for clubs and sports unless your parents come get you and then you arrive home late.

Dum: De facto segregation.

Dee: Why?

Dum: That's where segregation takes place although it isn't required or encouraged by laws. In your town most of the minority groups live in the older part of town while a lot of white people have moved to the suburbs.

There are other barriers besides home location between races. There is also a cultural difference between blacks and whites. That also means a language barrier.

Sometimes, the inability to communicate in the "right" English dialect is the only thing that keeps minority persons down. Because they speak differently, they are misunderstood. Because they are misunderstood, they are often discriminated against.

Dee: I guess there are some things you don't learn in books. But they should start earlier with grade school kids. I'd be like a "new kid" if I got bused to a different school. I'd leave behind most of the friends I had in grade school and junior high.

Dum: Chances are you'd still know a good number of the kids in your new school. Besides, the school districts are making special efforts to start worthwhile programs in the older, downtown schools. Some kids at Block are busing out half days so they can work in the TV and photography departments downtown.

Dee: I wouldn't mind going half days, but I always planned to go to Mental A. Block high school. I'd still want it to be my school. I'd still want to go to the football games and stuff.

Dum: That's okay. You could still identify with Block, just as the black kids at Block can stick together if they want. Nobody claims racial harmony will come out of busing, but I don't know how you can avoid greater understanding. That's almost enough to make it worthwhile, isn't it?

Dee: I guess it's worth a try—but I'll just have to wait and see.