

# editorial / opinion

## Alas, poor Ralph, 'Shot down' again

Alas, poor Ralph. As if being disqualified for Homecoming King wasn't bad enough (it seems our friend with the mustache hasn't paid this semester's tuition and is having trouble proving he was a junior), now he has been "shot down" in his own territory, the Daily Nebraskan editorial/opinion page.

It's not that we felt Ralph was getting too big for his britches. The cartoon's new dimensions should not be interpreted as an effort to cut Ralph and his friends down to size.

The recent appearance of advertisements now and then on the once-sacred editorial page is a clue to our dilemma. The Daily Nebraskan, like many other papers, is grappling with what is called a tight news hole.

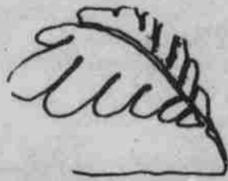
That means, among other things, that some of the regular features we promised our readers earlier this semester have been abandoned in favor of our top priority: campus and local news.

On the editorial page that translates into high priority on readers' opinions, in the forms of letters to the editor and guest opinions.

Ralph is not being relegated to the back burner. We're confident the strip will remain as entertaining and easy to read as it was in larger days—and Ralph's lost inches will be our readers' gain.

Rebecca Brite

## to the editor



Dear editor,

Congratulations to ASUN. Finally they are trying to solve a problem which has plagued this campus for many years. At last there is a committee to investigate ways to put more student input into Yell Squad selection.

But, alas, there were not enough senators at the Oct. 8 ASUN Senate Meeting to vote on equally important matters that threaten to destroy our university.

On Sept. 17 the ASUN Senate approved a constitutional amendment that would give student regents voting rights. The amendment was passed by an overwhelming 26-1 vote.

It is too bad UNL students do not back ASUN quite that overwhelmingly. I refer to the fact that only 10 per cent of the students voted in last year's ASUN elections. How can the student regent be given a vote when he cannot even get a majority of his constituents to vote?

It seems that a group which calls itself the student government of UNL would be able to conduct official business at all its meetings. Instead, they often cannot produce or keep a quorum.

The ASUN Senate has appointed committees for almost everything that comes before them. I think it is commendable that the senators are so well informed that committees are created so they might be told the facts.

I would like to thank the 90 per cent on this campus who did not vote last year and the 10 per cent who did vote. You have made ASUN what it is today.

Tim W. Gustafson

## "Shoot early and often"

innocent bystander



By Arthur Hoppe

The election of 1984 was scarcely a battle at all. From the onset, the Democrats clearly had the Republicans outnumbered, outmaneuvered and outgunned.

When the bodies were counted on election night, it was obvious that, except for a few guerrilla bands hiding in the hills, the Grand Old Party was over.

While violence had always marked American politics, it was not until recent years that activists had effectively demonstrated its efficiency. By rubbing out nine Presidents alone in the past 16 months they certainly proved their point.

What turned the tide, however, was the realization by the gun manufacturers of the potentialities of this new market. Hitherto, they had based their advertising campaigns on an appeal to the male sexual drive. But they were selling only three million or so handguns a year for a paltry gross of \$100 million.

The first breakthrough came in a subtle ad for the ultra cheap (\$6.98) Friday Night Special. It carried only a photograph of the single-shot pistol and the simple caption: "One Bullet Is Worth Fifty Million Ballots!"

Sales soared. Surefire Firearms Corp., Inc., took a full-page ad in Parents Magazine depicting a beaming father watching his little daughter load a revolver. "I'm glad she's taking an interest," he is saying proudly, "in politics."

"To the polls, ye sons of freedom!" proclaimed a public

service message prepared by the gun lobby. "Shoot early and often!" And the Boy Scouts cooperated with a nationwide Get-Out-the-Sniper Drive.

The few voices raised in opposition to the trend were quickly silenced by the National Gun Nut Association. ("When guns are the nuts," was their slogan, "only nuts won't have guns.")

They pointed out that, thanks to guns, no public figure had been done in for years by a silk-stocking or even panty-hose strangler. Bank robberies committed by archers were minimal and rocks were seldom used as weapons, particularly in urban areas where they were scarcer than handguns.

The trend was even more invigorating at the local level. Who will ever forget Mrs. Hermione Billings, president of the Pleasantville P.T.A., who scragged the mayor with a .38 to protest the lack of a traffic signal at her son's school crossing?

So at last, every American came to enjoy true equality in our democracy—all equally able, depending on marksmanship, to exercise their inalienable right to eliminate the candidate of their choice.

The Democrats' victory in the 1984 election proved, however, somewhat pyrrhic. Unfortunately, they hadn't been able to find anyone willing to run for office. (Copyright Chronicle Publishing Co. 1975)



### Small announcement

Dear editor,

On Oct. 9, Rep. Morris Udall spoke at Centennial College to some 150 people. Fortunately I happened to notice the one paragraph in the Daily Nebraskan stating the time and place, and was able to go hear him speak.

I am by no means a Udall supporter, but I believe that when a presidential candidate, regardless of party or stature, comes to this campus, there should be more than a "Short Stuff" announcement.

University students should take advantage of the occasions to educate themselves on subjects of importance outside our often sheltered community. But it is up to such media as the Daily Nebraskan to make knowledge of these events available.

I hope this priority will be reviewed by those in your organization who decide what we, the students, will read.

Dave Pederson

### Disappointed with Greeks

Dear editor,

The other night while I was studying, I was rather

rudely interrupted by some obscene language. I investigated and discovered, to my astonishment, that some fraternity men (if I can call them men) were yelling their hearts out to anyone who would listen.

I asked that they please quiet down and was promptly called some names I wouldn't call my worst enemy.

When I transferred here, I was under the impression that the fraternity guys were more mature than the guys in the dorms. Now I'm not so sure. This incident has lowered my opinion of the whole Greek system, especially the guys.

Willa Marie Lowson

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes letters to the editor and guest opinions. Choices of material published will be based on timeliness and originality. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, but may be published under a pen name if requested. Guest opinions should be typed, triple-spaced, on nonerasable paper. They should be accompanied by the author's name, class standing and major, or occupation. All material submitted to these pages is subject to editing and condensation, and cannot be returned to the writer.

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