

editorial/opinion

to the editor



Dear editor,

The article on the Centennial Education Program (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 16) was interesting, but somewhat shallow.

I'd like to expand on a project of mine, that was cited in the article. No folks, it wasn't another college ripoff.

The two credits (not three) involved setting up a poker game in which four people were invited to play. A fifth player was brought in, a semiprofessional magician, who systematically stripped the unwary players of \$50.

The game was recorded on video tape. Setting up the game, assembling the equipment and weeding out technicalities for this segment took two months.

An interview segment also was taped. Scripting, research, graphic productions, editing, audio and nailbiting took more hours than I care to mention.

Yes, I learned how to cheat at cards, but more importantly, I learned to spot a cheat at work and how to

avoid being cheated in a friendly game.

The resulting half-hour video documentary has since faded into the night, but the things I learned with the project fellow, Ric Marsh (he learned too), on lighting and all those other wonderful things in visual production that you see but never think about, have been invaluable in my appreciation of television art and my later productions in the broadcast sequence of the School of Journalism.

Michael Zangari

Prisoner's fate

Dear editor,

Not enough consideration is given to the man who leaves prison and re-enters the free world. Money is spent to keep him confined, but where is any money to help him when he returns. Where is he to begin again?

The trial and changes encountered in prison present society with a man who has new perceptions, attitudes and feelings. He needs new guidance, new hope, renewed feelings of usefulness and new chances. He needs acceptance, a plan, a trust.

Rehabilitation inside is not achieved. A universal plan is not appropriate. An individual plan is desperately needed to be flexible and able to adjust to the different and vital needs of each man.

A classic student athlete

We did not know former Husker defensive end Tom Pate. We can guess, though, from the comments of UNL football coaches and players, what kind of man he was.

Coach Osborne and the Husker players' sorrow over Pate's death is itself a tribute to the man. The consensus is that, while Tom Pate wasn't a superstar, his contributions to the UNL team—commitment, warmth and a real love of football—make him every bit as valuable as players whose athletic abilities may have been more outstanding.

We'd like to see a Tom Pate Memorial Scholarship established, perhaps through the University Foundation. It would fit Pate's character—a scholastic scholarship for an aspiring athlete, for "a fine student . . . who really loves to play the game."

It is an unusual variety of "white flight"; the students, not the parents, want to flee a school in a "trouble area."

The school is in Lincoln, according to the Lincoln Star, some students of Southeast Nebraska Technical Community College (SeTech) are refusing to attend classes at Whittier Junior High School at 22nd and Vine streets.

SeTech Director David Buettner says the problem is caused by tension in that area stemming

from the Sherdell Lewis shooting. SeTech Board Chairman Robert Wekesser says the classes might have to move somewhere else.

Both statements are copouts.

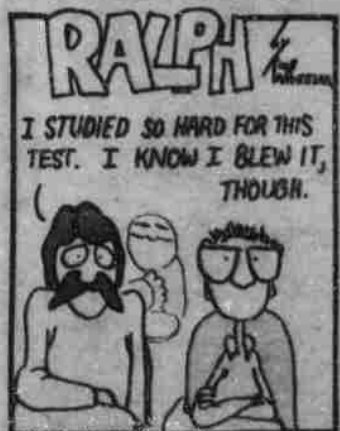
If there is tension in this "trouble area," it did not arise overnight with Lewis's death. The tension, if it exists, is evidence of a problem for Lincoln that is more far reaching than the Lewis incident.

And moving away from the tension will not reduce it, in the long run. SeTech officials, instead of encouraging such avoidance of the problem, should persuade their students to stay and confront it. "Trouble areas" don't improve any other way.

Rebecca Brite

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.



Professor Hans Toch, speaking at UNL Thursday (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 17), noted the need for prisoners to maintain links with society. In this way the prisoner does not lose touch with the world to which he will someday return and have to fit back into. This process of getting back into society is a trauma—a tightrope upon which he is walking.

The responsibility is upon those who have the power to help these men adjust before re-entering—the same who often come to crying out to recapture these misguided and affected lives.

The established system is the deciding factor in guiding these men back into our society—and this same system therefore, holds a prisoner's fate.

"A Plea for Guidance"

Porno filth

Dear editor,

Come on, American males with brains, character, morals stability and guts. Let's clean up this pornographic filth. We don't need a Dane to tell us what affects our kids. Let's help the perverted, sick-minded homo to grow into a male with character and morals.

"A Honkie Taxpayer"

Appreciates Greeks

Dear editor,

After reading Tim Roesler's letter (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 15) I felt I should make my position known.

When I started school here, I also stereotyped the Greek system. The reason: all I knew about it was what I had heard. But I no longer consider the entire Greek system a bunch of "snobs".

Last year I started working for a fraternity, a rather small one, but a group of very close guys. Since then I have learned a great deal about the Greek system. Like anything else, it has its advantages and disadvantages.

I, for one, am willing to admit that independents do stereotype Greeks and should not.

I am one independent who enjoys the work and efforts that the Greeks go through at Homecoming and many other times. As far as I'm concerned, the Greeks should stand up and take a bow.

C. Cole

Lewis question unanswered

Dear editor,

I attended the open meeting of Oct. 17 dealing with the shooting death of Arvid Sherdell Lewis, in hopes of getting answers I sought.

Unfortunately, nothing was clarified other than what I have already read in the Daily Nebraskan and the Lincoln Journal.

I agree a grand jury investigation should be carried out, but I don't believe people would respond seriously to it from the bias displayed last Friday.

I am referring to the attitudes of State Sen. Ernie Chambers, County Commissioner Bruce Hamilton and members of the Justice for Lewis Committee, and to the pep rally atmosphere displayed by the crowd.

Chambers was out of line in calling County Atty. Ron Lahners names. If Lahners is at fault, the facts will show it. There is no need for Chambers to say things in public which he can only contend, and not entirely prove.

By doing this, Chambers has, on one hand, stirred up the emotions of the crowd, and on the other hand has supplied no evidence to back his accusation.

Hamilton, though civil, also failed to shed any new light on the matter.

Finally, I heard the Justice for Lewis Committee offer nothing more significant than the fact that Lewis was unjustly slain. Just why Lewis was killed, no one knows. That is the burden of the grand jury investigation, and I hope the investigation will be carried out.

Richard Rolofson

Long hard climb



Laws directing morals reflect bygone era

There is disagreement on what a perfect society is. Most people would agree that a society which had just laws, approved by the majority, would be a starting place. Certainly laws should reflect the society they regulate.

This is not the case in Nebraska. Most laws governing public morals were passed between 1899 and 1917 without significant changes since. Included under this section are laws concerning adultery, sodomy, obscenity and barbering on Sundays.

Yes, folks, you can bring the public standards of decency down by clipping hair on Sundays (and be fined ten dollars). It is also against the law to play baseball or engage in public dancing on Sundays.

This was not unusual for 1917. At that time skirts had not yet risen to the knee. The United States was just entering its first world war. Social Security was not due for another 20 years and most people professed a Christian faith whether or not it carried any conviction.

Somehow deciding that the Sabbath for all people was on Sunday and that the Sabbath meant something to all people did not seem unreasonable then. It seems unreason-

able now.

Another strange situation concerns the laws about adultery, cohabitation and sodomy. Under the section concerning adultery, cohabitation is illegal. Unfortunately, "cohabitation" has an ambiguous definition. It means either that a man and woman live together as husband and wife without the legal ties or that they live together and also engage in sexual intercourse.

Therefore it is all right for same sex roommates to live together and not sleep together, but it is illegal for opposite sex roommates to live together if they are engaging in intercourse or passing themselves off as married people. It is unclear whether they can live together if they refuse to recognize each other on the street and have separate bedrooms.

In other states, cohabitation is against the law, but common-law marriage is recognized. Therefore, if two people can manage to live together for the prescribed amount of time illegally without being arrested, their marriage will become legal.

Why is the state of Nebraska legislating moral behavior

when there is little agreement about what moral behavior is? And, why haven't the laws been changed?

The first question can be answered simply by pointing to when the laws were passed. The second question can't be answered completely, but one recent example comes to mind.

Last April, a bill was passed to revise Nebraska law on sex crimes, which changed the penalty for forcible rape from three to 20 years to one to 25 years. Sen. Glenn Goodrich of Omaha had promised to introduce an amendment legalizing heterosexual sex between consenting

After being advised that his amendment could jeopardize the entire bill, Goodrich failed to introduce it. He also succeeded in removing a section of the bill which would have repealed the sodomy law except for prohibiting bestiality.

We need a system of judicial review of laws, especially when they were passed by people who are now long dead. Ideas tend to change with generations. The state would have fewer criminals (punished or unpunished) and the laws would reflect the present society instead of a bygone era.