

# Daily Nebraskan staff leaves indelible mark

It is an almost overpowering temptation to use this final editorial as a last chance effort to make one more point, to argue one last final issue for this senior college editor.

Instead it is best, perhaps, to remain silent on the weightier issues. The Daily Nebraskan has generated a certain amount of comment this semester. Let the paper rest on those issues; let that be part of what the newspaper will be remembered for.

There is much to be genuinely proud of for those of us at the Nebraskan. With real modesty, but also real truthfulness, we believe the paper has been lively, well written and carefully edited. Long days and some longer nights are part of the reason, but more importantly, this product was the outgrowth of the talents of some splendid people among the staff members. The senior editors have grown in their personal and professional stature as they have invested a large chunk of their college careers in this newspaper.

A lot of the younger talent will remain. One of the brighter spots certainly belongs to my successor, new editor-in-chief Theresa Forsman, from whom I expect to see some fine things.

The senior staff editors are often so involved in

the paper, both in extent and in time, that they live much of their lives with each other. We have been living on a binge of little sleep, lots of coffee and varying degrees of confidence throughout the year. And we have loved it. Sharing so much has brought some pleasure, and with closeness, some profound disagreement between ourselves. Yet it is the nature of journalism, and of budding

journalists, to pack it all in and start the cycle over again the next day.

The Daily Nebraskan, from time to time, is accused through its editors, of being an elite group. We are enthusiastic and we are close, but we rarely like to believe we are elite. If we were truly elite, we would find it impossible to get anything done. We can't afford to be an elite, for we are only as good as our next story.

A sense of fairness, of seeking out injustices, is a part of our profession. It is that instinct that has compelled us to vigorously pursue several stories over the course of the semester. We harbor no grudges, but our tolerance for anything but the straightforward and honest is very low.

So now we ask, at the same time with relief and with disbelief, the question posed by Ralph's friends: "Is this really the end?"

We are destined to split up, to make our own lives, to go our separate ways. And probably for some of us, in time, to lose touch.

One likes to think it won't happen, but it seems to be an inescapable fact of our society and of the mobility involved in a journalism career.

No doubt our skills will grow more refined with the years. Regretably, they probably also will grow more staid, more established. This enthusiasm that has been shared, as we have struggled with our first media experience, could not be sustained for the whole of our careers, but the dedication that was refined throughout the year won't leave us.

You, the reader, have been a part of our experience at the Daily Nebraskan. For your patience and your interest, we thank you.

As for myself, I have been pleased and humbled to have been editor at the Daily Nebraskan and worked with such fine people. So I will say, at the end of my college career, thanks Lois, Gina, Lori, Randy, Rex, Jim, Josie, Kitty, Jerri, Randy, Michele and Ted. And countless others whose names would fill the rest of the page. And mom and dad.

April 30, 1976. The end.

Vince Boucher

## guest opinion | Silent majority is ignored in the Gay Rap Line issue

By Lyle George

Why was the most controversial issue faced by the Fees Allocation Board (FAB) this year the financing of the Gay Rap Line? One reason is that the silent majority finally decided to say something. Unfortunately, FAB didn't pay much attention to what the silent majority had to say. They bureaucratically allocated \$500 to the Gay Rap Line anyway.

At least 1,492 people put their names on a petition stating that they thought that the financing of the UNL Gay Action Group does not enhance significant out-of-classroom social, cultural, educational and recreational opportunities which improve student life at UNL. It was requested in the petition that FAB withhold financing of the Gay Action Group and the Gay Rap Line.

I think that it was very significant that there was no organization or group, except John Q. Student, behind the drive to get signatures. It was an individual effort. If a few individuals can get such a response in a period of only 15 days, I think it is very indicative of university-wide opinion.

I am responding to the guest opinion written by David Menter in the Daily Nebraskan on April 21, 1976.

### Acts illegal

I have offered three main objections to Gay Rap Line financing. According to Chapter 28, Section 919 of Nebraska Revised Statutes (re-issued 1964), homosexual acts are illegal. I think that the financing of the Gay Rap Line is a blatant endorsement of illegal activity. If people think that the current Nebraska law is obsolete, it should be changed by legislation, not by ignoring it.

Mr. Menter stated, "in the last 15 years antihomosexual laws have been repealed in 13 states." If this is true, that means there are 37 states that have not. I feel that 37 states is a good strong majority. Just because a few states have repealed laws does not mean we should follow suit.

Mr. Menter also stated that in Healy vs. Jones (1971) the U.S. Supreme Court required that universities recognize gay political groups. I suppose we do have to recognize them as a group, but we sure do not have to fund them.

### Duplication of services

It has also been my contention that the Gay Rap Line is a duplication of services already offered by Outreach. All people have certain basic human emotional problems. Each and every individual also is unique emotionally. Outreach is adequate for all university students.

Many students think that the Gay Rap Line is unnecessary. We might as well have a Heterosexual Rap Line. Or how about a German-English Protestant Rap

Line? Or better yet, how about a rural student rap line? No one really knows the trauma of being a rural student who has been transplanted to the big city except one who has been through it. Think of the social stigma attached to being a hick or a hayseed. The Gay Rap Line is just as ridiculous as the others I have proposed.

I find it hard to believe that there are, according to Dr. Kinsey's statistics, 2,000 to 4,000 gay people on campus. If there really are, I am sure that city wide and campus wide there are enough gays to support the Gay Rap Line if they are convinced it is necessary.

In conclusion, I must state that if any activity cannot exist without coercing money from students, then that activity should not exist. As Thomas Jefferson said: "To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical."

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Lyle George is a freshman agronomy major from Lincoln.

d.n.  
soapbox

## vine st irregulars | A farewell to grad gurus sums up VSI philosophy

By Michael Hilligoss

Dear Yossarian and Leonik,

I'm sorry that my farewell to the both of you must come in a letter. I had hoped that we could meet together at least one more time before I left UNL, but it just hasn't worked out. It has been a good year and I have learned much about graduate student life from you. I'm sure that much of what you taught me will serve me well when I begin graduate studies of my own next fall.

The philosophy and outlook of the Vine Street Irregulars has influenced my selection of a department for graduate work. I learned from you to look for a department where a graduate student can spend his time working to satisfy intellects rather than egos. You have taught me that a graduate program should be an exercise in education, not in politics. But I also have learned that when a program goes sour, when it begins to value image instead of honesty, then political activism must be considered.

You have taught me to seek out professors whose reputations rest on quality teaching, rather than on long

lists of publications. You have taught me that instructors must earn respect, not demand it because the title of "professor" has been lowered about their ears like an ill-fitting halo.

I have learned from you that working with a professor should not require submission and the forced acceptance of the professor's own point of view. I have come to expect a professor to be open to growth and innovation while openly admitting his limitations and shortcomings.

You have taught me to be wary of the professor who would flatter and encourage me as a means of increasing enrollment in his seminars. I have learned that caution is needed when entering a new department, that new graduate students are sometimes courted by unscrupulous professors to increase their "following" in a department, that new grad students are sometimes unwittingly enlisted as pawns in departmental power plays.

You have made me realize that not all of my future classmates will be motivated by a desire to learn, that some will sell their souls and their integrity just to get an advanced degree. I know that there will be moments of bitterness when I see students who have just "played the game" get through a program with much less hassle. Yet, I know that there will be a few students, like you, with whom I can work and share the joy of a new idea, hard study, and honest criticism.

Thank you for this year of trust, comradeship, and sharing.

Best wishes,  
Hilligoss

P.S. The Daily Nebraskan has been very open to my weekly reports on the activities of the VSI and if you look around I'm sure you can find someone who will continue to give expression to your views in the years to follow. Be sure to encourage him to apply as a columnist. He'll thank you for it.

ralph by ron wheeler

