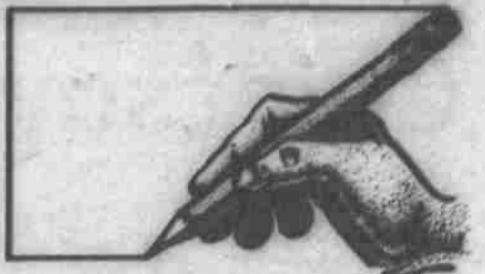


opinion



letters

Big 2

I'm very thankful to Pete Wegman for his article on the Oct. 8 *Daily Nebraskan* sports page. He carefully informed us about the "less than mediocre programs" in such sports as cross country, baseball, swimming and tennis. Pete proposes to drop these sports in two years if drastic improvements are not shown.

I ask Pete to consider the consequences if everyone had the same view of dropping all sports which aren't in the top four of the Big 8. After two years the bottom four would drop their mediocre football programs and the Big 8 would become the Big 4. And an additional two years would probably see Nebraska and Oklahoma battling it out for the Big 2 conference championship. I can just imagine on Thanksgiving Day.

"This game is for the conference championship between Nebraska and Oklahoma. In the previous six conference games they've played this season it's Nebraska winning three and Oklahoma winning three."

Now really Pete, I ask you to consider the possibilities before you c... Jemn the UNL sports which haven't had the breaks our football team has had and to remember that "It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game."

John Harris

Fans deserve better

Being a Husker football fan for years and realizing that this subject has been brought up several times in the past without results, I still must voice my opinion in regards to NU's yell squad. They seem like such a letdown—something Nebraska fans shouldn't have to put up with each home game Saturday.

It seems like they do the same thing every year with less enthusiasm each season. It's too bad the Athletic Dept. can't open their eyes and realize what a mess the squad has become. I'm sure part of the problem is the unfair and biased tryouts they conduct, plus the fact that their so-called coach is so defensive when confronted with suggestions for change or improvement of the squad.

I've seen other college yell squads and they outdo Nebraska's squad every time! It's really sad to think of 76,000 fans having to put up with this boring and monotonous display of non-talent each Saturday. I think it's high time they stop forcing a "Greek function" on the loyal Nebraska fans... they certainly deserve better than what NU's yell squad has to offer!

A fan who is not excited, Sara

Parking solution

One of the major problems on campus appears to be the lack of parking space. Actually, this problem is not as difficult to solve as it appears.

For the on-campus student, this is my solution:

1. Number all of the spaces in the parking lots.
2. Assign each student who requests a permit a numbered space.
3. Students park in their own places, which saves them a lot of looking, a lot of tickets, etc.

(Admittedly, there is a difference in the quality of various location of the lots. This could be solved by higher rates for more desirable locations, or a lottery of some sort.)

For the off-campus students:

1. Number all of the spaces in the parking lot.
2. Assign the spaces by number. Realizing that most off-campus students don't need to use their space all day, the spaces would be assigned by hour and by day, depending upon the student's schedule.

There still would be a shortage of parking places, I fear, so:

1. Pave the grain fields in front of the Coliseum.
2. Steal the athletic field behind the Women's Physical Education Bldg. for parking.
3. Build a parking garage next to the union.
4. ASUN could establish and encourage a car pool program. Cars in a pool could be given lower rates for permits.
5. The university could buy some of the houses along 19th St., and could build more lots.

The solutions really are not so hard to work out if someone in charge would worry more about getting the students parked correctly than setting a record for giving parking tickets.

If any of my ideas need further clarification, I will be happy to try to explain them more clearly.

Sincerely, Arnold Grivalds

Nebraskans have gone overboard assuring politics, money don't mix

Nobody wants to elect politicians who are in it for the money. But in Nebraskans' efforts to assure that public service and monetary reward don't mix, we are charging some politicians for the honor of representing us.

State senators are paid \$4800 annually. Expenses for one round-trip to Lincoln plus \$200 for postage also is paid annually.

Besides giving up or delaying career development and financial security to serve in the Legislature, many senators are forced to dip into personal cash funds to finance their terms in office.

Any out-of-town senator with family and/or business demands pays for those extra trips home during the session. That \$4800 is expected to cover food and housing costs for the out-of-town Legislator while he is in Lincoln.

Nebraska is one of 10 states which require a constitutional amendment to change legislators' salaries. A proposed amendment to Nebraska's constitution would raise the monthly legislative salary to \$675, or \$8,100 annually. The proposed amendment, number eight, will be on the ballot Nov. 2 for your approval or disapproval.

The job of Nebraska's state senators is becoming a full-time one. Since 1971, the state has had annual legislative sessions.

The schedule of committee meetings, the need for research, bill preparation and communication with constituents show that demands on the leg-

islators' time are not limited to the 60- or 90-day sessions.

Frequently at the university, when the subject of personnel is raised, we are reminded that it is important to remain financially competitive in the labor market. This is true for our lawmakers, too. The salary should not prevent good legislators from staying in office or discourage qualified persons from running for office.

Of course, service in any Legislature should not be a profit-making venture but it should be remembered that these people make policies and programs affecting our social and economic system. The salary proposed in amendment eight is not high enough to reflect the responsibility of that politician, but it is a step toward assuring that we attract responsible candidates to the business of making our state laws.

Except for those few who will be skeptical of the worth of politicians, no matter what they are paid, most of us should see the value of voting for amendment eight.

Just as the state is not made up of the rich and/or retired, the Legislature shouldn't be, either.

The only flaw in amendment eight may be that the salary hike is too low. The 68 per cent salary increase would boost the pay to \$8,100—about \$2,000 below the national state legislator's salary of \$10,027.



Economic pressures eroding family

By Nicholas Von Hoffman

The Peanut may be the first presidential candidate to make The Family a recurring campaign theme. Until now touring politicians have paid The Family occasional and ritual deference and then moved on to talk about peace-through-strength.

What St. Jimmy the Tempted has in mind when he brings up the topic isn't very clear. Is family a code word for more money for the police or for corporal punishment in the schools or what? Perhaps these allusions to the need to strengthen family life reflect nothing more than Carter's pollsters picking up the concern as they trip about asking the randomly select to speak what is on the mind of the great collectivity.

If that's the case it's too bad, because there is a long, deep and genuine concern about our family life and its future.

Nuclear family

First, there is the question of the so-called nuclear family (mother, father, 1.8 kiddlipoos, 0.38 puppy dog and 0.2 putty tat). Can one member of that family earn enough money so that the whole group can have a half-way decent standard of living? What will be left of even the dehydrated nuclear family if both adults must work?

The answer to that question by Carter has been the day-care center. It's hard to imagine a more efficient way to destroy what's left of our little families than to arrange the economic system so that it is impossible for even one of the parents to take care of the infant children.

It hasn't been that many years that one of the saddest and most painful parts of the Communist system in Russia and China was forcing parents to hand over their babies to the impersonal, institutional care of the state. Now we have a Democrat campaigning on the promise to facilitate that very thing and Republican who says nothing about the issue because for Ford to confront it he would have to talk about what the current wage-price situation is doing to family life.

Is it sex, drugs?

Is it sex, alcohol, drugs and mental illness that is putting such pressure on family life or is it that the system cannot pay enough single wage earners enough money? Neither candidate has ever told us what, if anything, he thinks about this question, but from the best one can tell both of them subscribe to the notion that marriage counselors, half-way houses, juvenile-rehab programs and psychiatry is the way to go.

Television watchers the last few weeks may have

noticed the arrival of the woman alcoholic. All of a sudden we are being told that it is shocking and unforgivable that almost all alcoholic programs - both research and therapy - are aimed at men. Estimates of how many women alcoholics there may be are flung about the airwaves.

Social problems are medicalized. As tradition, structure, internal disciplines and the social roles of the past are rubbed out by the needs of a corporate economy just as surely as urban renewal and the freeway flattened some of our best old neighborhoods, medicine is ordered into the breach to control, contain and suppress the resultant behavior.

sidewise

Neither Ford nor Carter has indicated that objectionable behavior can arise out of social or economic causes. The one exception that is sometimes made is low-income blacks or other minorities whose criminal members are excused on environmental grounds. The destructive, degenerate or dangerous behavior of everybody else is either the product of moral weakness or medical disability.

Our two major presidential candidates are committed to the standard programmatic approaches, that is to say the medical explanation of socio-economic phenomena. There will be no public discussion of the possibility that it may be enough to drive someone to drink - revealing phrase - if the someone is a member of a family in which the man holds down two jobs and the woman holds one.

Difficult to function

The orthodoxies of the Ford-Carter approach assure the continued, untroubled and undiminished existence of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). As the economic arrangements of our society make it more and more difficult for the family to carry out its historic functions, the government in its delicate and sensitive way must move in and take over the job. So long live HEW. It's Red China with air-conditioning, color TV and frozen food for supper. Have a drink on it. Have a lotta drinks on it.