

opinion



letters

It's been great...

I wonder what it means when you come in on the morning of your last day as editor and have to clear the ads off the editorial page so you have some space to write?

Traditionally, the last editorial of the semester has been taken as a chance for the editor to indulge herself (himself) in end-of-the-semester ramblings. This is no exception. I come out from behind the editorial "we" today because today I am writing for myself, not as spokeswoman for the Daily Nebraskan.

I don't have to say here that I think we have the most hardworking, funloving 50 plus people you'll ever hope to meet and that together they have produced a semester's worth of papers all of us are proud of. If they don't know that by now, it wouldn't do any good to say it here.

You may not realize it, and sometimes we forget, too, but this is your paper. What would we be without our readers? So please use your right of reply via the letters column. We welcome and need your suggestions, criticisms, —anything to let us know how we're doing.

A big, sincere thanks to all of you who have helped us out this semester, individually or collectively, with moral support. You know who you are, so I don't have to incriminate you by mentioning your names MT, ABW, J Skool, MM, CDK, GH, RG and RG.

but I've got to go

If this semester could be summed in one word, it would have to be "change." We have a new chancellor, a new student affairs head, a new editor, a new U.S. President, and new NU president (and another on the way), a new...

The numerous changes brought worried frowns in some quarters. But, really, you wouldn't want it any other way.

This summer, a woman who wrote for the Daily Nebraskan in 1960 stopped into the office. The semi-famous writer from New York was visiting her home state. She looked around the Daily Nebraskan office, shuffled uncomfortably and asked me how old I was. She said the Daily Nebraskan and its home had changed so much she felt as if she didn't belong here. She didn't. She belongs in New York being a semi-famous writer. Which brings me to the point I'm trying to make. Maybe the past is a nice place to visit—and to reminisce about, but you don't want to be in it 20 years from now. No matter how far we've come, or how attached we are to the present, there are better things ahead. You can't have progress without change. With that, I'll step down in the name of progress.

Explain charges

In the Dec. 10th edition of the *Daily Nebraskan* there was a story about the Women's Resource Center's prohibition of the distribution of the *Lincoln Gazette* at the center. Two major charges were made against the *Gazette* in that article. Sandy Garner of the Women's Resource Center supported banning the *Gazette* distribution in the center largely because it did not "specifically relate to women's issues". Ms. Garner was not specific. Neither has she been precise in her private conversation with me concerning this issue. I call on Ms. Garner to specifically justify her charges by detailing how the *Gazette* does not deal with women's issues. If we at the *Gazette* are to defend ourselves we need to know exactly why we have been found wanting.

For the sake of making this conflict worth your precious time dear reader, I suggest a couple of examples of what are "specifically women's issues". I suggest that the exploitation of factory workers at Russell Stovers is a women's issue—an issue that has been extensively explored by the *Gazette*. It is a women's issue even if women are not employed at the plant. Ms. Garner seems to have forgotten the obvious fact that women are mothers, wives, aunts, and grandmothers as well as sisters. Women are part of the human species. The rape of women is a women's issue as well as an issue that should concern men. The rape of the free spirits of men by their bosses, be those bosses male or female is a men's and women's issue. These are specifically men's and women's issues. We human beings have obligations to promote liberty and equality among the species. Am I mistaken Ms. Garner? Why isn't there room for such a discussion in the Women's Resource Center?

The second accusation came from Teri Eyster of *Growing Season*, *Women's Pages*, and the Women's resource Center. Ms. Eyster is paraphrased as having said that "the reason the center no longer distributes the *Gazette* is because it conflicts with our statement of not distributing anything that contains sexist, racist or oppressive material".

On Friday afternoon, Dec. 10th after reading the *Daily Nebraskan* article a black student questioned a *Gazette* staff member as to whether the *Gazette* was a racist publication. Of course, the *Gazette* reporter said the paper was not racist. It does worry me that the lack of clarity in this matter may be a cause of misunderstanding and harm.

During telephone conversation over the weekend I asked Ms. Eyster about her charges. She told me that the *Daily Nebraskan* story was inaccurate. She went on to say that to call people opposed to abortion on demand sexist was "narrow-minded". She told me that her position on this issue was not reversed, but was growing.

I strongly encouraged her to write a letter to the *Nebraskan* which would precisely communicate her position. Since Ms. Eyster has not done that, I feel compelled to challenge her publicly to defend or retract her reported criticism of the *Gazette*, or at least to make herself clearly understood.

The pages of the *Gazette* are available to Ms. Eyster and Ms. Garner for the publication of their criticism.

They are more than welcome, as you are welcome, to have letters published in the paper. Hopefully this controversy could become more than another confused, circular episode of "As The World Turns". It could become a significant discussion concerning what women's issues are and what freedom of expression is. I hope that the right of free expression is a women's issue. If not, the way the Women's Resource Center is run will become an issue in itself.

Sincerely,
Ron Kurtenbach
an editor of the *Lincoln Gazette*

Let them earn their way

I would like to comment on the letter in the Dec. 15 *Daily Nebraskan* from former band member Chuck Clanton. In his letter he said he felt that the Cornhusker Marching Band "contributes as much entertainment, enthusiasm, and enjoyment of the game of football as do the players."

Seventy six thousand Nebraska fans fill the coliseum on Saturdays to watch the football players perform, not the band members. If the band is as entertaining as the football players, then why, at halftime when the band is performing, do the stands become partially empty? To put it bluntly, the average Nebraska fan is interested in the game and not the band.

As for the band being financed by the Big 8 to Houston, let them earn their way, as the football players did through their playing abilities. If the band is as enjoyable and entertaining as the football players, why not have a concert in the stadium. Surely the band could get 76,000 people to pay \$7.25 each, as the football players did all year.

Sincerely,
Paul Pennington

Upgrade both programs

Regarding the recent anti-athletic diatribe by history professor Nels W. Forde. Professor Forde seems to feel there is a basic dichotomy between athletic and academic excellence. I would like to submit that athletic excellence is just as valid a pursuit as academic excellence and, in fact, the two can and should be complementary endeavors. I would go so far as to say that a person who has not achieved, or at least attempted to achieve, a certain degree of competence in both areas is a one-dimensional person. Instead of taking the negative approach and applauding the recent fall to mediocrity by the Nebraska football team, as Professor Forde has done, we should be supporting efforts to upgrade both our academic and athletic programs.

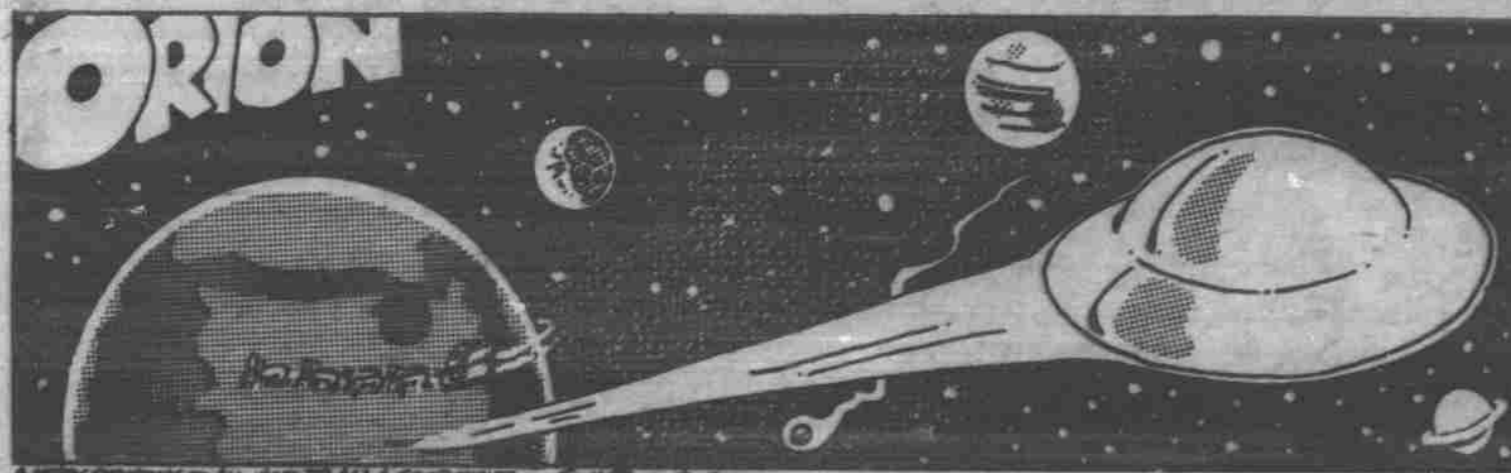
Dave Johnson

IDN

Why does the *Daily Nebraskan* (DN) abbreviate everything with a bunch of letters in parentheses (AEWBLIP)? I (I) once attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), and their student newspaper (SN) didn't AEWBLIP. Sometimes when I read the DN, I think I'm gazing at a bowl of alphabet soup, not a SN. If you don't quit AEWBLIP, I may petition the FAB or ASUN to cut off fees for the DN. And if that fails, I may transfer back to UNO, where the SN isn't so confusing.

I just hope you guys never decide to do an article on French And Russian Tutors or Student Housing In Tennessee.

JRH



A Planet Observed to All, And to All a Good Night! —Scott Johnson— 8/76

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