

## Homecoming is alive; how healthy?

Some Homecoming traditions are like those old dragons who survived the attempts by bright knights to slay them. Alternating neglect and frontal assault, they still live on.

The idea behind Homecoming traditions is not bad: increase interest in ol' NU and make it a nice place for alumni to return to. But realistically, what is going on?

Three years ago, the system was shaken when a write-in candidate for queen, Gary Brantz, won handily—although sponsors were not pleased and tried to take the title from him. The following year cartoon character Ralph Crabtree won, but couldn't be crowned because he could not prove he was a junior.

Brantz's candidacy prompted some changes—a Homecoming king added to the queen. Ralph's victory did little.

Neither Brantz nor Ralph ran to destroy the system. Brantz, in fact, ran simply to increase

interest. His point: the system back then attracted little interest.

He tried to spark interest by doing something different. The result? Attacks against him and minor changes that did little to raise interest.

Then there are the Homecoming displays. Most violate the spirit if not the letter of the spending limit. Hundreds of dollars and what is returned?

We need to redirect activities. If some of the Homecoming traditions are to be kept, they need to be revamped and reorganized. For example, quick now, who did you support for Homecoming queen? You mean you didn't vote? Join the majority.

Let's make the events worth the time it takes to put them together.

That's the message that Brantz, a loyal fan, presented. We need at least to tame the Homecoming tradition dragon.



Daily Nebraskan photo

A crowning achievement . . . last year's Queen Nancy Peck

## editorials

## Carter picks former fumigator as new Best Friend

The White House announced the appointment yesterday of Sam Scrapple of Peach Corners, Georgia, as President Carter's new Best Friend.

Scrapple succeeds Bert Lance, who resigned from the post last month after revelations of banking irregularities in his past.

White House Press Secretary Jody Powell said that Scrapple, a 53-year-old unemployed fumigator, had been recommended for the \$37,500-a-year job by a Blue Ribbon Presidential Best Friend Study Commission.

Powell said the commission received more than 2800

Congressmen that "one of my Best Friends is an ex-Senator."

But it was not to be. After three week's deliberation, the commission recommended against Mondale's appointment on the grounds that his selection as Best Friend would be attributed solely to political expediency.

A White House source close to the president said that Carter himself, had independently rejected Mondale following a softball game in Plains. While Mondale batted .343, he committed two errors at shortstop.

"What President wants a Best Friend," the source said, "who can't go to his right?"

Presidential Assistant Hamilton Jordan said the time-consuming effort that had gone into the choice of Scrapple as Presidential Best Friend "shows how much Jimmy means it when he says 'Why not the best?' when it comes to a Best Friend."

"Jimmy really wanted to appoint a woman as his best

Best Friend," Jordan admitted, "but Rosalynn raised a few objections."

He said, however, that Scrapple, a mulatto who has converted to Judaism, would substantiate Carter's claim to be the best friend of all Americans, regardless of race, creed or color.

"Furthermore," said Jordan, "Sam Scrapple has never accepted a deep freeze, a vicuna coat, a Persian rug or a payoff from a vending machine company; nor has he ever had a bank account to overdraw."

In view of the past histories of Presidential Best Friends, Jordan said that once Scrapple arrived in Washington to take up his duties, he would be confined incomunicado to the cupola of the White House for the remainder of Carter's term.

"We think Sam Scrapple will make the best Best Friend a President ever had," said Jordan confidently, "as long as he doesn't get loose."

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arthur hoppe  
**innocent bystander**

applications for the position and interviewed 47 Best Friend hopefuls.

The appointment of Scrapple, a political unknown, surprised Washington pundits who unanimously had picked Vice President Walter (Fritz) Mondale for the post. The consensus in the Capitol was that the President would name Mondale his new Best Friend to appease the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, with which he has been at some odds lately.

It was also felt that having a former Senator as a Best Friend would help Carter in his thus-far-disastrous attempts to pass legislation—as he could inform suspicious



distinguish a business organization from a university.

The regents should ask themselves who is more benefitted by providing better facilities for graduate work? Even if you look from economic point of view, the University owns the property and patent on any major discoveries of scientific or industrial significance which is the outcome of strenuous work of the graduate student.

Most graduate students hold a teaching appointment, which takes a substantial amount of their time. They have to work even on nights, weekends and holidays, sacrificing a lot of their personal life. Unlike research assistants, they do not get paid for research.

Graduate students are a minor section in the University. I do not understand how a significant input in the tuition fund could be achieved without putting a burden on the shoulders of graduate students.

An exterior survey committee already has suggested improved salaries for graduate assistants at UNL.

Should the regents therefore ignore the silent contributions and sacrifice of graduate students and make their life harder with higher and higher tuitions?—that is my ultimate humble question.

Swapan Kumar Basu



## letters to the editor

I am concerned about the NU Board of Regents proposal of higher tuition rates for graduate students at UNL.

Although it is true that graduate students enjoy more academic and research facilities, most universities do not discriminate them on the basis of tuition. The reasons are not too difficult to find.

A university becomes famous and reputed because of its graduate research work it produces and not on the basis of how much money it earns through tuition. This is how one would

respond to an article in the Entertainment section of the Thursday

Daily Nebraskan.

The article featured an interview with an English professor, Julia Stanley. It concerned her plans to offer a course next semester listed as English 310N, "20th Century Lesbian Novelists."

I consider the class an educational, valuable asset to the University. It offers a unique look into an oft-ignored and repressed aspect of the human personality, as evidence in literature.

It is saddening to think she recommended only women take the course. Her direct quote was "They (men) have no place in there (my class). Lesbianism has nothing to do with their (men's) lives."

Lesbianism is simply part of human nature, no more, no less. It is therefore relevant to all humanity and not just women as Ms. Stanley seems to believe.

I (a man) am very much interested in taking the course, but I will not take it if I feel the instructor will discriminate against me simply because I was born male. I suggest she redefine her statement if she hopes to maintain any validity as an instructor.

James G. Walla

## Flag football

I would like to discuss a serious matter about intramural flag football: the roughness and general abuse that occasionally occurs during games.

Flag football was created to supply UNL students with a fun and compe-

titive form of recreation. As the football finals quickly approach, I think it wise for the players to remind themselves that it is the reason they are there.

I have refereed and supervised far too many games where the sport had disappeared and was replaced by constant arguing, unnecessary roughness and sporadic fighting among players and against referees.

These actions must stop to preserve the spirit of the game. The refs are to officiate, not defend themselves or take unnecessary disciplinary action against abusive players.

The referees are a fine group of men and women doing the best they know how. Unfortunately there are occasional shortages of personnel, so this leaves the remaining ones to call the games as close as they can.

They also are students like yourselves, which means they make mistakes. However, these mistakes are few and far between. Every call does not have to be contested. This arguing slows down the game, upsets officials and gets the teams all worked up.

I would like to ask everyone playing in the football finals to do his (or her) part to preserve the spirit in which the game is intended.

A football match can be exciting, but the fun can fade if the winning of the trophies becomes more important than the playing of the games. Good luck to all participants.

Doug Engh  
UNL intramural supervisor