

# opinion/editorial

## Daily paper serves campus better

The Daily Nebraskan begins the semester with this special edition designed to bring students up to date on university and other news missed over the summer. This edition also is meant to aid new students' orientation to the university.

Our next issue will be published on the first day of classes, Aug. 27, when we will begin our regular publication schedule. Previously published only four days each week, the Daily Nebraskan, to serve the community better, now will appear in newsstands everyday, Monday through Friday.

We have expanded our staff and also plan to expand our coverage of events and people that previously we could not accommodate in our limited space.

Along with our regular coverage, the Daily Nebraskan again will publish a magazine section once every three weeks. It will include a variety

of depth pieces that a daily paper normally does not have time to research.

Our sports department again will produce First Down, the 10-cent football program available on home-game Saturdays.

For a second semester the Daily Nebraskan will have an ombudsman, Michael Zangari. He will be responsible for handling reader and source complaints and will write a weekly column discussing the paper's role on the UNL campus.

The editorial page will serve as a forum for differing opinions and for national and local columnists. We welcome letters to the editor and guest opinions. Editorials which will appear in this space daily if unsigned are written by the Editor In Chief, Amy Lenzen. Editorials written by other members of the staff will be signed. Welcome back.

## Usage, not price, eliminated lines for gas

Three months ago, a friend, knowing that I was about to have lunch with an official of the American Petroleum Institute, made a request:

"I know the only reason for the current shortage is that the oil companies want to get gas up to \$1 a gallon," he said. "Please tell your man that I'm willing to pay \$1 right now; just cut out the charade and let me get some gas."

That was early May, when the gas lines were just reaching their full flower.

**william raspberry**

**TWO THINGS** have happened since then: (1) The price of gasoline has reached a dollar a gallon; (2) The gas lines have disappeared.

Does that mean my friend was right? Well, not necessarily; other things have happened since May.

For one thing, we're using less gasoline, although the evidence for that statement is more obvious in the statistics than in my observations of the driving habits of people I know.

In Maryland alone, June consumption was down nearly 17 percent from a year ago — from 192 million gallons to 160 million — according to Victor Rasheed, executive director of the Greater Washington-Maryland Service Station Association.

**IF THOSE** figures even remotely reflect what is happening across the country, that alone would account for an end to the gasoline lines.

But do they? Or, more to the point, will this lessened usage continue now that gasoline is easier to get, although more expensive?

Rasheed believes the figures are accurate, so far as they go. "People adapt," he said. "They made some adjustments in their driving habits."

Part of the adjustment is in the amount of driving they do, he said, and part is in what they drive. For example, he said, it takes some 20 gallons of gas for him to make

the round trip to Ocean City "in my big old Pontiac." His daughter, driving a fuel-efficient Honda, makes the same trip on nine gallons.

**MORE HELPFUL** than the adjustments made by American motorists though, is the recent decision by Saudi Arabia to increase its crude oil production by a million barrels a day — with most of that 12 percent increase ending up in the United States — Rasheed said.

"The media won't give them credit, but the Saudis bailed us out," he said. "The increased production helped us to get our allocation percentage up to around 85, from a low of about 75 percent. If we were still under the June allocation, we'd still have gas lines."

Is Rasheed agreeing that the line-generating shortage was real? Not quite.

"There is no question but that the oil companies were stockpiling crude, waiting for the prices to go up," he said. "I know a recent Department of Energy report exonerated them, but the exoneration was based on the oil companies' own figures. They were stockpiling all right — all of them. And if they were really pressed, I don't think they'd even deny it. As a result, they made many millions of dollars in extra profits."

**SO PERHAPS** my friend was right after all in his contention that it is the dollar-a-gallon prices that have melted the gas lines? Again, it isn't quite that simple, according to Rasheed.

It's true that the situation is better, he said, but there is no reason to believe that it won't get worse again soon.

"(Saudi oil minister Sheik Ahmed Zaki) Yamani told me in 1973 that their oil appreciates faster in the ground than the investments of the income from the sale of the oil. They're producing more than they really want to produce, as a favor to us, but that's temporary. They'll be cutting back 8.5 million barrels a day in three months. Kuwait is going to decrease its production by 10 percent. Nigeria and Libya are planning reductions, too, and Iran is still in turmoil.

"Unless we change our habits in a major way, I wouldn't be surprised to see the gas lines again early next year."

## Ivy League co-eds pose future problems appearing in Playboy

If there is a word that grates the surface of my consciousness like the needle scratching on a record, it is the word liberation.

If there is an argument that makes me positively kinky for chains, it is the spurious debate between sexual liberation and women's liberation.

**ellen goodman**

I have perhaps heard too many serious media discussions about whether the truly liberated woman is one who can take her clothes off in front of a photographer or one who will kick the photographer in the shins for suggesting it. But in the immortal words of Rhett Butler, offered to a Scarlett woman, "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."

The argument is pure political titillation.

**FOR THIS** reason, I avoided the controversy when *Playboy* went recruiting on the Ivy League campuses last spring.

What is there to say about a magazine

that is still fighting the Victorians while the Hustlers are pounding down the gates? What is there to say about a publisher who regards it as avant-garde to prove that women can be brainy and beautiful?

Alas, the discussion seems to have been revived with the publication of the September issue featuring Ivy League women.

Now I am used to having strange bed-

**PLAYBOY**  
ENTERTAINMENT FOR MEN

Girls of Ivy League Revealed



fellows in the First Amendment business, and I categorically refuse to get into the liberation debate. But it is hard to read (I used the word loosely) these pages without thinking a bit about the question of privilege.

**PLAYBOY WENT TO** the Ivy League because its wild and crazy guy readership still believes in the matriculation mystique: the Ivy Elite. While this is wildly exaggerated, the Harvard-Yale-Columbia-Cornell-Dartmouth-Princeton-Brown club is still tough to get into. It takes hard work, good SATs and big bucks.

Kids who go to elite schools, with and without ivy, have a leg up when they get out. The "Ivy Women," along with their Seven Sisters, are in as enviable a position as any women of their age. They are privileged.

Privileged, in the best sense of the word, carries obligations, as well as opportunities. But for *Playboy* it is just another fantasy figure.

The espoused point of the Ivy Women spread was to show that, stripped of the

degrees and everything else, these women were the same as any others.

None of this need be so troubling. Except for one thing. Privilege is easy to lose, especially for women, whose grip on it is as new as their tenure at places like Yale and Princeton. If they don't understand some of the underwritten obligations, they can blow the opportunities.

**IN THE REAL** world, women who pose for *Playboy* do not grow up to work for the state department or to be tenured professors. In the real world, women who are seen nationally in beige satin undies or with their tongues rolling out of their mouths are not taken seriously.

Now maybe that won't matter to these women. But maybe it will. A pin-up label is tough on a resume, even next to a cum laude.

Women's rights won't hang on whether or not the lady from Dartmouth had all her buttons. But their own lives may. I'm afraid that these young women have blown it. And I think it's a shame.

The Boston Globe Newspaper Co.  
Washington Post Writers Group



letters

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes letters to the editor and guest opinions. Timeliness, clarity of writing and originality is considered when selecting material for publication.

All submissions are subject to editing and condensation and cannot be returned to the writer.

Material should be typed if possible and submitted with the writer's name, class standing, academic major or occupation, address and phone number.

Mail or deliver letters and guest opinions to the Daily Nebraskan, Room 34, Nebraska Union, Lincoln, Neb. 68588.