

# opinion/editorial

## DN appreciates survey's results

Elsewhere in today's Daily Nebraskan, we report that nearly 90 percent of 200 students, faculty and administrators polled in an informal survey believe the Daily Nebraskan is a credible publication.

That is welcome information to the staff members of this newspaper. Unlike other professions, people in communication fields rarely see the audience's immediate—or even long-term—reaction to the services they provide.

That is one of the hazards of the business, but even the most seasoned reporter will tell you how disheartening it is to walk into a campus restroom to find copies of the Daily Nebraskan scattered about the floor with the reporter's byline being walked on by a thousand different people.

Yes, we are proud of the results of this survey, however unscientific it may be. It makes us want to work

harder for you. We are proud of other things as well, however. Because this is the next to the last issue of the decade, it seems appropriate to look at the Daily Nebraskan during the last 10 years.

Although we don't have detailed records dating to 1969, we do have copies of the publication which appeared then. Suffice it to say that we have changed drastically through the years.

In just the eight years since 1972, when our best records begin, the Daily Nebraskan has grown from a \$70,000 to a nearly \$400,000 operation. In 1972, the average paper was about 11 pages long—now we average about 17. Eight years ago the Daily Nebraskan staff consisted of about 30 people—today we have nearly 130 staff members.

And in this fall semester, for the first time in about 20 years (to best of our knowledge) the Daily Nebraskan

became a five-day publication. In every way possible, the Daily Nebraskan has attempted to serve the people of this campus to its greatest capacity. We help the business community by providing an outlet for their advertising needs—students, obviously, are a large segment of Lincoln commerce. And more important, we also are providing more news, sports and entertainment information than ever before.

And we are doing it at less expense to you than ever before. In 1972 student fees contributed to 43 percent of our budget. Today, student fees are only 8 percent of our budget. Our increasing efficiency means that students annually pay only about 1¼ cents for each issue of the Daily Nebraskan.

We think you are getting a pretty good deal. Not only are students, faculty members and administration officials informed of important uni-

versity business—regents meetings, faculty concerns and student government—we provide a place for announcements and personals as well. The editorial pages offer a forum for ideas and opinions, for discussion and enlightenment. And where else can you get all of that and a crossword puzzle a day for little more than a penny a day?

First Down, the football program on home football Saturdays that costs one thin dime also is brought to you by us. Fathom, our magazine, is published five times each semester and brings you depth reports on a variety of topics.

The Daily Nebraskan staff members do indeed work hard to serve this campus, work to do the very best job they can and they appreciate it when our readers say their work is credible.

Thank you.



## Life after graduation waiting, no time to drop back and punt

Ah, the end of another season.

"It seems like we just get started and before you know it, comes the time we have to say—so long."

Leaving.

It's a strange sensation. I know that when I finish with finals and make my way home for a needed vacation, that I will be coming back. I don't have to worry about getting

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resumes and cover letters out, I don't have to worry about life after graduation, and I don't have to think about leaving my friends—the people who saw me through four and a half years of college. I can only imagine.

I think I would feel a little sad, and possibly a little old. I would probably think back on those years and kick myself for not accomplishing everything I had wanted to accomplish.

Why didn't I study a little more? Why did I always wait until the last minute to do things? My term papers would have been longer and more concrete, they might even have had a few legitimate sources. I wouldn't have had to amble humbly into my history professor's office and ask

how his wife and kids were, and if he was feeling really generous, since it was Christmastime. I would have been prepared so that I could have slept long and well during finals week, and gone home fresh and rested.

But, no, I had to go to every away football game, spend the afternoons shooting the breeze with friends, watching ESPN until my eyes turned into test patterns, and dropping back about seven and punting when things got tough.

Life would have been so much easier without those midnight missions, or 3 a.m. tromps through four feet of snow. You know, I really didn't have to burn my couch in the 16th St. bonfire and I probably could have done without throwing my typewriter out of the third floor window when I couldn't think of anything to write.

I remember when I graduated from high school and how we all promised each other we'd stay in touch. But, as everyone older told me, we didn't.

I would think about my friends now, and remember back on all of the good times we had, how much we laughed, how much I had learned from them.

And, although I probably didn't do everything I had wanted to do, or done it as well as I would have liked, I would still look back on those years with fond memories and smile.

Right now, though, I have other things to worry about. I'm not graduating, I'm coming back. But, I'll miss those who aren't.

## Reverse case of pragmatism

As we students try to advance our causes here, working at various stages with, without, along with and around each other, there are important things that we forget at times. At times, we only take our principles as far as convenience allows us, at which point those principles give way to pragmatism. I was reminded of what having principles really means during a trip to Kansas State University last month.

### guest opinion

Eta Gamma Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at K-State is like any other chapter of one of the largest predominantly black sororities in the country. Things might be slow at times, but the Deltas at K-State have their sisterhood, and they are quite proud of it. Likewise, Krista Hill is much like any other Delta. I got a chance to talk to her, as well as other members of the sorority, during my visit.

I have been involved with many organizations during the past few years, and I run into typical "organizational values" like commitment, responsiveness, and open-mindedness. Krista, the treasurer of Eta Gamma Chapter, spoke of those values. She, like the others, is concerned about the activities of the sorority. They had helped raise money for the Big Eight Conference on Black Student Government, and will soon be celebrating their tenth anniversary at K-State, and doing some community service projects.

As I have said, Krista Hill is like most other Deltas. She has a history of involvement in student organizations and feels that she's had a lot to offer Eta Gamma, like the others. The major thing that sets Krista apart from the others is that she is the only white member of that branch of the predominantly black sorority.

I am not mentioning this to get the Greek system here at Nebraska to do anything, even though not a single black student lives within any of the houses. Likewise, a fraternity or sorority that is just starting out on campus must find its collective identity and be secure in it before all else. Nonetheless, there are lessons about identity and principles to be learned here.

The women of Eta Gamma have obviously learned that equality, human rights, etc. are absolute terms. Whether you're black or white, Greek or independent, cheerleader or football player or whatever, if you don't advocate equality completely, you don't advocate equality. There are many people in high positions who have advocated "selective equality" for a long time. Identity, a much discussed subject, is also absolute. My trip south showed me that one does not gain identity by who he associates with, but rather by coming to grips with who and what he is—a personal, private, irreversible process. If people must isolate themselves for the sake of identity, then they never had that identity in the first place. As we try to relate to one another across cultures, we would do well to remember those simple things.

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