

# opinion/editorial

## Time article should have been cited

**plagiarize:** to steal and pass off as one's own (the ideas or words of another), to commit literary theft, present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

The meaning of plagiarize doesn't carry very favorable connotations and the sound of the word makes journalists cringe.

But the definition is much too accurate for this editor in last Monday's Daily Nebraskan editorial on the FBI.

Written from much of the information presented in a Time magazine article, a closer look at the editorial

will show plagiarism has occurred. Some of the sentences were taken word for word.

There are no excuses for such a mistake and to attempt to lighten the gravity of such an error would be an injustice to the students on this campus. It is an offense which carries heavy consequences in the classroom as well as any newsroom.

For this reason, only an explanation can be given.

The editorial was the product of information from not only Time, but U.S. News and World Report, Newsweek, the Lincoln Journal and The

Omaha World-Herald. To credit each source of information is difficult and was obviously overlooked in this situation.

Terminology is another questionable area and lines must be drawn when "borrowing phrases." The word "sting" in describing the FBI Abscam operation is an example of terminology picked up by the news media.

The excuse that the public may benefit from a specially termed phrase doesn't work when credit for that phrase isn't given. It can only become one thing—plagiarism.

For some, an editorial, news

story and column mean different things. They have different purposes, formats and styles. But one universal rule applies to all—the material should be original or carry an attribution to the source.

After a "long walk in the desert," this editor has come to grips with plagiarism and recognizes its severity. It is one person's acknowledgment of a serious mistake and hopefully won't be carried over to the institution.

Perhaps this is what is meant by the "price of an education."

Harry Allen Strunk

## letters to the editor

About the draft, Carter says the 20 year olds will be the first to go. It's my birthday today; I'm 20.

A friend of mine from a fraternity told me that a couple of weeks ago there was a "We won't go party," and that particular weekend there was going to be another one. Feb. 22 there was a rally in front of the Union supporting the same theme. Was I there? Will I attend one of those gatherings of protesting and rebellion? No. If necessary, I would rather go to war.

The other night while being held in the arms of my loved one, feeling safe, secure, content, it all overcame me. I don't want

to go to war. It's only my second year of college; I'm just finding out what I want. What about my friends? I don't want this happiness taken away from me. Taken away for reasons I may not even know. I know that not everything is released to the public, am I ready to kill for something of which I don't even know all the facts? And what I do know of, are they worth to me killing for?

Selfish, wasn't I?

But then I stop and think, "That's OK," because one of the things that the frat parties and rallies symbolize is that we're all feeling the same thing, . . . scared.

But they symbolize something else too. Freedom. People saying that they have their own choice to do what they want—this is a free country? But isn't that just what we'd be fighting for, our freedom? The facts of why we'd be in a war may not be worth fighting for, but my country would be.

Are we so spoiled, have we lived so long with having it so good that it is going to take a war, a depression and whatever else follows before we open our eyes and see just how good we have it? Will we be able to handle the consequences if we lose? Will we blame it on our country and our government when it is the people who make these things up?

Well, I'm still scared. Probably more so today because I feel like I am put that much closer. But I'll go. Maybe my consolation is that I feel like I'll be one of the first to "crack" under pressure, and that I'll be taken out. But at least I'm going to try.

Just like "Rocky" who fought to get to the top of the stairs, just like our Cornhuskers who fight it out till the end, like the Olympic stars who break world records just by "going for it." I may not come out on top of the stairs, with the big eight title, or a gold medal, but at least I've tried. And to me, that's a part of winning.

C. Lohmeier  
Sophomore, Education



## Breach of journalism ethics found in recent editorial

I am willing to tolerate a lot of nonsense from a new editor of any campus newspaper. I can also put up with trite editorials on student government, apathy, school spirit, and a dozen other perennial topics. I don't even mind pious columns about the professional standards and excellence of the editor's own paper. But I draw the line at blatant and unclever plagiarism.

### guest opinion

When the editor of the student newspaper at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln stoops so low as to sign his name to a so-called "opinion/editorial" which

has been lifted from the pages of a national magazine that is undoubtedly read by a great many of the students here, it is not only deceitful and disgusting, it is also rather dumb.

It was an interesting juxtaposition that placed the ombudsperson's column next to said editorial. That column talked a great deal about the journalist's "standard of conduct," and professional ethics. The dishonesty of plagiarism is clearly stated in the Student Handbook as a reason for failure in a course at UNL. It violates any code of journalistic ethics that I know of. With all the talk of professional standards at the Daily Nebraskan, I should think a few of them would be observed.

L. Brent Bohlke  
English Instructor

## Two student groups declare 'war' on Wisconsin

The threat of war isn't just an international fear. It can happen in someone's own backyard.

And it did.

Two Big Eight university student associations have declared war on the University of Wisconsin.

That's right, war!

### big eight

But how can universities declare war on each other?

Alleged "badgering" in a questionnaire sent by Missouri Student Association officials to the University of Wisconsin student government prompted the formal declaration of war from the MSA, according to the Maneater, student newspaper at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The Wisconsin Student Association has considered itself in an unrecognized state of war with MSA since Feb. 3, the paper reported.

An MSA presidential assistant said the Wisconsin stu-

dents responded to a questionnaire with joke answers provided by WSA President James Mallon. Mallon was elected last year on the pail and shovel platform. His party is, "dedicated to the four-year-old spirit in all of us," he said.

MSA President Garth Bare responded to the incident by seeking the draft for all University of Missouri-Columbia employees between 27 and 70 and threatening to blitz Madison, Wisc. with Village People music.

The WSA then said they would nuke the Missouri River in order to flood UMC if they did not join WSA in their quest to dominate the world.

Somehow, somebody got the idea that the destruction of Kansas University was the key to peace.

Well, you guessed it. KU didn't like that idea and joined 44 other schools known to be at war with WSA.

KU threatened Wisconsin with a grain embargo. Wisconsin then counter-threatened with a halt to all wine and cheese exports.

And in the meantime, the 64 Wisconsin students attending UMC have been asked to register and show proof of current legal visas.

How will it all end? That is hard to say. It depends on negotiations and the rationality of what appear to be

irrational people.

There is another war going on in Norman, Okla., a fight against noise.

Richard Fant is Norman's own noise control officer. Powered with a 15-page document listing maximum noise levels for virtually any noise possible, Fant is on call 24 hours a day.

If you happen to have a rooster that cackles above 74 decibels, don't take him to Norman.

And just down the road at Oklahoma State University what started out as a simple prank almost became an all out battle.

The front line was part of decorations for the Sigma Nu annual Frontier Ball—and the target was the flag.

After a challenge from Sigma Nu pledges to the campus at large to try and capture the flag, about 100 people, many from the athletic dorm, decided to try.

Attempting to get the flag, however, nearly resulted in the destruction of the tower and made many people upset.

Police and coaches intervened and what could have been a real battle, ended up being little more than traditional Greek-Independent name calling.