

opinion/editorial

Holiday inspires thanks for successes of year

As UNL shuts down for Thanksgiving vacation, it's a good time to stop and be thankful for the important things that merit our attention.

Giving thanks just one day a year may seem like a token assignment for such a profound topic, but it's more practical to get the job done in one day than stretch it out all year.

So as students head over the river and through the woods, here are some things to be thankful for:

— We can be thankful that President Reagan and Pope John Paul II survived their assassination attempts.

— We can be thankful for the tremendously successful season that the Cornhuskers had. Not only was the 37-14 win over Oklahoma satisfying for the players, coaches and fans, but it also meant there was no reason to hear

Boomer Sooner from the OU band.

— We should be thankful for the relatively cool summer and mild fall the Lincoln area enjoyed. Of course, the printing of this will probably result in a 10-inch snowstorm.

— Congratulations to Steven Sample, executive vice president of academic affairs, on his selection as the president of the University of New York at Buffalo.

Sample is highly regarded by his NU colleagues and sought other presidencies over the last couple years.

— The Nebraska men's gymnastics team won its third consecutive NCAA title in April and will host this year's national championships again.

— We should be thankful for having a government that allows its representatives to try and change the direction of the economy. It

probably won't work, but it's nice to know we can try.

— We should also be thankful for Budget Director David Stockman's candid comments on the purposes of Reaganomics.

— The Los Angeles Dodgers came back to win the World Series to silence arrogant New York Yankee fans and their obnoxious owner, George Steinbrenner.

— We should be especially thankful that we don't have to hear President Reagan's "City on the Hill" speech anymore.

— We should be thankful that Gov. Charles Thone only wanted 3 percent cut from the NU budget and not more. And how about the marvelous resistance NU leaders put up against it?

Well, there's lots more but it wouldn't serve any purpose to try and hit every important subject. Hopefully, we all have our own.

Students lose sight of ideals in push for job preparation

A long, long time ago, in a world far, far away, the college life was an idealistic hunting ground for all sorts of bright-eyed youngsters searching for the true meaning of *lackadaisical academia*.

That was then, this is now. Reports from various colleges across the country are showing that students nowadays are being put under a pressure to succeed that outweighs any other priorities they might have once had.

reid warren

The checklist of mental maladies college students are facing seems endless: the faltering economy, the faltering job market, the inaccessibility of grants, the increased competition from fellow students, the rise in tuition and so on.

And, as a result, the increased pressure to succeed is having an adverse effect. Students today are more prone to academic cheating, on- and off-campus violence, general discourtesy and mental problems, and are more apt to solve problems by force rather than negotiation.

The main goal of college students has always been to get a job once they graduate. But today, with that goal no longer assured, college students are emphasizing careerism to an extent they never have previously.

daily nebraskan

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Careerism is not bad in itself. But as I see it, it is the way students are going about it that forebodes a sense of danger for the future.

If college students follow too much of a "campus imitating life" ideal, they're going to find, once they graduate, that they have prepared themselves all too well for "real life."

Take cheating. Academic dishonesty has increased on college campuses in recent years at a record-setting pace.

In this era of Watergate, Koreagate, Abscam, bribe-taking, watch-taking and whatnot, if college students become too used to the idea of cheating, then they have let the imperfections of the outside world infect whatever purity they might have had.

To me, this destroys the entire purpose of college.

To let college simply fulfill the function of being a thoroughfare to the big I-80 of life is giving the outside world more credit than it deserves. College can be a road trip unto itself.

Believe it or not, college is real life. It isn't a proving ground for the "real" things that come later. The values you establish now can actually stay with you and help you the rest of your life.

So if college students let too much of the outside world affect them, then it leads me to the worrisome conclusion that new ideas and innovative thinking will become a thing of the past.

One of the great things about college has always been the freedom to explore yourself through various educational avenues. To put too much emphasis on careerism is to limit your growth to someone else's ideals. And limiting your growth — in any way — is a bad thing to do during college.

I'm not talking about a mid-'60s "change the world" theme. I'm merely talking about being aware and open and retaining senses of common dignity and personal freedom.

UNL Dean of Students David Decoster said a person can look at the increased academic dishonesty two ways:

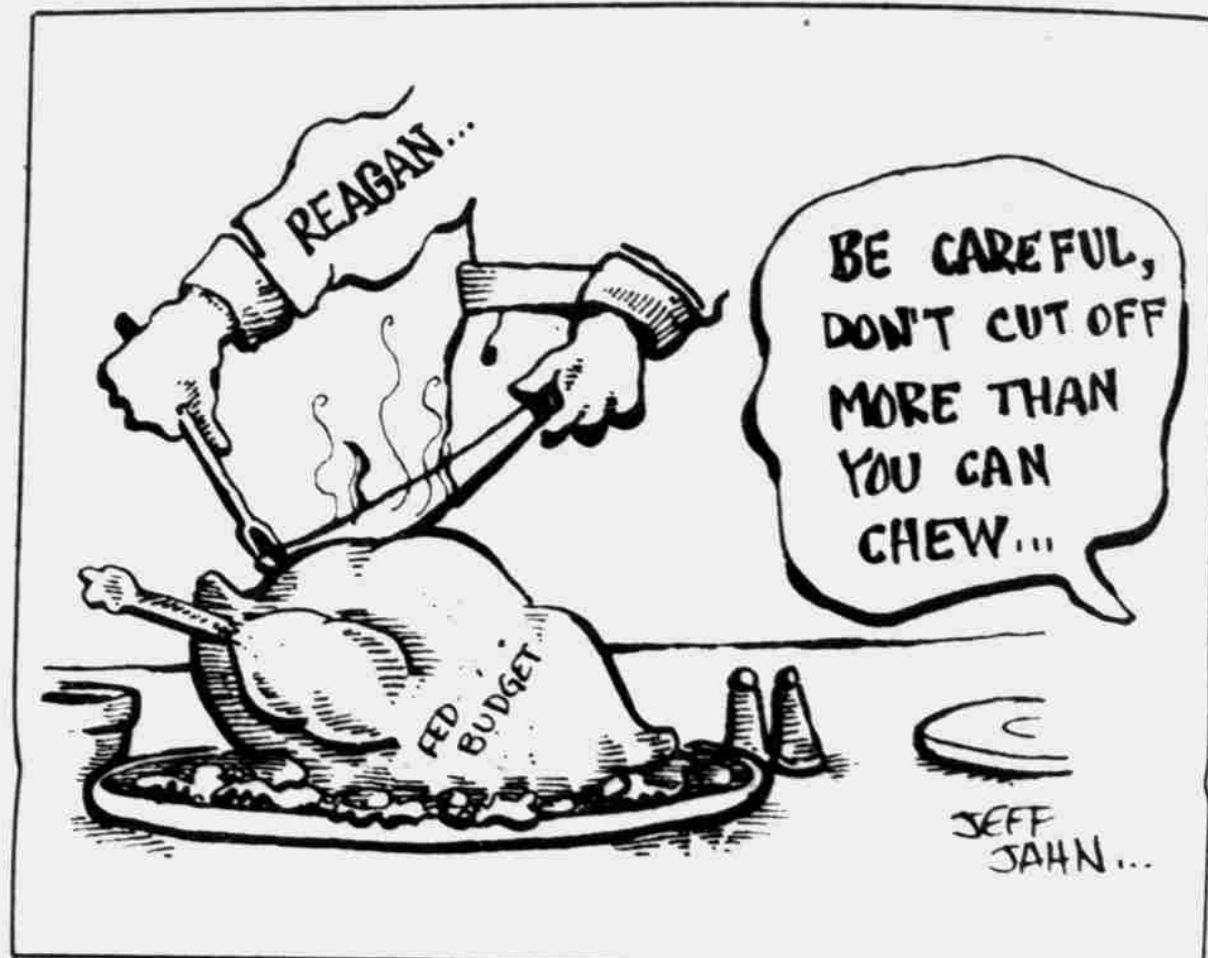
— The first, the frightening way, is that the people in power in various professions got there through dishonesty.

— The second is that students use cheating only to a limited extent and that, once they're done with their education, they start to bear down and work hard to make their dreams come true.

Decoster said he subscribes to the latter possibility because he has seen a lot of compassion underlying the fear and competitiveness that leads so many students to cheat.

I hope he is right. But in light of all the recent government scandals, it makes one wonder if that is, and has been, the case.

Superficial sounding or not, we are the leaders of tomorrow. I sure as hell hope we're not the bribe-taking, money-grabbing leaders of tomorrow.



ASUN powerless—member

Carl Sjulín's letter of Nov. 3 insinuates that by focusing on non-campus issues, I almost single-handedly have dug ASUN into a "hole that may well be too deep to escape from in the future." I repeat again what I've been saying for the three terms I've been on the student senate. ASUN can do nothing. By its constitution as drawn up by Central Administration, ASUN can do nothing but discuss public issues and choose the migration football game.

guest opinion

We can talk and decide to drive to Oklahoma. Nothing more. I don't believe my actions have discredited ASUN because, unlike Carl Sjulín, I don't believe there was ever anything to discredit.

To claim ASUN can make changes benefiting students is simply a deception. The argument that if student government tries to work with Central Administration, Central Administration will be more sympathetic is disproven by the facts. Every ASUN president in the last eight years has been elected by promising to work with, not irritate, Central Administration.

But this "rational" approach has never stopped a tuition increase; tuition has increased at least 10 percent each year. It has never stopped lab fees from being collected. It has never given students control over their own student fees, not the student regent a vote. It has never been able to make the administration more responsible to Affirmative Action. It has never done anything.

His claim that I have avoided local issues for grandiose national ones is just untrue. My own explicitly campus-related bills are foundering at the administrative level. The administration's refusal to act on the mandatory Ethnic Studies and Women's

Studies Bill, and on the Affirmative Action Resolutions is only further proof that student government needs another, more active approach.

But I am concerned with some of the insinuations of Sjulín's letter. He apparently feels that a resolution supporting a Gay/Lesbian ordinance in Lincoln, which would protect lesbians and gays from discrimination, is inappropriate for ASUN to act upon. Does he mean that homosexuals should not be protected from violations of their rights, or simply that homosexuals are not on campus?

Also unjust is misrepresentation of Fran Grabowski's and my resolution on nuclear disarmament. More than anything else the resolution was a public exposure of the Reagan administration's plan to use local victims and other wounded in Europe, in the event of war. This planning for war has reached the point where 485 hospital beds, in Lincoln alone, have been set aside for European casualties.

So the war comes home and the real world interferes with life on campus. And it is just this connection between the local and the national that Sjulín will not admit. He wants to restrict ASUN to university politics, and I see no way of arbitrarily separating what goes on nationally from Lincoln. I freely admit that ASUN has no influence with the Reagan administration, but ASUN has no influence with Central Administration either.

The Reagan administration and corporate directors treat the American public the same way Central Administration treats students and staff at UNL, scornfully. Unless we speak out, whether against intervention in El Salvador, planning for nuclear war, low wages or tuition increases, they'll do what they want. And unless we speak out in large numbers, they will not be compelled to listen.

Tim Rinne
ASUN Graduate Senior