

# opinion/editorial

## Students keep selves safe by providing tips on arson

Enough stories have been written about fire safety in the residence halls this year, that it's very likely some people question students' safety.

It doesn't take much to alarm anyone when they read about a fire alarm that didn't work or someone being arrested for arson. So many people in the halls live within such a compact area that the thought of a major fire is quite chilling.

But there is really no reason to worry about the safety of students in the halls. Ken Winters, deputy state fire marshal who works closely with the university regarding fire safety, concurs.

Saying that residence halls students are "perfectly safe," Winters credits greater student involvement in improving fire safety along with cooperation from the housing office as the key factors.

Winters said the number of false fire alarms have been curtailed in part since the beginning of the Residence Hall Association's reward policy. The policy gives \$50 to anyone who comes forward with information that leads to the identification of a person who pulled a fire alarm as a prank.

Getting students to come forward with information regarding a false fire alarm or fire is the best protection students can have, he said. Students are their own best security force because they are the ones who are likely to have infor-

mation on jokers pulling fire alarms.

Winters encourages people to remember that the fire alarms that didn't work in Harper Hall this year, were damaged by vandalism. There can be no excuse for this reckless disregard for safety and the people who are punished have it coming to them.

The housing department was also praised for its efforts. Winters said Dr. Douglas Zatechka, housing director, should be credited for his efforts to get university sanctions passed against students who are involved in either a false fire alarm or fire.

Zatechka's approach on this issue is the proper one. Anyone who is proved to have violated a fire or life safety policy of the university may have their residence hall contract cancelled. The student may also face possible suspension by the university.

Overall, Winters believes UNL to be in better shape than most campuses around the nation.

Zatechka said the heightened awareness to the dangers of fires has helped decrease the number of fire alarms and increase the number of people willing to come forward with information.

As long as students continue their involvement in policing the handful of jokers pulling alarms, UNL can continue to improve their fire safety record.

## U.S. Department of Baseball?

Mr. Reagan said America was going to be great again, and we were just starting to believe him when the Major League Baseball strike pushed us back down into our malaise. Commissioner Bowie Kuhn tells the public baseball needs strong teams in New York and Los Angeles to profitably survive, then David Stockman reveals the sham of trickle-down economics.

### roger nimps

As Americans, we are justifiably disheartened, and there is an uncertainty about what the American ideal is anymore. It is a time for strong action. It is time for our government to take over the operation of Major League Baseball in the name of the people. The national pastime must become truly national.

Looking back at the past season, the lie of professional baseball as a game is easily seen. Big Business has usurped the rights of the fans when over one-third of a season is lost to a labor dispute and the teams with the best records do not reach the playoffs.

The lack of proper direction is shown when an old relief pitcher is chosen as both the Cy Young Award winner and the Most Valuable Player, and an owner is the center of attraction in the World Series.

If forthright action is not taken soon, the rights of the fans will be totally forgotten. There is talk of continuing the split-season concept as a money-making venture, and of charging \$6 to see the Minnesota Twins play in their new stadium.

The owners assume that the American public is so gullible that they will accept Pioneer League baseball while still lining the pockets of the players and the owners.

But now, before the teams start spring training, is the time to once again gain control of our national sport. If there is to be a profit from Major League Baseball, let it go to the people through reduced ticket prices and a decrease in the national defi-

cit.

The players could still earn their living from a game, as they would be paid on scales commensurate with other civil servants. Perhaps even an athlete's "GI Bill" program could be set up, so players could be taught skills that would support them after their playing years. Ballplayers would no longer have to open restaurants, become sportscasters or drift uselessly on the streets.

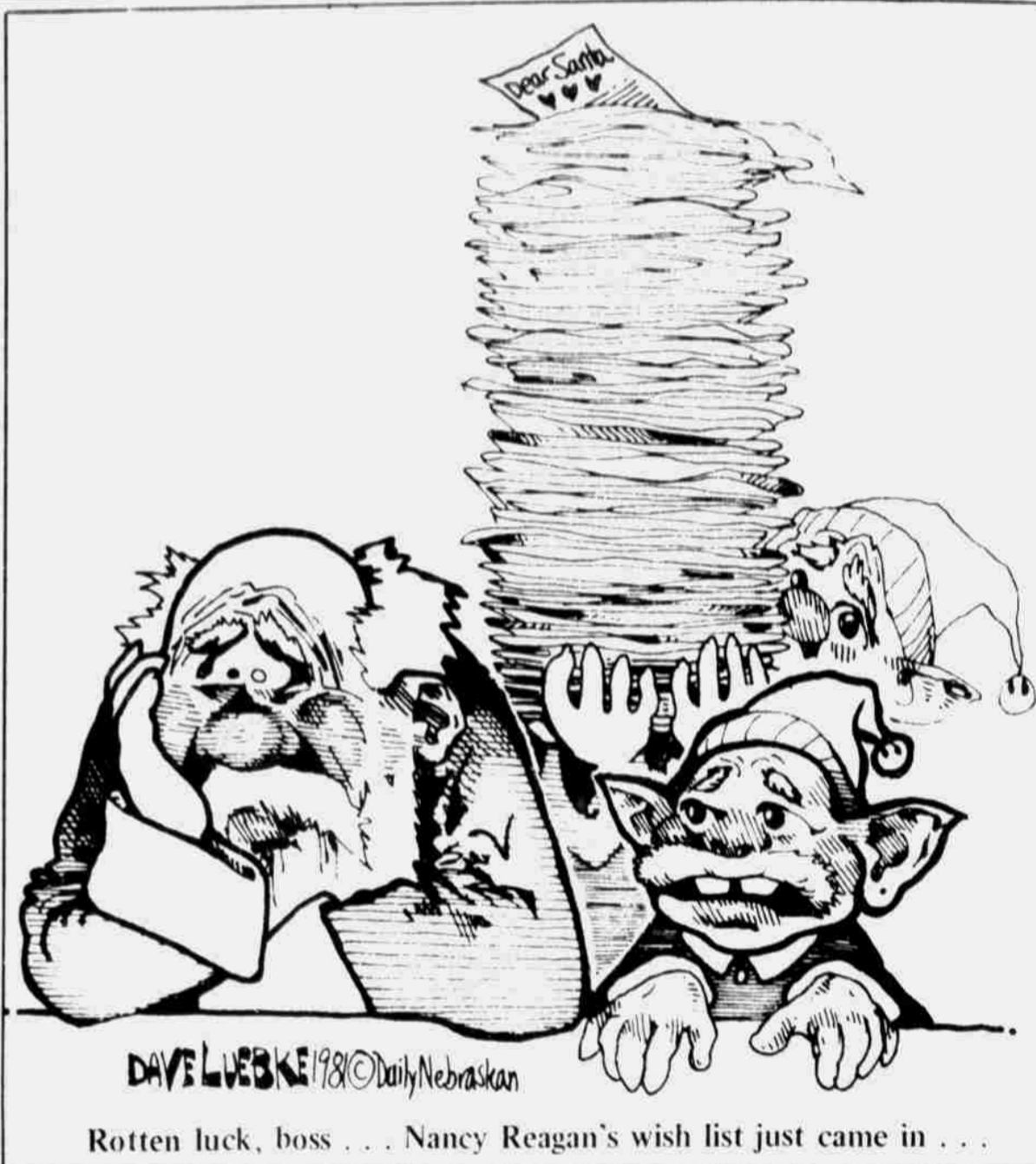
The owners, after being symbolically compensated for their loss of property, could become official undersecurities for their particular team. They would still be able to oversee their toys. Of course, Bowie Kuhn could enter the Cabinet as Secretary of Baseball — until the next president chooses his own Cabinet in 1984.

The current administration, with its adroit budget-cutting ability, could surely envision methods of cutting the costs of running a baseball team. For instance, teams could travel from city to city on the Air Force transports that are continuously flying all over the country anyway. Such policies, along with the reduction in player's salaries and owner's profits, would allow a government operation to make money and provide a service for its people.

But the pragmatic benefits are not the only reason for altering the current situation. There would be a symbolic movement towards a return to an American meritocracy. Any American child would have the chance to grow up, enter the civil service, and run a baseball team.

Federal allocations would be equally divided among all the teams, so that talent on the field and in the front office would once again decide the champions, rather than a preponderance of money.

For too long American baseball fans have been oppressed by the fascist businessmen in New York and the self-titled aristocracy in Los Angeles. Perhaps a people's baseball organization would contain the real possibility of Minnesota Twins vs. Chicago Cubs World Series.



DAVE LUEBKE 1981 © Daily Nebraskan  
Rotten luck, boss . . . Nancy Reagan's wish list just came in . . .

## letters to the editor

### Evaluations ignored

I would like to warn all students who plan to take the only section of Latin 102 next semester at 9:30 a.m. It is taught by a Professor Leinieks of the Classics Department.

Monday, Nov. 30, Professor Leinieks told all of the Latin 101 students (regarding the student evaluations which we had filled out previously): "In this department we don't take these evaluations too seriously. We all have tenure — even the junior members, I'm not worried."

It is a terrible, uncaring attitude toward all of us who honestly tried to write accurate evaluations. The results will be almost totally disregarded by Professor Leinieks, even though there are several of us who

think there are serious ways in which the class needs improvement. I have had no foreign language before and I need a teacher who can explain the material *clearly* and who chooses a book which is not full of technical terms not explained anywhere in the book.

Remember Latin 102 students: Your 102 evaluations next semester will be virtually disregarded by Professor Leinieks since "all of the professors have tenure — even the junior members."

What is even more appalling is that this professor is the head of the Classics Department.

A Latin 101 Student  
(name withheld upon request)

### Evaluations need care

I am sorry to see that one of my Latin 101 students is unhappy with the class. Unfortunately, there is nothing that I can do about it. For any given class evaluation there are practically always students who judge the class the worst they have ever taken. One must always look at the overall evaluation. In this particular class, judging me as an instructor, 50 percent marked "one of the best," 16.7 percent marked "very good," 16.7 percent marked "good," 8.3 percent marked "fair," and 8.3 percent marked "poor." The written comments support this distribution.

The course material is presented clearly and explicitly at every class meeting. In practice, the students' performance is based on their ability to respond to questions which they have heard possibly over 100 times before. For example: What case? Accusative. What phrase? Object. How do you translate into English? Position after the verb.

Student evaluations constitute only one element in the materials annually used to evaluate a faculty member's performance. The evaluation instruments that we by necessity use are not particularly meaningful. They do not measure how much the student has learned in a class, which is the only thing that ultimately matters. Suitable instruments to make such measurements are very difficult to design and often impossible to administer.

For this reason I, as a departmental chairman, do not weigh these evaluations very heavily in my annual evaluations of faculty performance. In practice such evaluations have perhaps been more misused than used. Since everyone is going to

get some strongly negative evaluations, they provide a convenient mechanism for getting rid of unpopular junior faculty members, by presumably demonstrating that the faculty member is a poor teacher. Hence, student evaluations should be used with great care, if at all, in tenure recommendations.

I can only hope that my fellow departmental chairmen will look at student evaluations in an equally realistic and constructive manner.

Valdis Leinieks  
Professor of Classics

### Letter policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected on the basis of clarity, originality and timeliness.

Letters are property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned to their authors. The Daily Nebraskan reserves the right to edit and condense all submissions.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions, subject to the editor's decision to print or not print the material, either as a letter or guest opinion. Anonymous submissions will not be considered, and requests to withhold names will be granted only in exceptional circumstances.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, Room 34, Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588.