

Tales of rich...

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The rich can really have a good time, too. In the April edition of Vanity Fair magazine, writer Ben Stein reported on the "Ranchero Ride," in which old-money Californians have a "man's kind of fun." According to a California Club member named Bill, "that's when about 400 guys get together on horses up in the mountains behind Santa Barbara and ride for about a week up in those canyons there where no one but us ever goes. We ride around and have a whole bunch of guys follow us in trucks and helicopters with steaks and lobsters and clams and oysters. Every night we get really drunk and eat as much clams and oysters and steaks and lobsters as we can... There are only a couple of rules. For one thing, you can't have any women along. It's all men. The second thing is that you can fight all you want, and people do tend to get drunk and have some really good fights, but you can't ever hit with a closed fist... But, when you're a pledge is when you have the most fun. The pledges have to sleep all scrunched up in one tent, and they all have to go to the bathroom together. It's really fun."

"Didn't President Reagan used to go on the 'Ranchero Ride'?"

"He sure did," Bill said. "He loved it. It was a man's kind of fun."

Yes, those fun-loving rich folk. The pursuit of wealth may make our economics go round, but I wonder sometimes if we really need wealthy people. Isn't there some kind of big home somewhere where we could stick them all? Leonard Tisch could donate a few of his 6,000 houses.

Albert Einstein said once that "no wealth in the world can help humanity forward, even in the hands of the most devoted worker in this cause. Can anyone imagine Moses, Jesus or Gandhi armed with the moneybags of Carnegie?"

I can't. But I do wonder if Carnegie's life story would make as good a movie as Gandhi's.

Letters

Column ignored Sevigne's success

I would like to respond to the column by Bob Asmussen regarding Coach Frank Sevigne and the UNL men's track team (Daily Nebraskan, March 18). First, I would like to answer some questions the column raises. "Why is he (Coach Sevigne) still around and will he ever lead us to victory again?" Both of these questions relate to the previous statement that Coach Sevigne is "not incredibly successful." Obviously, Asmussen does not know anything about the track program at UNL or about Coach Sevigne's many achievements.

In the past 27 years at Nebraska, Frank Sevigne has coached more than 100 individual conference champions, 11 NCAA champions, 42 athletes who attained All-American recognition and nine Olympians, including an Olympic gold medalist. As for Coach Sevigne's teams, they have been in the top 10 of the NCAA Indoor Championships eight of the 18 years the meet has been in existence, including a top 10 finish in 1981. In Big Eight competition the last 11 years, his teams have finished first three times, second three times and third twice. In dual and triangular meets, he has a winning percentage of .744.

Along with these coaching accomplishments, Coach Sevigne has been the meet director of the NCAA Championships and the National Junior Olympics. He was also chairman of the Track and Field Region VII for the AAU and an advisory coach for Jamaica and Iceland.

To me, this does not sound like a coach who is "not

incredibly successful." Coach Sevigne has contributed greatly to the sport of track and field, not only in the state of Nebraska, but across the nation as well. The reason "his position may be one that is considered sacred" is due to the great amount of respect his athletes, former athletes and fellow coaches have for him.

Rumors about Coach Sevigne's retirement have been around for a few years now. This is only natural since he has been coaching track for more than 30 years. He will be retiring soon, but it is certainly not because of his lack of success in coaching track and field.

As for Asmussen's journalistic integrity, I would say that he has none. He stated that "the right thing to do is to write what I know." He should follow his own advice since he showed that he knows absolutely nothing about Coach Sevigne or the UNL track program. The Lincoln Journal may have the same information as Asmussen, but I guarantee that they will at least give Coach Sevigne the credit he deserves for his contribution to the UNL track program.

If I were Asmussen, I wouldn't pack my bags for Biloxi, Miss., just yet. I'm sure that after they find out what type of credibility and "journalistic integrity" he has, they won't be that interested in having him do anything for their paper, except maybe deliver it.

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New RHA should avoid pulling disappearing act

Now that the Residence Hall Association elections are over and Bob Wolz and his Progressive Party has won their landslide victory, the big question is, where does RHA go from here?

If tradition holds true this year, RHA will now disappear from view, only to be dragged out of the closet again when another election rolls around or another RHA executive resigns. Considering that RHA is supposed to be the student government for 5,000 hall residents, that is a tragedy.

The Progressive Party has committed itself to communicating with students, developing new alcohol policy ideas, working in cooperation with hall and floor governments, and developing better FINK Week activities; its officers have pledged to stay in office for their full term and serve residents effectively. Rather bold promises, but now will they deliver?

I hope they do. The decadence of the retiring RHA administration was ridiculous; the new RHA team has a great deal of work to do to reestablish the legitimacy and purpose of the Residence Hall Association. I wish Wolz and his officers good luck.

Dave Edwards
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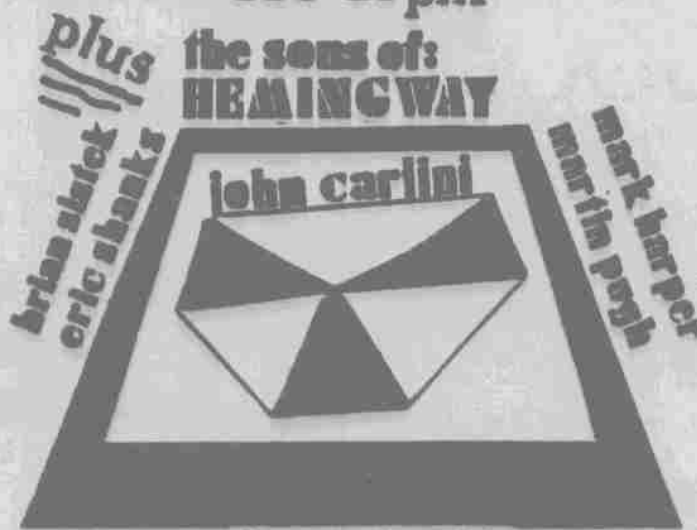
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