

Letters

Nothing very personal about personals

Some students come early to class in the morning just to get a copy of the Daily Nebraskan. They get cranky if they've all been taken. Then, although they have been given sharp hints or even direct scoldings by professors for reading the "rag" in class, they crawl over seats to get one left on the floor. What's worse, when they do finally find one, the first section they turn to is the personals.

I vowed to myself never to fall into this obsession. I have done well all year until recently. On the day of an election, I found myself scanning the columns for my name. I noticed names of many others who were running. After double checking, I became angry and upset when I realized there wasn't a personal for me.

After I got over the initial pain, I started to wonder why I was so upset about a two or three line article to boost my confidence. Should the fact that I didn't get a personal ruin my day? When the day is over, most of the Daily Nebraskans are stuffed into garbage cans. What did it matter if I got a personal or not?

To ease my mind, I looked up "personal" in the dictionary. The definition it gave was "a brief newspaper advertisement concerning a personal matter." Who would

want a "personal matter" read by peers? Then I realized the answers to this question lie between the lines.

Occasionally, you will find a cute rhyme or a sentimental message, but often the personals are advertisements for parties or dates. Party advertisements not only appear too often thus becoming quite expensive, but they get old, tacky and boring. Often their main idea is to brag that their party is the best and to make readers feel bad if they are not invited. As for dates, who would want to be asked out through a newspaper article?

Some people think personals are a good gift for birthdays, good luck wishes, congratulations messages, or thank yous. When compared to candy and a card, an ice-cream date, or even a single red rose, a personal doesn't quite match up. First of all, for us money-conscious students, all three of the former cost the same or less. Furthermore, when one personal says "to the best big brother ever" and another further down the column says the same thing, it loses its effect and the receiver doesn't feel so special.

Another strike against personals is the fact that nearly all of them are either for or from Greeks. A non-Greek may not feel

right putting a residence hall name or an address in parentheses next to their name. This implies discrimination because it leaves out almost 80 percent of the students.

The next time you feel an urge to send a personal, consider another gift or means of advertising. You would be doing yourself, the receiver, and your pocketbook a favor. And, the next time you turn directly to the personals, or get upset because you didn't receive one, ask yourself just what is so great about the personals? Who knows, maybe you will start reading the more beneficial information on the preceding pages.

Jill Salber
freshman, English

Without 72,000 fans, rowing team does best it can

This letter is in response to the complaint (Daily Nebraskan, April 22) concerning the placement of advertisements for the UNL Row-A-Thon on utility poles in the city.

I have been involved in the sport of collegiate rowing for four years as a member of the UNL crew team and it upset me to read of discontent with this organization. The UNL rowing team is a club sport - a self-supporting athletic program on campus. A university where the main sport is football, it is difficult to make people understand that there are those of us who have to earn money the best way we can to keep our programs from constantly being in the red. We don't get 72,000 screaming fans paying money to see us race throughout our rowing season. Without a budget allowance, fund-raisers

and clean-ups generate our largest income, not to mention that team members must pay out of their own pockets, all for a few glorious moments on the water.

I read the newspapers daily, but I must have overlooked the police chief's statement of the illegality of ads on utility poles. It was not the intention of the crew team to break city laws, but at the same time, I think that there are too many things happening in Lincoln that are of much greater importance than this particular issue. If it upsets people that much, we will remove the signs.

As for the expulsion of people involved, I think such drastic action is a little silly. It is a punishment not fitting the crime.

By the way, how about a donation?
John Dundon
former UNL oarsman

Foreign students need friendly understanding

I felt sorry for her as I realized she'd been placed in an unfamiliar world, no family, few friends. Why? She probably doesn't know. I don't know either. I wonder if anyone does, or if there really is a reason.

She'd reached the front of the magazine (she'd been paging back to front).

She had traveled half way round the world in only a few seconds . . . from

China to . . . Nebraska . . . Lincoln, Neb., the other big red.

Of times we are incapable of realizing how difficult it might be for us as well. . . cast into a country without family, friends or even a working knowledge of the language.

Stop, look, listen, observe. Appreciate.
John P. Grabouski
senior, chemistry

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