

Editorial

Variety of issues cloud upcoming semester

It's the beginning of a new semester — time to gear up for another round of classes and to renew old friendships.

For the Daily Nebraskan, it's time to renew a commitment to the students, faculty and staff of UNL.

This newspaper has made major changes in its layout and design the past two years. It is, of course, desirable to have a visually appealing product and we will continue to take steps in that direction.

But our major commitment this semester is to revitalize the content of the Daily Nebraskan, to make sure that students are kept informed of the events going on around them.

To paraphrase an ancient Chinese saying these are interesting times.

Farmers in Nebraska and throughout the Midwest are watching nervously as their crops are destroyed by severe drought; politicians and voters alike are gearing up for the 1984 elections; and draft-age students throughout the country look on as conflicts in South America and Chad threaten to

pull other nations into war.

The Daily Nebraskan soon will install a wire service, enabling us to bring you news briefs and breaking stories from around the globe.

Our top priority, however, will be to bring you the news of Lincoln, especially UNL, and to do it fairly and accurately.

The events happening right now on this campus have the potential to greatly alter the structure and role of the university.

NU administrators, in an attempt to maintain some of the university's strong programs, are studying areas which can be pared or eliminated next year; administrators are introducing a three-year plan to bring faculty salaries up to par with similar institutions; and the NU Board of Regents has given preliminary approval to a budget plan calling for a 10 percent tuition increase in 1984-85.

Students need to be involved in these and other decisions as they are made by university officials. And to be involved, students need to be informed.

That's where we come in. We give you our pledge

to bring you the news of the major issues that affect students. We are, in short, committed to making the Daily Nebraskan your major source of news.

We also are committed to involving more students with the newspaper. Beginning next week, we will run weekly student surveys on the editorial page. This will allow more students to voice their opinions on the major issues of the day, and, we hope, provide a nice balance to the regular editorials and columns on our pages.

Our sports and entertainment sections also will be soliciting your input. Both sections hope to run a regular letters section, allowing readers to comment on reviews and columns that appear on those pages. The success of these and our other efforts depend in large part on your contributions.

We are committed to making the Daily Nebraskan a better newspaper. Your input — through calls, letters and visits to our office — is vital to our success.

Have a good semester.

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the fall 1983 Daily Nebraskan. They are written by this semester's editor in chief, Larry Sparks.

Other staff members will write editorials throughout the semester. They will carry the author's name after the final sentence.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect

the views of the university, its employees or the NU Board of Regents.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the newspaper. According to policy set by the regents, the content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.

You create the ending in Bob Kerrey story

One of the most popular trends in kiddies literature today is the create-your-own-ending publication. In these lofty tomes, the imaginative tot is able to choose the path that the story he is reading will take.

If he wants a character to be captured by a band of crazed pirates, he turns to page 12. If he wants him to catch the bad guys, he turns to page 13. If he wants to have the character

risma, read Section IV.

Section III: Bob speaks out in favor of stronger education, a higher corporate tax and backs Ted Kennedy for president in '84. He loses re-election by a landslide against Neligh Sen. John DeCamp.

Section IV: Bob decides he must emulate the late president's style. First he points out that he and JFK have much in common: They are both injured veterans, both young, both Nebraskans.

Soon, though, the press tires of this guise. Bob must come up with something else. And quick!!

If you would like to see Bob open a theme park on 70th and A streets, turn to Section V. If you would like to see him run for vice president, read Section VI. Isn't this fun?

Section V: Bob opens Nebraska's first theme park out on 70th and A streets. The public forgets him and he loses the Democratic primary in a landslide to Sen. Edward Zorinsky. This doesn't bother the now former governor. "After years of running a theme park, I'm used to Mickey Mouses," he says.

Section VI: Bob decides that if he is to be successful in his pursuit of the vice presidency, he must not just align himself with any presidential candidate, but rather, with all of them. Unfortunately, the Republicans win the election, and Bob must go back home.

Back home, however, people are disgruntled. They say Gov. Bob hasn't paid enough attention to their concerns. He hasn't helped education, he has done nothing for the state's tax structure and he backed Ted Kennedy, among others, for president in '84. Bob realizes there is only one thing he can do.

If you want Gov. Bob to run on his record, turn to Section VII. If you want him to pull one last trick out of his hat, read Section VIII.

Continued on Page 6

Welcome Back



UNL City Campus, looking northwest from the Nebraska Union

Court sews social fabric into law

The facility of U.S. Supreme Court justices in writing distorted opinions in civil liberties cases was severely tested this summer by state Sen. Ernie Chambers's objection to paying a

chapel by governmental authorities of mainstream religion.

It forms part of the same current as the "In God We Trust" motto on our coins (a motto which, incidentally, only began to appear on U.S. coinage during the conservative 1950s), the now illegal practice of organized school prayer, and Eisenhower's and Reagan's periodic exhortations to holiness.

Really, I cannot find that these public endorsements of religion make us any better, or even more religious; and only a superficial kind of God would be satisfied with a few mumbled rote prayers and his name on a quarter. Governmental endorsements of this kind form a kind of overlay of religiosity which some conservative politicians have tried to put on the surface of the country's public life.

And yet not everybody can agree with or feel comfortable with public endorsement of bland religious sentiment. E.B. White wrote that his wife Katherine was very disturbed by Eisenhower's declaration of a national day of prayer; it made her feel isolated and separated from American public life, as many people are made to feel by knee jerk, cheap symbolism of the kind Jerry Falwell would approve.

Continued on Page 5



Mike Frost

disappear into thin air, he has him run for ASUN.

This trend seems to have caught on in other areas as well. The popular high-tech video game Dragon's Lair is based on this principle, for example. There are even rumors that Gov. Bob Kerrey has a five-year plan based on this scheme. It's called:

"Governor Bob Goes to Town."

Gov. Bob is a happy man, the chief executive in a state just like yours. Unfortunately, he has become bored with life in Lincoln, so he decides something must change.

If you would like Gov. Bob to introduce the measures he promised during the election, read Section I. If you would like him to become nationally prominent, read Section II.

Section I: Bob speaks out in favor of some support for the University system, a restructuring of the tax system and backs Ted Kennedy for president in 1984. He loses re-election by a landslide against Grand Island Sen. Howard Peterson.

Section II: Bob decides he wants national prominence. First, he must convince the national press that he is a lot like John F. Kennedy. A brilliant play, says Bob's public relations man.

If you would like Bob to emulate JFK politically, read Section III. If you would like him to emulate JFK's cha-



Eric Peterson

chaplain for the Nebraska Legislature. And once again, the justices proved capable of overcoming the obstacles of clear logic and the Constitution.

The main argument that Chief Justice Warren Burger, who wrote the majority opinion, used in the Chambers case was that "the practice of opening legislative sessions with prayer has become part of the fabric of our society." This overturned earlier decisions by the federal district court that legislative chaplains could not be paid with public money, and an appeals court decision that there could not be public chaplains, at all.

I'm with the appeals court, and with Ernie Chambers. The First Amendment forbids establishment of religion by the government, and the practice of hiring chaplains clearly is a recog-