

Editorial

End of class — provides relief for some

Today — finals. Tomorrow — graduation for some, temporary relief for others.

From the summer edition staff of the Daily Nebraskan, good luck to the summer graduates, who for the first time will have a full-fledged graduation ceremony.

To the students who sweated through their condensed classes only to have to return to campus in a few days for the fall semester, keep your eyes peeled. This fall promises to be exciting.

First comes the Republican National Convention, which may not seem exciting in itself. But it will help set up something that will be. Although no one would have guessed it before, Walter Mondale may give old President Ronald Reagan a run for his money, in the November election, according to several recent Gallup polls. And probably thanks to Geraldine Ferraro.

In Nebraska, we will possibly see amendments

to the state constitution on property taxes from the Legislature's special session, which began Thursday. Nebraskans should support Gov. Bob Kerrey's efforts to bail out the state's farmers from their financial crisis, a crisis that stems from high interest rates on farm debts. If property taxes on farm land are brought up to market value, the increase would be a staggering 71 percent for the farmers to shoulder. If farmers can't make a profit now, as the Lincoln Star reports, how will they be able to cope with the added 71 percent tax?

Although they will not be discussed at the special session, property taxes will increase all over Nebraska. Kerrey has proposed a 4.2 percent hike, which poses a special problem for students. If taxes increase, how will land owners cover that increase? Most possibly by charging more rent money from their tenants. Although freshmen

live on campus because of university rules, many upperclassmen do not and would be affected by property tax increases.

And of course, the Daily Nebraskan will be on campus with the rest of the students this fall to report these and other campus happenings. But here is a thanks to the staff who helped make it work for the first summer Daily Nebraskan. To my news editor, Jim Fussell; associate news editor, Jann Nyffeler; sports and entertainment editor, Chris Burbach; wire editor, Teri Sperry; copy editor, Dianna Sleigh; night news editors Julie Jordan and Geoff Goodwin; artist, Lou Anne Zacek; and photographers Craig Andresen, David Trouba and Mark Davis, thank you. And of course, thank you to the Daily Nebraskan reporters, management, production and advertising staffs.

Lauri Hoppie

Jesse Owen: a sidetracked track star?

I'm sure that there are many of us who are happy as hell that the Olympics are over. But I think that my reason might be just a little bit different. I'm glad that the Olympics and all the media attention that followed them is over because I am sick and tired of



Matthew Stelly

hearing about Jesse Owens.

At first I just figured that it was all being done in the name of the Olympic spirit and nostalgia. That is, the discourse and discussion about his four gold medals and how he out performed Hitler's so-called "Aryan supermen." But then came the television movie starring Dorian Harewood, then came interviews with his family, and then the incessant replays of those age-old film clips.

My curiosity was piqued — why so much about Jesse Owens who was merely a gladiator for a short period of time? What was so special about his life that he merited a docu-drama, and near deification at the hand of the white media? Research and study unveiled the answer for me: Jesse Owens is another in a long line of "bootlicking Uncle Toms" that our children are supposed to watch, admire and emulate.

I read Jesse Owens' book, "Blackthink." This is the term that the politically conservative Owens used to define the up-and-coming black militants who were beginning to voice their displeasure regarding American hypocrisy, particularly racism. But not Owens.

According to the sidetracked track star, "if the Negro doesn't succeed in today's America, it is because he has chosen to fail." During 1970, when his book was first published, he wrote: "in excess of 95 percent of all negroes are no more militant than I am."

It is philosophies such as these that actually slowed down the Black Power and civil rights movements. Owens continually was used as some kind of "black spokesman" or "buffer Negro." He wrote: "My first purpose in writing 'Blackthink' is to help the Negro to know himself." Let's take a look see what kind of insight Owens has to share with his progeny.

First of all, the full title of the book (not revealed until you open up the cover) is "Blackthink My Life as a Black man and White Man." From this point on, the chapter headings provide an indication of where the book — and Owens' philosophy — are headed. Referring to the young black radicals: "I Know the Trouble They've Seen." Sure, he knew it, but the fact that he didn't act upon what he knew is why black radicals existed in the first place. Then there's "Negroes Have Human Hangups." One of those hangups, I might add, is trying to act and think like white folks.

Then from his critical sections on "Anatomy of a Militant" and "Blackthink Won't Win" to his pontifications in the chapters "I Know Because I've Been There" and "Black Man, Heal Thyself," Owens proves that he is the prototype of the white concept of the ideal black man — all brawn and not a lick of brains. This book is an atrocity because it is packed with philosophies on how to sellout, ignore important issues and how to be as white as possible — obviously Owens' concept of the American Dream.

Now I know why Owens has received so much airtime. After all, "an educated black man is a good field hand spoiled..."

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the summer 1984 Daily Nebraskan. They are written by this summer's editor in chief, Lauri Hoppie.

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

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