

# Editorial

## Goodbye!

*'To be a nonconformist is to be a man' — Henry David Thoreau*

It's a grand sentiment; one we have aspired to the last two semesters.

We've tried to present divergent viewpoints from all ranges of the political, and even personal spectrum, in our editorial columns and in our stories.

And we've tried to be different. The Daily Nebraskan has added some features, dropped others — and created a little controversy here and there. That's something newspapers don't do enough these days.

It seems to us that many papers are "blandizing" themselves for economic reasons. Afraid to lose readers, some papers hesitate to run a story or photo that might make some people angry.

We've tried to be fair, tasteful and worthwhile. But we stepped on some toes along the way. And that is healthy. It makes people think.

We quickly learned that someone would be mad about just about anything we did. It's one of those inherently true cliches: "You can't please everybody."

A few examples:

- Our stories and columns about the gay community
- Bill Allen
- The photo of State Sen. Shirley Marsh of Lincoln asleep
- The Women's Resource center controversy
- Columns and letters about abortion.

Even the "fat" controversy of last semester, which drew more letters about physical appearance than the election did about politicians, made people think; helped people define their opinions, and maybe, just maybe, re-define their opinions.

Not everything we did was right, or fair, but we always tried. We hire the best people that apply to us, and generally, they do the best they can. They came to learn and they did. In the process, I hope you did too.

I owe this semester's staff thanks, and a round of applause. They have been grand, and the paper showed it.

Here you will find their virtues extolled.

Michiela Thuman, news editor, took painstaking care with the news section every day. During her reign, the number of corrections dropped dramatically, and as evidenced by letters to the editor, her readership increased.

Joel Sartore, photo chief, has incredible talent and dedication and his work speaks for itself — eloquently.

Vicki Ruhga, copy desk chief, ran a tight desk. Her careful and thorough editing made many a novice reporter look like Edward R.

Murrow in the morning. Her depth magazine, The Sower, brought insight and intelligent writing to our readers.

A special thanks goes to Ward W. Triplett III. His name would be enshrined in the DN Hall of Fame if there was one. He has written more quality copy than any reporter in memory and brought new variety to the sports page. Triplett is graduating. His passing will be a drought on the existence of this paper.

That's also true of Christopher Burbach, editorial page editor. Since the creation of the editorial board, and the start of Chris' term at the helm of the page, the volume of letters has increased dramatically. He'll be missed. His humor and companionship were just as valuable as his talent.

The breadth and variety of campus coverage grew in leaps and bounds this semester — that's attributable in large part, to Lauri Hoppie, campus editor. She took over a newly created position and handled it like a veteran.

Steve Hill, graphics editor, and his partner, Tony Schappaugh, dramatically improved the appearance of the DN during their tenure.

Judi Nygren provided well-edited wire stories and well-written depth stories.

The night news editors, who are often maligned, deserve a big thanks. The job of proofing an entire newspaper after a long day of class is very demanding, and they decreased the number of typos this semester. Three cheers for Julie Jordan Hendricks, Ad Hudler, Gah Y. Huey and pinch-hitter Chris Burbach.

The entertainment desk — a well combined duo, Stacie Thomas, editor, and Bill Allen, reporter, provided a lively, complete section every day.

The senior reporters, or at least their tattered remains, deserve a hearty "heigh ho, silver!" Gene Gentrup, Mike Reilley and Bill Allen brought experience and speed and their contributions have been immeasurable.

A special gold star goes to these staff reporters who excelled: Jon Taylor, ASUN beat, Ann Lowe, general assignment, Julie Liska, Scott Harrah, and Paul Morin, entertainment, Bob Asmussen and Jeff Apel, sports.

Thanks to the copy editors, to the artists, the advertising department, the production staff, the secretaries, the letter writers and all other readers.

It's been an interesting 10 months at the helm.

**Chris Welsch**  
Editor in Chief no more



## Women and the draft

### Columnist says service not degrading

I saw that commercial again — the one that reminds young men that they have a duty to register at the post office for a military draft.

I find myself agreeing with former President Jimmy Carter. We should register young women, too.

I understand the outrage of those who are opposed to drafting women, but I find their arguments narrow, tiresome and ultimately more dangerous to the American woman than a draft.

Clearly, a draft and the prospect of war are anathema. But there is a fairness issue here. If the registration of men is required, so should the registration of women be required. If world conditions necessitate a draft, women should be among the drafted.



**James A. Fussell**

The issue of women in combat is less clear. The generalization that women are less physical than men is not without validity. Therefore, I do not favor making combat duty obligatory for women. I support a system that would allow women to participate in combat situations if they have the desire and the ability to do so. Lastly, I call for a total exemption for married men and women.

Many people disagree with me. My opinions are not beyond reproach. It would, however, be a mistake to suppose that I arrive at my position without considerable thought and pain.

I understand Phyllis Schlafley when she says that President Carter demeaned American womanhood when he called for the registering of women. I understand American Legionnaires' when they say that women are not cut out for military life. I understand Richard C. White, former chairman of the House Sub-Committee on Military Personnel, when he says that women need not be drafted because there are enough men. I simply disagree.

It is clear to me that the benevolent discrimination against women in this military context partially causes a more malicious discrimination in a societal context. Excusing women further their second-class status, ignores the 200,000 women that currently serve in the armed forces and invidiously discriminates on the basis of sex.

Phyllis Schlafley, the anti-Equal Rights Amendment leader, is concerned with protecting good and worthwhile qualities — the nuclear family and the certain specialness that is uniquely a woman's. I certainly do not wish to destroy these qualities. However, I'm dubious about whether my plan would affect them at all.

A woman is, first of all, a person. She is special because she chooses to be. No one can take that away by making her eligible for a draft.

I do concede, that in a general sense, women are less physical than men. I would not, therefore, compel them to fight in combat where such physical strength is important. I would, however, give them the option to fight in combat if they are willing and could prove their abilities. Further, my exemption of married couples actually protects the nuclear family. My concern is equity for, not demeaning of, the American woman.

In a larger context, my suggestions would help break down certain prejudicial attitudes about women. Many men feel a sense of chivalry and protectiveness toward a woman. But, if attitudes of superiority manifest themselves in this feeling of protectiveness, the wonderful, chivalrous man suddenly turns into the awful, patronizing master. He may, therefore, come to see the woman, as not up to his measure. This, I contend, happens all too frequently. My suggestions would not eradicate this attitude, but would win women more respect.

Also discriminating against women are the American Legionnaires, who take the position that women are not capable to cope with the rigors of war. To them, I feel obligated to point out that 7.4 percent of American military personnel is comprised of women — or about 200,000. They are drivers, non-combat pilots, technicians, parachute riggers, radio operators, nurses and mechanics — not to mention 19,000 officers.

In fact, M. Kathleen Carpenter, the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, states from experience that women in various branches of the service are smarter, better educated and better behaved than the men. Women already have proved themselves to be both efficient and versatile in our military.

As for Richard White's contention that women are not needed because of the surplus of men, isn't that like saying "We don't need the second team because there's enough of the first team?" I think so. Again, we need to be reminded that women are men's equals.

White says that we do not need women because of any future shortage in possible draftees. We do not. But I say it is a matter of equity, not a matter of numbers. Women have a right to equality. Maybe equal responsibility will win them equal rights. It may be the back-door approach, but so far, the front door has been locked.

My argument is this. Women, who are as talented and capable as men, should not be excused just because they are women. Whether it be because of sex, race, creed or national origin, I firmly believe that, in a democratic society, there has never been any place for arbitrary discrimination, and there never will be. Therefore, I deem the inclusion of women, in military processes like the draft, an unfortunate necessity.

## ASUN policy should prohibit discrimination against gays

After the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska passed a resolution that would prohibit discrimination when selecting ASUN-appointed officials, Gerard Keating, president, is threatening to veto it.

The ASUN policy currently defines discrimination as "defying individuals membership or appointment on the basis of physical or cultural characteristics, where such characteristics include but are not limited to age, race, color, gender, creed, sexual orientation or place of residence."

It's a straight-forward piece of legislation. Keating is considering striking "sexual orientation" from the resolution. He has the power to do so and can veto by Friday. We ask Keating not to.

As ASUN Sen. Jerry Roemers pointed out, UNL student groups do not fall under state or city authorization. State and city laws probably do not prevent ASUN from passing such legislation.

Keating said he is seeking opinions from the city attorney and state attorney general. That's fine. If either office recommends against it, he can present those arguments to the senate — or veto the resolution. But even if that is the case, Keating and ASUN should consider gays as a minority that is discriminated against — one that needs protection. ASUN can be a leader in this respect.

The Daily Nebraskan has a similar policy for advertising. We do not accept ads that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

The editorial board agrees that there is ample evidence of homophobia in Lincoln and on campus.

Every time a letter or story on homosexual issues appears, we get letters condemning gays as "unnatural, hell-bound, sickening, perverted" and many other unsavory adjectives.

No one — no one — knows for sure why gays are gay. It might be genes or environment, or both or neither. It's time gays are accepted as people. They come in all shapes and sizes, and have as long as history records civilization. Like racial minorities, they have been, and are currently discriminated against unjustly. ASUN should afford them the same protection it affords other "minorities."

### Daily Nebraskan

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## Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1985 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Chris Welsch, editor in chief; Chris Burbach, editorial page editor; Michiela Thuman, news editor; Vicki Ruhga, copy desk chief and editorial writer; and Kelly Mangan, assistant advertising manager.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

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