

# Editorial

## Law students show university still competitive

Despite budget cuts that have threatened UNL's programs and reputation, the accomplishments of university law school graduates may help re-establish UNL as the "Harvard of the Plains."

UNL college of law officials announced last week that 92 percent of the school's 1985 graduates passed the bar exam this summer. The last time this many law graduates passed was in 1980, when 93 percent passed the 16-hour exam.

Last summer, only 76 percent passed the bar, said Bonnie Kimble, interim assistant dean of the law college. But according to Ruth Witherspoon, assistant law college dean, the law classes aren't getting harder and the exam isn't getting any easier.

The UNL law scholars' success does not end with the percentage passing the bar exam.

For the past 10 years, Kimble said, about 91 percent of UNL law school grads got jobs. In 1984, about 116 out of 126 graduates surveyed were employed, Kimble said. Most had jobs in Lincoln with private law firms or work in business and industry.

"People are beginning to see that our grads are sharp," Kimble said.

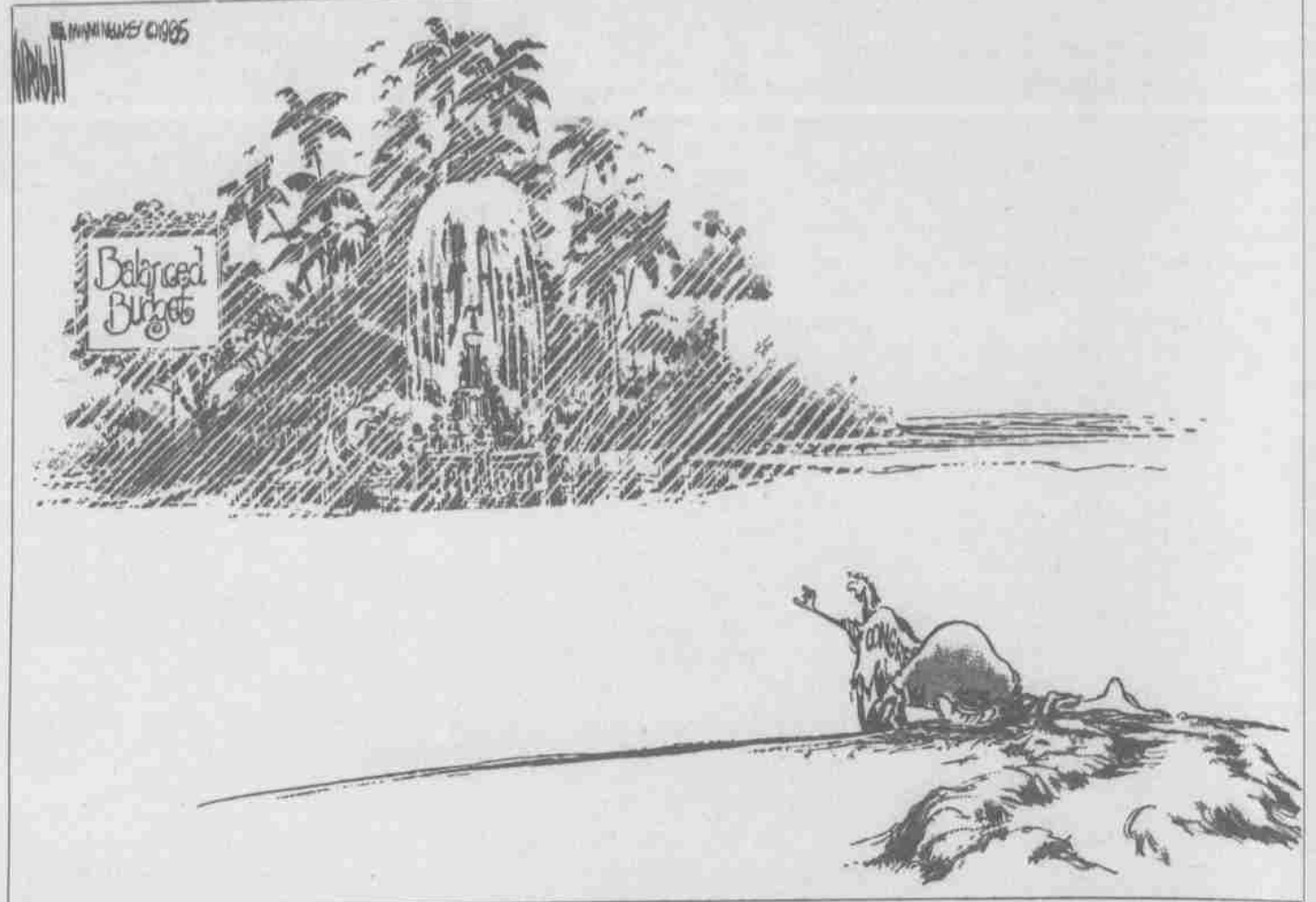
The number of UNL law school graduates who find jobs is slightly higher than the national average, Kimble said.

This success rate should give the UNL law college some needed and deserved recognition.

Potential college students who write off Nebraska's law program need to take another look. Law firms and other businesses that didn't send representatives to UNL to interview law graduates should reconsider their schedules.

Some of the students' employment success rate can be attributed to the law school's career placement office. Kimble said there is supposed to be a glut of lawyers in the work force now. Yet, the placement office continues to find jobs for UNL graduates by looking at the non-traditional legal positions with business and industry.

Considering UNL's tight budget and the potential for quality decline that exists, the law college should be commended.



## Iba case tests basis of loyalty

Harry Blamires has written of what he calls "The false virtue of loyalty." The brunt of his statement is that loyalty to a person, a group or a cause simply because it is that person, group or cause, is not virtue, but tyranny.



James Sennett

Let me give you his reasoning, then discuss a recent incident on the UNL campus which, I believe, brings his point home in a way that many of us may not want to hear.

Blamires', a theologian, says that the only legitimate reason for loyalty to a person, group or cause is that the one to whom loyalty is given represents that which is good or fair or equitable. In other words, we back ideas because we believe those ideas to uphold certain notions of proper behavior among respectable human beings.

But here, he notes, the real loyalty is not to the person, group or cause, but to the good which it represents. For example, we are not primarily loyal to a political candidate, but to the platform on which she runs. We believe the ideas to be good, and therefore devote our allegiance to them and the one who

represents them.

Failure to recognize this notion of good as the only proper object of our devotion can lead to sinister consequences. The idea that loyalty in and of itself is a virtue forces us to back people, groups and causes, even after they have ceased to represent and even turned their backs on the good which generated their initial activity.

The prevalent bumperstickers of a generation ago, "My Country — Right or Wrong," were demonic. I will pledge my loyalty to this country as long as it stands for the higher ideas to which I pledge myself. But neither this country or any other contingent expression of our search for humanity will ever represent the supreme goal of my allegiance.

Now to that current event I promised you. This paper has undergone quite a bit of attack in the last week from administration and student body alike because of alleged "disloyalty" to the school in the form of the now infamous "Moe Iba incident." But after all the debates about the role of a university daily and the dictates of freedom of the press, we must ask ourselves, are any of us called to be loyal to this university or any other institution simply because it is what it is?

I believe in UNL. Unlike many, I believe that I am getting and will continue to get an excellent education here. I am thankful for the opportunities, and I don't spend a lot of time

gripping about what all the other schools have that we don't have. But my thankfulness for this school does not translate into *carte blanche* approval of everything that goes on here. This university and everyone within it is subject to higher standards of right and wrong.

If the basketball team was violating rules, it was wrong. The alleged fact that "everyone else is doing it" does not keep it from being wrong. The fact that sports fans, so used to the football team's success, have been frustrated by the feeble efforts of the roundballers does not keep it from being wrong. That the Daily Nebraskan reported the incident does not keep it from being wrong. The focus must be on the act itself — not on why it was done or who is to blame for airing it out.

I applaud my colleagues for their courage in opening this can of worms. They could not have done so believing it would make them candidates for "Nice Guys of the Year." I will not say that there were not ulterior motives involved on some levels.

Nevertheless, I applaud the act, because it reminds us that we are bigger than our collective expediency. And true love for this university — for all it is and can be — demands from each of us the willingness to be just as scrutinizing, just as willing to blow the whistle, just as expectant of right behavior and as intolerant of wrong. Sennett is a UNL graduate student in philosophy and campus minister of the College-Career Christian Fellowship.

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## President's health the nation's business

Last month, the White House announced that President Reagan would stop off at Bethesda Naval Hospital on his way to Camp David "for the first of his normal and routine postoperative exams." The press release said those exams would include chest x-rays and blood tests and that the results would be announced the following week. That was Sept. 18. As of today, there has been no announcement.



Richard Cohen

Instead, the results of the various tests have been characterized. The first characterization came from the president. Emerging from the hospital following his examination, he replied to a shouted question that he had made "a 100-percent complete recovery." Either by coincidence or orchestration, those were precisely the words the White House later used in quoting the president's doctors and in describing the results of their tests. It said the results were normal and that the president, at the age of 74, had made a complete recovery from both cancer and the operation to remove it.

Let us hope that is the case. But hope is all we have so far, since the test results the White House said would be forthcoming, have been withheld. When presidential spokesman Larry Speakes is asked about the results of the president's examination, he says he has nothing to say. In private, other White House aides say Speakes is adhering to Nancy Reagan's policy. She considers detailed reports about her husband's health to be nothing less than an invasion of privacy.

Now may be the time to say why this column is being written. It is not that I know or suspect or have heard that Reagan's cancer has reoccurred or that he is sick in some other way — a way that would become obvious if the medical reports were made public. There is every reason to believe the reports are as described — clean bills of health. The president, knock on wood, is standing tall.

But if that is the case, then there is no reason not to release the reports. Not only would that be consistent with the policy of candor adopted when the president underwent surgery, but it would dispel some of the cynicism resulting from the later attempt to conceal the president's skin cancer. Candor, like virtue, is its own reward. In July, the country was confident it

knew all there was to know.

That is not the case now and no desire for privacy, no matter how sincere, changes any of that. In the first place, the first family's privacy is invaded all the time — often to their advantage. We have seen pictures of a vigorous and ruddy president chopping wood and swimming in the surf. The press covers White House dinners. Nancy Reagan permitted a television crew into the Santa Barbara ranch house and also allowed it to film a staff meeting.

It's not that there is no such thing as invasion of privacy. We are not entitled to know things of a strictly personal nature that have nothing to do with the way the country is governed. For instance, it would be interesting to know if Michael Reagan and Nancy Reagan are getting along, but you can hardly insist on some First Amendment right to know it. Juicy is not the same as germane.

The president's health is a different matter. We all have a stake in it. It affects the future of everyone in terms that are so obvious they go without saying. But there is yet another, less tangible, stake the public has, too. Ronald Reagan is our president. Even his critics

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