

Opinion

Valentine's cards go unheeded

Editor's Note: This column originally appeared in the Feb. 9, 1982, Daily Nebraskan.

Well, guys and gals, it's that time again. That magical time known as Valentine's Day, when guys take gals (or vice versa) out to dinner at a place slightly fancier than McDonald's. And, when the check comes,



Bill Rush

they lean over the candle-lit table and tenderly whisper to their date, "Could you lend me five dollars until my student loan comes through?"

It's a time when flowers are given. Unfortunately, about three-fourths of

the people who give flowers never know that their loved one is allergic to them and will spend the night cuddled up next to a box of Kleenex.

It's a time when overweight people will get a big box of candy hearts when they are trying to lose weight because their loved-ones complain they are too flabby.

It's a time when we send cards and intimate greetings written by people we don't know, probably never will meet and probably wouldn't like if we did meet.

It's a time when I'll do the same thing as I did last year. Last year I sent three women platonic valentines. I figure the odds of getting a reply would be greater if I played the field. I picked the cards very carefully.

One said, "Let's be friends;" one said, "To A Special Friend;" one had Snoopy. Who can resist Snoopy?

To be less threatening, I even said I hoped they had a nice Valentine's Day with their respective boyfriends. I ran

the messages off on my word processor. A friend saw what I was doing and said that he was reminded of a mass mailing effort. In a way, he was right.

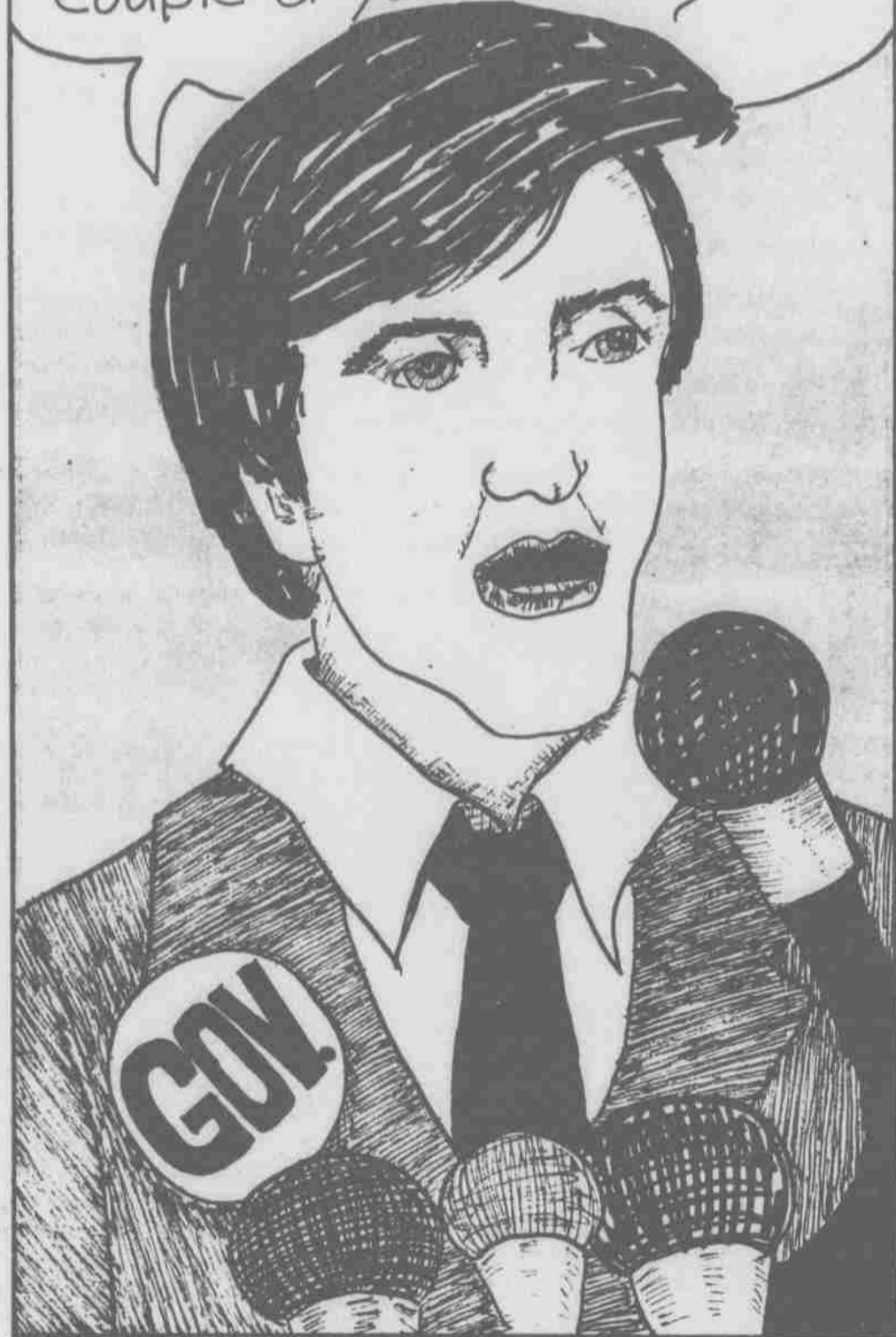
It did pay off in a way. Last year on Valentine's Day there was a letter from the Army. They wanted me to enlist. It felt so good to be needed. I wheeled down to their headquarters to enlist.

But, they took one look at me and started flipping through their manuals. They couldn't find what to do with me on their manuals. So much for a lasting relationship. Apparently, the three women I sent valentines to couldn't find me in their manuals, either.

Maybe this year I should try sending them homemade valentines. How about a potato print valentine? Or a valentine made from pipe cleaners? Or a valentine made from construction paper? Or, maybe I should just stick myself in a crate and send myself to a woman. But, that probably would get marked "return to sender."

Rush is an undeclared graduate student.

Of course I still support higher education. I think everyone should leave the state for a couple of years and get one.



Chris McCubbin and Carol Wagener/Daily Nebraskan

Producers need income to stay stable food source

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that there will ever be a monopoly power, cartel or union that will be able to control prices, at least not among producers. There is too much land in the equation. So, farmers are price-takers in the market place and probably always will be. Essentially what is happening now is that farmers aren't getting a fair price for their commodities in the market system, so people are paying a bit more for their food through taxes.

Most people agree that it is wise to have a stable, reliable source of food. This requires that the people who produce the food can make a living at it. Farmers need to be able to support their families. They need to be able to replace tools and machinery as they wear out. And, finally, they should be able to make a modest profit (disposable income) that they can spend to buy land or other things they might fancy.

We should realize that most farmers are having a tough time feeding their families, that sales of machinery are so low that manufacturers have merged and gone broke, and that many farmers are forced to sell their farms and equipment to others who can barely afford to buy them when the market is so volatile. Many are buying on hope rather than numbers; many are swallowing their hope.

I don't think farming is sacred as a way of life. On the contrary, farming is definitely a business. But consider the possibility that it is a business that may not be able to survive the best at all times on market forces alone. The European Economic Community has subsidized its farmers for many years, as have other countries. They couldn't compete with the U.S. farmer without help. Why should our markets have to be open when theirs are not?

We have come to expect government

to be a cure-all for all the problems we encounter as a society.

I am a die-hard against deficit spending too, but the answer needs to be rational. Reduce spending on non-critical areas.

Agriculture is a critical area. Perhaps we should be willing to adjust our mentalities to include food security in the gray area of national interest. Farmers would love to let market forces control prices if the prices would allow them to survive. They will again someday but we must sustain agriculture while we are waiting and working for that to happen.

Welsch rightly pointed out that technology has been good and bad to agriculture. It has created the most efficient food machine the world has ever known, while at the same time forcing prices and many farmers down the tube.

Give farmers some incentive and they'll do a superb job. If the other sectors worked as hard at curing their problems as agriculture, maybe we wouldn't have surpluses mocking the starving of the world.

There is something inherently wrong with a world that has starvation while bins overflow not so far away. And there is something even more inherently wrong with a nation where the people responsible for the food surplus also starve or go bankrupt.

We stand at an agricultural crossroads. Retirement is about to claim many of our established farmers. We have the choice to make farming profitable for their children and grandchildren by support when necessary or to prepare to suffer the consequences of treading on dubious ground.

Rodney Wetovick
senior political science/English student-farmer
past state officer of the Nebraska Future Farmers of America

Letters

Brief letters are preferred, and longer letters may be edited. Writer's address and phone number are needed for verification.

Reader urges students to prevent 'sexual perversity'

A recent letter urging student organizations to "condemn discrimination based on sexual orientation" (DN, Feb. 6) merits a response. The terminology and line of reasoning used were typical of the worn out cliches posited by advocates of the homosexual community. This letter is for those who feel homosexuals need to be rehabilitated, not integrated.

First, the term "sexual orientation" implies that homosexuality is simply a given (such as race or gender). "Orientation" is a neutral term which sets an

agenda of normalcy when applied to the homosexual community. If the student body and its representatives truly view homosexuality as an orientation, then certainly they ought not to discriminate. However, if they view it as a perversion, they ought to continue discriminating.

Secondly, the argument that gay/lesbian students ought to be included simply because they constitute 10 percent of the UNL community is fallacious. For example, what if 10 percent of the student body were pedophiles

(people who sexually molest children)? Would we allow them to insist they ought not to be discriminated against simply because of their large numbers?

The First Amendment certainly was intended to allow for diversity, but we should not allow special groups to twist its meaning so that it opens the floodgates of perversity.

Tim Teebken
junior arts and sciences

'Irresponsible cyclist' gives other riders a bad image

I often ride a bicycle to campus and am well aware of the hazards of riding in traffic, particularly after I was forced off the street by a motorist in October.

I was distressed to see the photograph of the "Cyclist Injured" (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 11). I hope that rider's injuries were minor and that she is recovering quickly.

I have to say that I also was distressed Wednesday when I drove my car around the Memorial Stadium loop to

park in the Morrill Hall lot. Coming toward me was a student, riding his bicycle on the ice left by the recent snowfall and freeze.

Without knowing differently, I assume Tuesday's injured cyclist was riding safely and carefully, and had an accident nevertheless.

But from seeing what I saw this morning (and, unfortunately, other mornings as well), I know there is at least one irresponsible cyclist on cam-

pus who rides against traffic on a narrow, one-way street that has cars parked on both sides. Such stupid riding practices are dangerous and illegal. It's people like this who give the rest of us cyclists a bad name and subject us to criticism from motorists who have been inconvenienced and threatened or irritated by illegal and stupid riding.

Donald Gregory
associate professor English

Readers call DN story on station KRNU 'one-sided'

It appears the Daily Nebraskan has a chip on its shoulder for the UNL College of Journalism. First there was the recent story on the college's accreditation visit, which was so successful that the College of Journalism was one of only two programs exempted from the state's budget-cutting ax.

And now we have a one-sided story on the broadcasting department's radio station, KRNU. Yes, the format is tight. But a quick check of the formats of KFRX and KFMQ would show that this is typical among popular modern radio

stations. KRNU is the equivalent to the news-editorial department's lab paper, The Journalist, in that it serves as a vehicle for students to get skills.

KRNU is one of the few college radio stations in the country that helps beginning broadcasting students get early, on-air experience. This, in turn, opens the door to gaining part-time professional experience while still in school. During a typical semester, 60 to 70 students with a wide variety of musical tastes, have airshifts. Catering to everyone's tastes would be economi-

cally unfeasible and would lead to a chaotic, unprofessional format.

In addition, we would like to correct one inaccuracy in the article. WNUR is not the nation's most powerful college radio station. In the Big Eight alone, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma State boast more powerful stations.

Mike Tobias
senior broadcasting

Mike Grudzinski
senior broadcasting

Earlier hypocritical letter denies differences of opinion

This is in rebuttal to the letter to the editor, "Hypocrisy, liberalism said alive and well at Daily Nebraskan" (DN, Feb. 11).

I would like to make several points to James Feyerherm.

Feyerherm said the movie "Hail, Mary" is "an obviously tasteless film depiction of the life of Jesus." Because the movie has been shown in few places close to Lincoln, I doubt that you have seen it.

On the issue of liberalism: Yes, it is alive in the offices of the DN and in the student body of NU. Nebraskans often are referred to as conservative, but there remains a difference of opinion. And that is the nature of an editorial.

Then we come to homosexuals, gamblers, alcoholics and drug users. First of all, gambling is the only solely psychological dysfunction in the above group. Drug abuse is exactly that; abuse of a substance that induces a biological phenomenon. In case you have missed the past few years of alcohol awareness, alcoholism is also a physiological disorder that affects millions.

Homosexuality is now one of society's largest focal points. There are significant differences between heterosexual and homosexual biological makeups. Alcohol and drug abusers often directly injure themselves and society. There should be a continuing

emphasis on what we can do to help those afflicted. But when we arrive at a state of being, such as homosexuality, we should learn how to understand and accept those who are different from us.

Two of Feyerherm's points were that "Hail, Mary" was rightfully canceled and that since the students help fund the DN and all student-related programs, we should have a say in what we receive for our funds. Thus, students should be able to see the movies they want to and should watch for their own hypocrisy.

Bruce Friedman
freshman undeclared

Reverse discrimination could taint professor selection

The recently published articles in the DN concerning the \$25,000 fund set up by UNL Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Robert Furgason for recruiting minority faculty members, prompted me to question the philosophy of spending more money to promote mediocrity at UNL.

I fail to see any advantage of giving

preferential treatment to a minority in selecting professors when the best candidate, who may be unfortunate enough to be white, has to be turned down for the sake of not displaying a "really lily-white" image of the university.

Would this money not be better

spent in recruiting high-caliber professors, regardless of their ethnic background? Let's not start tainting our selection of quality educators with reverse discrimination.

Al Emanuel
sophomore mechanical engineering