

# Opinion

## Letters

### Palestinian funeral may open dialogue

The United States made a good gesture when Morris Draper, the U.S. consul general, attended the funeral of the assassinated Palestinian mayor of Nablus on the Israeli-occupied West Bank. I hope such a move will be followed by an open dialogue between the U.S. government and the Palestinian people. Had the Palestinians been recognized as a nation that has the right of

self-determination, they never would have resorted to violence. The time has come for the U.S. government to resist any pressure from anti-Palestinian groups and meet with the Palestinians. This is, I believe, the first step toward achieving peace in the Middle East.

Abdullah Hamad  
linguistics

### DN distorts situation in Curtis

As one of the 20 percent of the NU School of Technical Agriculture graduates that now attends UNL, I feel compelled to comment about the Daily Nebraskan's coverage of UNSTA and its fight to stay open.

There are a lot of people, in the UNSTA and Curtis community, upset with how you reported on the school. After three years of reading the DN, I wasn't surprised at its warped version of Curtis. Someday the staff has got to realize that it is not Woodward and Bernstein, and they are not writing for the Washington Post.

What Curtis needs now is empathy and support, but what the DN gave it was sympathy and humiliation. The paper also missed the importance of keeping the school open. It's not that it

serves only to keep a town alive, or that 90 percent of its graduates stay in Nebraska. Why do you suppose 90 percent of us stay in Nebraska?

This is an agriculturally based state and UNSTA is an agriculture school. With the agriculture economy in the rotten condition that it is, the more education we can give the agriculturalists in this state, the better. Closing UNSTA is not a solution to the problem.

So the next time the DN sends reporters out to do an in-depth report, why don't they look a little deeper, rather than take pictures of arranged tumbleweeds.

Elizabeth Stevens  
UNSTA graduate, 1981  
teachers college  
senior

### COHEN from Page 4

Anyway, Biff, there was no way we would say anything. The money was rolling in. Anytime the good old U.S. of A. sent the Philippines aid, I would show up at the palace gate with my order book. Just last year, we offered them a \$900 million package over five years — economic and military aid, you understand. Biff, she gave me a weak smile

and then started calling out the order. I'll take 600 pairs of sling-backs and 800 pairs of pumps. And then, Biff, just like that it was over. Some lady named Corazon Aquino, a size 7 probably, took over the Philippines. One look at her and you could tell — no sale there.

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Cohen writes an editorial column for the Washington Post.

### DN challenged

## NU budget needs open debate

I am writing regarding the editorial "Library \$ — Automation wrong choice" (Daily Nebraskan, March 4).

My reason for writing is to compliment the editors, to criticize their position and to challenge them into thinking further on the subject they raised.

First, I compliment that paper on recognizing that priority decisions are the key items on the agenda facing today's university faculty administration, as well as many other stakeholders in our state. I compliment you for challenging the library automation project in terms of its place on the priority list.

Now for the critical element of my letter. Frankly, I don't believe that the writers had the necessary information, prospective and wisdom necessary to suggest that "UNL library officials' first priority should be to update the stacks, increase the meager selection of newspapers and periodicals and spend more money repairing and maintaining the materials we already have."

Over the years, I have known a number of administrators in the UNL library system. Everyone that I knew wrestled on a daily basis over almost their entire professional career with various priority problems. The problem we are talking about might be characterized as "increased access" versus "increased material." It would be foolish to claim that all library officials come down on the same side of this question.

"What is true is that given the time, experience and intelligence spent on the problem, by a highly qualified library staff, it is presumptuous to challenge this allocation process as definitively as the writer has done. This

criticism is not meant to stifle questioning or inquiring. I think it is good to challenge officials to defend their priority setting mechanisms. The criticism is meant to suggest that this should be done a bit more humbly.

Now let me suggest a challenge. The discussion of how and where the university spends money; how it allocates resources and how it sets priorities, needs to be openly debated within the university community. What's more, the extended university community of Nebraska taxpayers should be permitted and encouraged to participate in this debate.

### Guest Opinion

This debate process that I am suggesting needs to be organized and presented on a regular basis with key issues and agendas continually updated and presented to the public. The university is indeed one of the state's most important resources.

From my point of view, the editorial touched on a key item that concerns the flow of information in a university community and how the technology of information processing is radically changing the answer to the question, "What is worth knowing?" Technology is changing learning techniques, teaching techniques, testing techniques and research techniques. Discussion and debate must be held on how these issues are best addressed.

However one views the effect of technology on the university, one would have to admit that there are other major competitors for the limited resources available. For example, how would you prioritize the need for counseling services for students under stress versus

the request for library technology. Who has the wisdom necessary to make that kind of decision?

Let me be more specific with my challenge. I challenge the DN to bring the debate concerning priorities and the demand for scarce resources to the attention of the entire university community. I challenge the DN to invent and sponsor forums to debate this priority problem or perhaps even formulate a series, which over a number of months, will report and discuss this on-going debate.

We would attempt to bring the best minds of the university to bear on this problem. It is important to the well being of all the members of the university community.

Donald Costello  
associate professor  
computer science

### Letter Policy

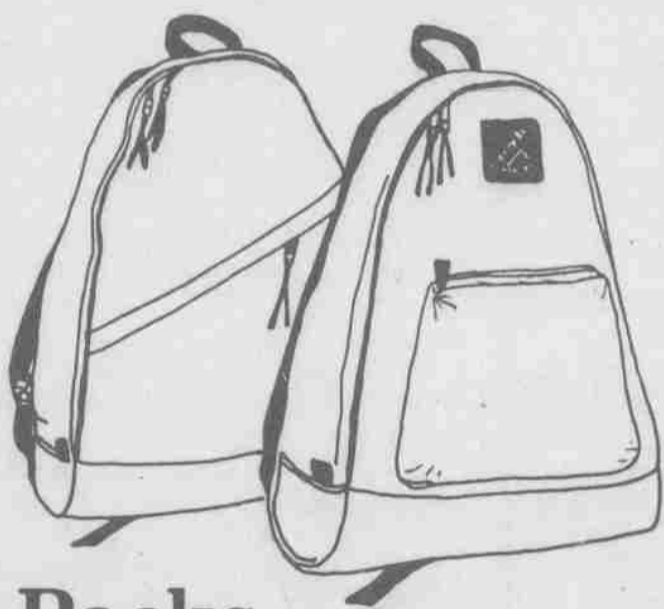
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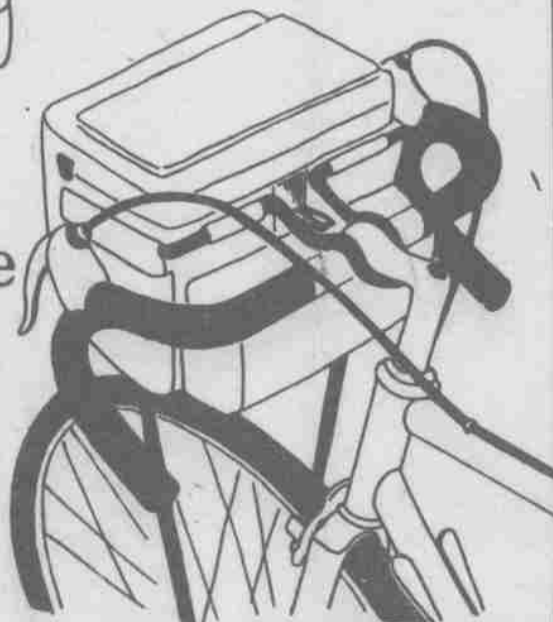


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