

# Editorial

Daily  
**Nebraskan**  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## ASUN litter Cleanup account needed

Campaign literature passed out during last week's ASUN campaign created an obvious problem this year.

The pamphlets, distributed by the Excel and Impact parties, proliferated and resulted in a big, soggy mess on Thursday morning.

The Nebraska Union plaza was so littered with yellow Excel literature that it looked more like the yellow brick road from the Wizard of Oz than a university patio.

ASUN parties should be responsible for their messes. Many commercial groups engaging in mass distribution are required to deposit money for cleanup, or to take care of the messes themselves.

Something similar could be implemented for the ASUN campaign as well.

Political groups that intend to distribute campaign material could be required to deposit, say, \$100 in a cleanup account. If the party cleaned up its own mess, the deposit would be re-

funded. If the party did not clean up after itself, then the deposit would go to pay a grounds crew for its extra work. This would easily solve the problem.

In Lincoln, candidates are required to clean up particularly obnoxious messes that their campaigns leave (such as yard signs). Thus, the precedent has been set.

Lest the finger of accusation be turned upon the Daily Nebraskan, two observations about the DN and litter can be made.

First, the DN pays people to collect discarded inserts — which are littered much more often than the newspaper itself.

Second, the DN is not passed out to unwilling recipients.

Political pamphlets are thrust into all passerby's hands irrespective of the passerby's desire to receive the literature.

More significant litter problems result from the political handouts. UNL groundskeepers should not be forced to pick up after ASUN parties.

## Plagiarism Editorial columnist fired

The Daily Nebraskan apologizes for publishing the column, "Americans ignorant of Soviets; Personal contacts can foster better understanding," (DN, March 11), under the byline of columnist Patrick Meister, a UNL senior in accounting and business administration.

The column, which appeared in the World Press Review 1986 edition, actually was written by Yuri Kudimov and was an excerpt from an interview with Vladimir Posner, Radio Moscow commentator, which appeared in the Young Communist League organ "Komsomolskaya Pravda."

Plagiarism is a serious offense. UNL's student Code of Conduct

states that any student found guilty of dishonesty in academic work, such as submitting another's work as one's work, has grave consequences.

Students caught cheating could fail the course. In addition, action against the student could be taken by the department chairman or the office of the vice chancellor for student affairs.

If university administrators think further action is necessary, they will submit the case to the University Judicial Board.

Plagiarism is not tolerated in academics, and it won't be tolerated in the Daily Nebraskan.

For these reasons, Meister has been fired.

## Coe deserves vote

ASUN elections aren't over. Wednesday, students again will go to the polls for a run-off election between Excel's second vice presidential candidate, Tony Coe, and Impact's second vice presidential candidate, Tim Geisert. Excel president Chris Scudder and first vice president Dan Hofmeister won last week's election.

Those who vote in the election should vote for Coe.

Although Geisert has had experience in several university

organizations, he doesn't have Coe's tact or independence. Coe proved his abilities last semester when he played an important and effective role in settling the Harper-Schram-Smith training table controversy, in which housing officials designated part of Smith Hall a women's training table.

Coe has the record and personality that will let him work with the administration, yet stand up for students' rights when necessary.

## Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1986 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to super-

vised the daily production of the paper.

According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.



## We're losing the 'human touch'

Liberal arts are of tantamount importance to technology

I am composing this column on an electric typewriter. A small stereo tape player is blasting out my favorite soundstrough diminutive headphones. And I'm also smoking a cigarette, which was rolled by a machine.

Once I finish writing this, I'll go crawl into bed and turn the electric blanket on "high." In the morning, my alarm clock radio will wake me from sleep, announcing the drudgery of another dull day.

Everything that gets me through the day is influenced by technology and automation. Like most Americans, I take these objects and machines for granted.

I try to avoid computers, but I realize that they'll eventually become another mundane aspect of my life because I'm a writer. I'll soon have to deal with high-tech word processors and computer terminals that pound out news stories, novels, plays and poems with flawless proficiency.

Writing isn't the only thing that is being automated by computers; they're also burgeoning in the business world. Computers can now help yuppies with marketing strategies and copy for advertisements. Even domesticity is being computerized, since many metropolitan areas are planning to offer "shop at home" computer programs in the near future.

Machines have helped eradicate menial tasks that do little for the body or intellect, but they've made our society somewhat impersonal. For ex-

ample, you can now slide a plastic card into an automated teller and make financial transactions 24 hours a day, instead of dealing one-on-one with a human teller during bank hours. Using an automated teller is often convenient, but you lose the interaction and communication you encounter with a human teller.

Computers and technology are indeed worthwhile boons to our society, but we mustn't let them undermine our humanity, communication and mortality.



Scott  
Harrah

Machines can tally numbers, store information and data, but they can't be creative, artistic, insightful, philosophical or loving. In the past, bank tellers and advertising copywriters had to incorporate their creative and mathematical abilities into their jobs. Now that computers have partially taken over the more tedious aspects of their jobs, part of the "human touch" has been lost in the process.

Productivity and materialism are part of the basic foundations of our capitalistic society, and computers help us reach these goals with lucrative results. Technology has brought us such state-of-the-art luxuries as VCRs,

cordless phones, high-powered sports cars, microwave ovens and other machines that are great for convenience's sake, but hardly as inspiring or emotional as intellectual contact with humans.

I love convenience, but I'll spend my money on something inspirational instead of the latest high-tech trend any day.

My acquaintances, with their gleaming new VCRs, immaculate stereos, \$2,000 computer systems and electronic appliances, often exude disdain when they learn that I've saved to go on a trip or I've just blown my small disposable income on a load of books or records.

My contention is that machines and other electronic gadgets break down and have to be scrapped. But literature, music, travel, education and other sources of inspiration stay in your head long after the Apple's been fed its last floppy disk or the Porsche's been shown off to everyone.

As we progress into a more advanced, technological society, we should also learn to grow in spirit. The ability to think philosophically and be inspired by the liberal arts and human interaction is tantamount in importance to science and technology.

I know it sounds corny, pretentious and trite, but the "human touch" is something we all need to experience before we can truly be progressive in society.

Harrah is a UNL junior in English and speech communication.

## Patti Davis' tale of Beth Canfield tells the trials of politicians' children

When Patti Davis' book goes into paperback, she ought to add another chapter about what happens to the daughter of a president when she writes a novel about her family and goes on a book tour.

The past few weeks have provided a perfect epilogue for "Home Front," the tale of Beth Canfield, a girl who would rather not be the daughter of a governor on his way to the White House. In the novel, Beth keeps trying to be the leading character in her own life and keeps ending up as a subplot in her father's.

It was like that in Patti's real life. It's like that in the book Patti has written about her life. And it's like that in the book tour about the book about her life.

The escapades of Beth's youth are fairly tame — one lover, a marijuana joint or two, a stint as an anti-Vietnam war activist. So, for that matter, were the "rebellions" of Patti's youth. In her own words, "I mean, I considered myself fairly normal, I didn't, like burn out on acid or something." But in and

out of print, as Patti or Beth, her behavior and beliefs were judged by one standard. As Harriet Canfield, in the role of Nancy, says, "I don't know how you can do this to your father."

The real author, now 33 years old, is clear-sighted enough to know this and to know precisely what she is getting



Ellen  
Goodman

into, when she got into print. The novel she has written is not illiterate and not literature. It is interesting — only interesting — when she is writing about her parents.

The image of a daughter struggling to make contact with a Teflon-coated father has touching moments: "I felt that nothing I said made an impression on him — that my efforts were wasted. Each time my hopes were raised that I might be able to reach him, that he

might understand what was in my heart, but each time I came away deflated, feeling more distant from him than ever."

The troubles her character has with a mother who can only see her daughter's gestures as a threat are sadly believable. "All I'm asking," says this mother, "is that you keep your father in mind when you choose your friends and your activities. Think of how it reflects on him. Is that too much to ask?"

Friends of her father criticized the book. Enemies of her father revealed in its prickliest moments.

But this is not a Poor Patti column. There are "children" who handle reflected fame with more ease and more grace than Patti. Even Ron, Jr. There is, however, a particular problem for the son or daughter who both love and disagree with a very public parent. You can trace the struggle and the yearning in Beth Canfield's relationships with her father: "I was doing what I felt was right. So was he. And between those two realities was only distance."

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