

# Editorial

Daily  
**Nebraskan**

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## Influential ambassadors Representatives have a purpose

When the UNL Ambassadors meet this Thursday to elect officers and discuss possible fall activities, let us hope that these students start feeling they have a purpose. The program, started in the spring of 1985, has the chance to be a potential influence. And it should be.

The Daily Nebraskan reported that after not meeting for nearly five months, members of the organization gathered to clarify the group's purpose and think of ways to aid the university in the fall.

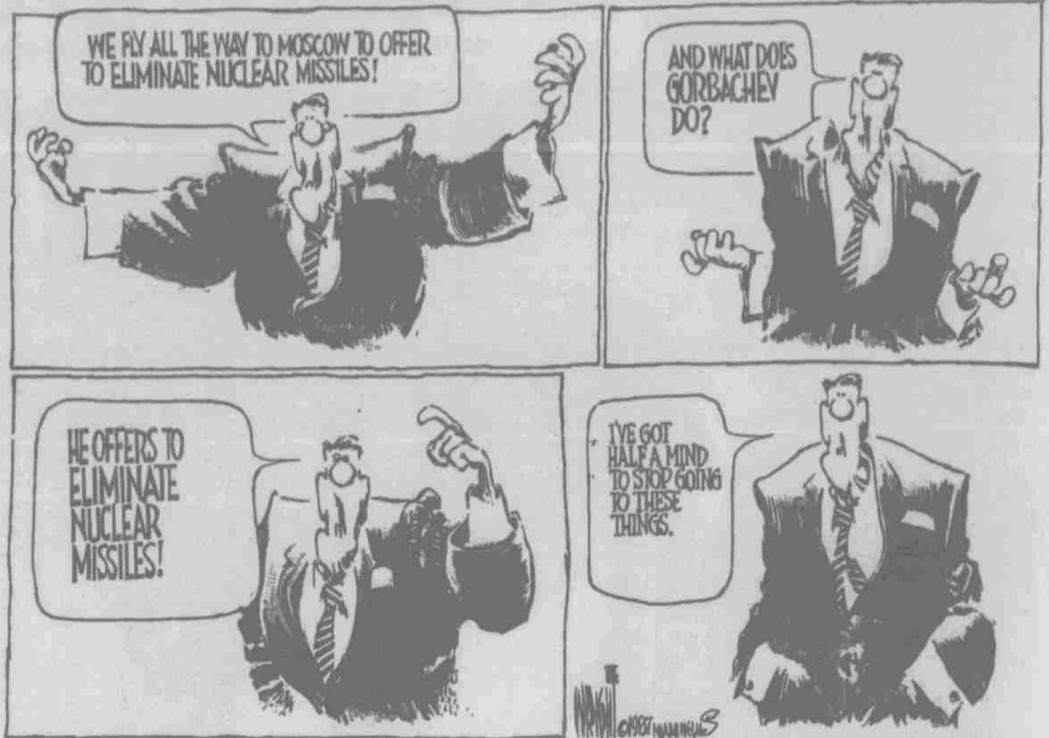
The ambassadors disbanded in November after being confused about their purpose, and what they said was a lack of leadership.

The group was formed to visit Nebraska high schools and give a student's perspective of campus life at UNL. The group also sponsored campus tours for prospective students. Recruitment of high school students is essential to the well-being of the university, especially since the budget cuts have been so highly publicized.

It's not difficult to fathom that high school graduates might be wary to come to UNL when they see practically every program receiving some kind of a cut. How can the university guarantee a quality education? This is where the administration takes steps.

The 25 current ambassadors told Dr. James Griesen, associate vice chancellor of academic affairs, that they needed a sponsor and a better definition of their purpose. Griesen responded by outlining possible activities they could work with in the fall and said he would look for possible sponsors. He also suggested activities that would be implemented now, including participation in "Freshman Friday," continuing visiting area high schools, and helping professors with university foundation classes.

With the help of the administration, the ambassadors can educate high school students about the university and about the budget cuts. Tell them what is getting cut and why.



## Nobody checks the silliness

*1-house legislature deprives Nebraskans of adequate reality*

It was in ninth-grade civics class in Tennessee that I first learned of Nebraska's unique unicameral legislature. Even at that tender age, I realized many of the possible advantages of such a system. There just seemed to be little sense in states with populations under 2 million supporting dual legislative houses with sometimes more than 200 members. So I was then and am now basically supportive of the philosophy that led our fathers two generations back to buck tradition and go with common sense. Many Nebraska tax dollars have been saved and rerouted (God willing) to more deserving causes over the intervening period.

However, there is one important disadvantage to a unicameral system, the avoidance of which was part of the original motivation for a two-house body both locally and nationally. The dire need for checks and balances within a governmental system is often served by the fact that any bill must make it through two separate legislative bodies before being presented to the executive branch. Crudely put, such a system protects the people from that periodic phenomenon that occurs when one lawmaking house is comprised mostly of idiots, charlatans and generally unqualified participants. Alas, when we enter such a period in Nebraska, there is no saner body to check the silliness of those for whom power has become an intoxicating spirit. We are experiencing such a dangerous period.

In countless ways over the past few years, the unicam has demonstrated that it is out of touch with the needs and desires of the people of this state

and (more importantly) with what decent nomological procedure consists of. I will not waste space with examples — anyone who has crawled out of a cave long enough to catch a front page now and then is all too aware of the appropriate instances.

The most recent illustration of our current sad legislative predicament is underscored by a delightful irony. Almost a month after Congress overrode President Reagan's veto of the highway bill and paved the way for 65 mph speed limits on rural interstates, the very state whose senator authored the victorious amendment has yet to pass a bill allowing us legally to get from Lincoln to Grand Island in an hour and a half.

how many of our overworked state troopers would be too concerned to stop anyone doing less than 70 mph just to issue such a stand-in-the-corner punishment.

Remember all the debates over the 65 mph proviso? I and others have warned that those who traveled 65 to 70 when the limit was 55 will travel 75 to 80 when it is 65. The rejoinders came, complete with studies of average speeds before the oil embargo, demonstrating that 65 to 75 mph speed limits were not abused with the regularity that the 55 mph limit is. I thought then that the arguing sounded like a pre-schooler asking for just 10 more minutes before bedtime and promising not to violate such grace if extended.

Interstate driving in Nebraska is dangerous enough as it is. I am not too anxious to give the fat cats in their Lincoln Town Cars and the sassy cute boys in their RX-7's and Z-28's any more of a cushion than the 65 mph allowance will already give. If the claims that this limit will not be as abused as the former are legitimate, then why not pass a bill that slams you to the mat at 66?

I do a lot of interstate driving in this state and country, and I am more interested in the life of my family than I am in your schedule or your need to show off machismo. The safety of our citizens is important enough for you to leave 10 minutes earlier if you are in all that big a hurry.

Sennett is campus minister with College-Career Christian Fellowship and a graduate student in philosophy who even drives 35 mph down Vine Street.

James  
Sennett



Some of our senators (is it surprising that Ernie Chambers is the ringleader?) have decided that 65 mph is not enough. Rather, any Nebraska resident who is willing to take the slap on the wrist should be allowed to go as fast as 70 with no fear of points against his license and at worst a \$10 fine. In effect, the Rotunda Rowdies are trying to sneak in a 70 mph interstate speed limit in 65 mph clothing. Not only would most people figure \$10 a worthy risk, one must also question strongly

## Commission proposes real reforms

Last week, the Daily Nebraskan published an unsigned editorial criticizing the final report of the Chancellor's Commission on General Liberal Education.

After careful examination of the Program for the Advancement of General Liberal Education, I found it contained substantial, meaningful changes rather than "meaningless mush" as described in the DN.

### Guest Opinion

UNL has a threefold mission: teaching, research and service. So much emphasis has been put on the latter two changes, but the former seems to have been ignored. The new approaches to education suggested in the report are exciting and innovative in my opinion, rather than "predictable, safe and utterly pedestrian," as the DN would argue.

At a university of this size, research is encouraged and little attention is paid to how well students are taught.

The chancellor's commission report calls for incentives for teaching as well as research and service.

Great emphasis is put on the need to improve the way in which students are learning, rather than just altering the requirements for graduation.

The report calls for delegating substantial advising responsibilities to fewer faculty members while providing for salary increases, promotions and lighter teaching schedules for those faculty members involved in advising. The report finds need for greater emphasis on the learning, physical and cultural environments of the UNL campus. It calls for increased integration of special events and activities with the curricular offerings and the social aspects of student life.

The report sets up new guidelines for course requirements. It calls for introductory courses tailored to freshman-level students as well as special seminars for seniors. The program urges "that course materials and approaches be suited to students at different levels of preparation and intellectual devel-

opment." Freshmen will be better prepared for upper-level classes if courses are planned to meet the levels of knowledge and social development of the students. Advanced students should not be allowed to enroll in classes intended for beginning students, according to the new general education plan.

This letter briefly outlines only a few of the many excellent proposals for the advancement of general liberal education made by the chancellor's commission. The commission did a fine job targeting areas of weakness on our campus.

I agree with the Daily Nebraskan that "every student should read Plato and Shakespeare while getting a university education." The chancellor's commission does not preclude that possibility. It does, however, set up excellent guidelines for improved teaching, curriculum and student services on a campus where reforms in these areas are badly needed.

Chris Scudder  
senior  
English

## Letters

### Union Square workers deserve jobs

As a frequent visitor to Union Square, the fate of the employees upon the arrival of the new food franchise concerns me. It is my sincere hope that those in charge of hiring at Burger King will recognize them while reviewing potential employees. These hard-work-

ing people deserve to be commended for the years of service they have given. Their dedication and good rapport with the students is easily noted.

Margaret Millea  
senior  
journalism

### Males must take the blame for sexism

I would like to respond to James N. Hanna's guest opinion (DN, April 13) concerning sexism. He says, "People trying to fight sexism against females turn their efforts, inadvertently or not, into attacks against males." How ridiculous! Males are the source of sexism!

If we were being bombed by Mars, would we bomb Venus to save ourselves? I fail to see his logic here. He also states that as a male, he is not responsible for the creation of our male-dominated society or language. If he is not, then who is? Present generations are always so quick to put the blame on previous ones for society's problems. Present-day males may not have created this male-dominated society, but they certainly perpetuate it.

Every time a male student calls one of his adult female classmates a "girl," he uses sexist language. When fraternity males set up an escort service to "protect" the women on campus, they perpetuate male domination. (I think the sororities should provide this service.) When biology books define sexual intercourse as "penetration" by a penis rather than "enclosure" by a vagina, male domination is again perpetuated, only this time at the most fundamental level of human relationships.

Sexism exists when you have special coed rules in intramural sports devised to allow the women, through handicaps, the opportunity to play more.

If you are serious about fighting sexism, boycott these games, fight for rule changes and tell the males to quit hogging the ball.

I think Hanna missed the point completely. The only reason I have given the previous instances is because they are in the realm of his experience. He cannot possibly understand how deeply sexism affects women's lives. His complaint about constantly "feeling like a rude, sexist idiot" will vanish when he stops being one. His argument sounds more like a child whining about being called a nasty name. He totally ignores the fact that women are still bought and sold, paid unlivable wages, coerced by rape into locking themselves away, and used to sell everything that makes a profit.

I'm sure Hanna is not as superficial as his letter indicated. I think that he, and all of us, through serious reflection and concentrated effort, can help to diminish this widespread problem.

Jayne Stratton  
graduate student  
biological sciences

### 'I'm a loser; my life is meaningless'

In response to nothing, I do not wear Birkenstocks. I support athletics and oppose salary increases to enhance academia. I am homophobic. I am apathetic toward campus politics. I am shallow and indecisive. My humanity is based on superficial innuendo. I am not religious because Roman Catholics are persecuted. I find that women who wear too much makeup are irresistible. I believe the claim that obesity cannot be helped; it's a glandular thing. I do

not believe that "hacky sack" is a queer display of Grecians at play. I vandalize bicycles parked at the union to get back at society. I head a secret society of college males who urinate on autos. I truly believe that Fred Link hates women. I am a loser; my life is hopelessly meaningless.

Alan D. Classen  
senior  
marketing