

Editorial

Concert to bring good will

University officials' actions resemble those of spoiled child

Some folks just have no class. For example, take the university administration and athletic department officials. While it should be obvious to anyone with the brainpower of a bedbug that FarmAid III is the greatest public-relations opportunity to hit the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in year, many university officials seem determined to negate any positive feelings FarmAid might gener-

ate by publicly announcing their childish, churlish attitudes. They don't even have to do anything to pull off this public-relations coup — all they have to do is shut up, smile and let Willie Nelson do all the work. Ever since the start of the FarmAid project, the attitude of university officials has resembled that of a spoiled child who gets a shiny new 10-speed for his birthday, but complains because he wanted a red 12-speed. Here's the latest example: The FarmAid contract gives UNL control of all concessions. With almost 70,000 people in Memorial Stadium for 12 hours who are not allowed to leave the concert and return, concessions are going to turn a pretty profit. An even prettier profit considering that

ConAgra is donating the hotdogs. Earlier this week UNL announced that all profits from concessions wouldn't go to distressed farm families or to farm crisis education, but to the renovation of Memorial Stadium. There's nothing illegal or even immoral about this, of course. It's just small, petty and shows no class at all. UNL's attitude has been causing problems since early this summer, when administrative foot-dragging on the preliminary paperwork came within a hair's breadth of getting FarmAid removed to another state entirely. Only a daring 11th-hour save by former Gov. Bob Kerrey and Lincoln Mayor Bill Harris allowed plans to proceed. No sooner had plans been tentatively agreed upon than certain naysayers developed diarrhea of the mouth. There was football coach Tom Osborne, whose veiled threats that a couple of days on an alternate practice field would have a dire effect on the early part of the Cornhuskers' season, even through their next game wouldn't be played in Memorial Stadium. Osborne's predictions are calculated to give any Husker fan who's also concerned about the farm crisis massive guilt either way. Even worse were the remarks of Regent Robert Koefoot, the undisputed champion of this summer's foot-in-mouth sweepstakes. Koefoot told the press that he was opposed to FarmAid because it would bring drugs and alcohol to the UNL campus. Presumably this is in contrast to football games, where every spectator is as sober as a judge and no one would dream of

smuggling in a controlled substance. Koefoot then added ignorance to hypocrisy by saying that he thought that all the FarmAid money would go into Nelson's pocket anyway. Now for some facts:

- Out of the millions the first two FarmAid concerts raised, more than \$140,000 has already been distributed in Nebraska alone.
- Because FarmAid uses only established organizations to distribute its money, less than 2 percent of money raised goes to administrative costs. The rest of the money goes to farm relief and farm crisis education.
- FarmAid money doesn't go into Nelson's pocket, but it does come out of it. Last Christmas, Nelson donated \$2,500 to Nebraska families who couldn't afford a holiday celebration.

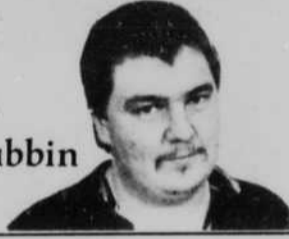
- See the contrast, UNL? Nelson is giving lots of cash and lots of his very valuable time to help the farm crisis, and at the same time UNL is hogging hotdogs.

UNL stands to gain so much in good will from FarmAid that we don't need to take concert-goers' money to come out ahead. I call for the university to reverse its position and pledge all the proceeds from the ConAgra hotdogs, as well as a healthy percentage of other concession profits, to farm relief. Show some class, for once.

And if Memorial Stadium really needs renovation that badly, we can always send Bob Devaney and Osborne out to beg on a milk carton.

McCubbin is a senior English and philosophy major

Chris McCubbin



Let freedom ring

Secular humanists deserve court victory

The so-called "secular humanist religion" has won another case against its fundamentalist opponents, and it was a well-earned victory.

A federal appeals court reversed the banning of 44 books from Alabama public schools and a ruling which awarded \$50,000 for private school tuition and other expenses to the families who brought the suit.

Religious fundamentalists describe secular humanism as the belief that people should solve their own problems without the aid of God.

Last March, U.S. District Judge Brevard Hand banned the books for "promoting godless, humanistic religion."

Hand said the books discriminated against "the very concept of religion . . . by omissions so serious that a student learning history from them would not be apprised of relevant facts

about America's history."

Some of the books objected to included "The Diary of Anne Frank," because it assumes all religions are equal in the eyes of God, and "The Wizard of Oz," because it depicted a witch as being "good."

Come on now.

It's amazing that the people who call themselves "religious" are the first ones to discriminate and segregate groups.

Robert Skolrood, executive director of the National Legal Foundation, called the decision a tremendous blow to religious freedom in the United States.

Religious freedom hasn't been lost. People are still free to attend the church of their choice, to believe what they want to believe, and to act on their religious beliefs as long as they don't interfere with someone else's freedoms.

Quibbles & bits

The death of Warren Fine, an associate professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, saddened many students and members of the faculty and administration.

Fine, who died last week at his Lincoln home, will be remembered for his fiction-writing classes, poems, short stories and novels. He left behind a lifetime of creativity.

He also will be missed off campus. Many will remember Fine as one of the founders of the Strat-O-Matic baseball league at O'Rourke's, a downtown tavern.

- Congratulations to Dr. Ian Newman, UNL professor of health, physical education and recreation in the Teachers College, who will receive a national award

from the Research Council of the American School Health Association. Newman earned the award for his research on alcohol and substance abuse. His efforts should be applauded.

- A hot topic drew several phone calls at the Daily Nebraskan this week. The calls weren't about faculty salaries, shady dealings with sports agents or any other stories that appeared in the paper in the last few days, but about the absence of the cartoon "The Far Side."

Don't despair. The cartoon will return to the DN shortly. The DN's subscription apparently was mailed to the wrong address, and the distributing company needed some time to correct the error.

Dickson's effort 'shortsighted'

It's a pity when rightful pity turns into forced applause

Jim Dickson, we learn, has abandoned his undertaking to sail alone across the Atlantic in his 36-foot boat. There are those who are reassured by his decision for personal reasons (they feared for his safety) and others who are gratified because they saw no point in the undertaking to begin with. I belong in both camps.

But goodness, what a stir when I wrote to the effect that Dickson's energy, courage and ambition were misdirected. The Washington Post published an irate letter from a deaf stu-

dent at Cornell University, who construed the point I endeavored to make as an argument against deaf students going to Cornell ("in fact they're better off," was my friend Joe Sobran's comment).

Ted Koppel, who invited Dickson and me to a semi-gentlemanly shoot-out on his program, reproached me for not having made the correct distinction, a point also made by columnist Charles Krauthammer. That distinction, they both say, is as easy as this: Although you don't get the full experience if you sail as a blind man, you do get an experience, and who is to say that getting an experience is not worth it to the person getting it? Krauthammer's test is this, and he uses it to describe a deaf man who goes to a ballet: "Can he (the adventurer) give you an account of what happened? Yes, a partial account. Missing is the rush of the music, but certainly there is an apprehension — diminished but real — of the dance."

William F. Buckley Jr.



Sight is important enough not to be belittled. Another correspondent assaults me by electronic mail, no less, to advise me that he knows of a 15-year-old girl who disguised her blindness from the judges at a horse show and performed perfectly in a jumping contest. Now, I spent a great gob of my youth in jumping contests on horseback, and I flatly discount any possibility that a blind equestrian can guide a horse around a ring over clusters of jumps and other hurdles without the kind of tactile coordination between hands and horse withers that unify the mount and its rider. This is not quite the same thing as saying that a rider

cannot succeed in taking 10 jumps in succession without being dismounted, but to do so would require a static posture, a docile horse and judges who would no more be fooled by what was going on than a listener would be if suddenly the people playing woodwinds started playing the strings and vice versa.

It is a pity that the pity we rightly feel for the handicapped evolves into forced applause when the handicapped attempt that which simply is not natural. Krauthammer says it is not natural to swim the English Channel, yet people do this. He is talking about adventure of an entirely different kind. He is talking about maximum exertion. To have been the first to swim the channel, after months, perhaps years, of physical and psychological training, is a feat quite beautiful to contemplate. It is like reading the book or hearing the symphony of a gifted artist totally devoted to his craft.

But to learn that a blind man has sailed across the Atlantic is on the order of being asked to appreciate a book on the grounds that, after all, it was written by a semi-literate. The definitive comment was of course Johnson's, when he said the wonder of it was not that the dog walking on his hind legs should do so imperfectly, but that he should do so at all. Captain Dickson is a brave man, but his ventures on behalf of the blind are shortsighted.

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Letter

'New Agers' not flaky: desire peace, love

I would like to speak out in behalf of those whom some call "Flaky New Agers."

Those who took part in the harmonic convergence are not all flaky. We are for the most part normal people. We have normal jobs and normal lives. It is beyond my understanding how the terms "flaky," "weird" or any other similar term could be applied to a bunch of people who hold a vision of love, peace and harmony among all beings.

We do not all run around in pilgrimages, worship UFOs or partake in "strange" rituals. We are not spiritually disoriented, in need of being "saved." We just live our lives in a way we feel can and will bring our vision into being on Earth. That may be as simple as smiling at someone or lending a hand to someone in need of help. We try to be open-minded and center ourselves in love so we can pass that light on to one another. Love does heal and make positive changes in the lives of those it touches.

If the world is ever to be at peace, it

will mean a total revolution within each person so the walls of fear, hate and greed that divide people into "us" and "them," depending on race, gender and personal beliefs, are torn down. It means the beginning of a global or universal relationship in which we came together as one. All the weapons and wars can never bring this about or solve any of our many human problems. Man has been proving that for millions of years.

I, and many others like me, think it is time the harmonic convergence is given a chance to be seen for what it is meant to be instead of being ridiculed and scoffed at: a time of looking within ourselves, of making peace there and then reaching out to others with compassion. If each of us did just that, we would no longer have reason for peace talks and arms agreements among nations or reason to speak of what it would take to live in peace, for we would create our own reality.

Linda Drawing
junior
psychology

attend a ballet, you go to see a combi-

Letter Policy

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Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication.

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