

# Editorial

## Iowa caucuses spoil the fun

Other states deserve notoriety of picking presidential candidates

The 1988 presidential race starts and ends in Iowa for many contenders. Because Iowa's are the first caucuses in the nation, candidates jockey for position in the Hawkeye state to gain momentum for the rest of the primary election season.

If a candidate fails to do well in Iowa, his or her chances for a rebound are between slim and none. The public and media will never seriously consider his or her candidacy after the Feb. 8 caucuses.

By Nebraska's primary in May, the field of candidates will have been whittled away and much of the excitement will be gone.

In fact, Nebraskans will have seen more of the candidates before the Iowa caucuses than they will before the Nebraska primary. The candidates have been crossing the Missouri River into Omaha to raise campaign money and gain Omaha media exposure that will help them in southwestern Iowa.

The candidates are working nearly every county in Iowa and speaking to any civic group or high school that will listen. One of my fraternity brothers lives in Atlantic, a small town in southwestern Iowa, and has seen four candidates in person.

The question raised by many critics is whether the Iowa caucuses are really a good place to start a presidential campaign. There are certainly plenty of merits.

Iowa probably will be won by the

candidate with the best "grassroots" campaign. Such people-oriented campaigns seem to be more legitimate than campaigns based on 30-second commercials.

Iowa is also a good place to develop public opinion. Midwesterners tend to be more concerned with issues and less swayed by flashy orators.

However, there seem to be just as many disadvantages as there are advantages.



Joel Carlson

By allowing the Iowa caucuses to have so much importance, a presidential campaign can be won or lost in just one state. Thus campaigns begin earlier and earlier with every election.

Since campaigns are longer, campaign staffs need people committed for the long haul. Such commitments of time and effort require people who believe strongly in a cause. Thus, the campaigns involve people with much more extreme views than are held by the general public.

For example, Richard Gephardt and Paul Simon have abandoned earlier pro-life positions in order to attract liberal Democrats who are more likely to get involved than moderate Democrats. Likewise, hard-line conservative Pat Robertson seems to have amassed more workers than Bob

Dole, who is perceived to be more moderate.

Also, entry barriers are high. A candidate will have trouble doing well by jumping in at this time. By now, candidates have large, well-financed campaign organizations. Some Democrats have wanted New York Gov. Mario Cuomo to jump in since Gary Hart and Joe Biden dropped out, but many concede that his entry would come too late to be successful.

Furthermore, campaigning in Iowa is becoming a science. The longer Iowa is used as the first testing ground, the easier it is to win the state. A campaign can draw from past experience and an established organization.

Another disadvantage is that Iowa is not exactly a model state for demographics. Iowa is a rural state without many major industries or many minorities. Only 1 percent of its population is black.

With so much riding on the Iowa caucuses, there are many problems. But is there a better system?

One solution is to have the first primaries in three or four states and rotate new states into the lineup every election. This system would take the pressure off just one state and allow new states the opportunity to have the first say in choosing the next president.

While the solution may be out of reach this election cycle, one thing is for sure. Feb. 8 will be make-or-break day for many candidates who have invested years and millions of dollars just to sit in the Oval Office.

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### Daily Nebraskan

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Faculty tenure trouble

Bylaw change allows firings, defeats purpose

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents will consider a bylaw change in January that would allow the university to fire tenured professors if it were in a financial crisis.

If this bylaw is passed, it will contradict everything the university has been trying to accomplish as far as helping the NU faculty. For the last several months, student leaders and administrators have recognized that University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty salaries are the lowest in the Big Eight. They've been trying to find a solution for months.

Faculty should be the last place the university should be cutting in a financial crisis. The bylaw gives the university an "out" or an excuse when money gets a little tight.

The proposal will allow the regents, with advice from the NU president, to declare a financial emergency. According

to a Lincoln Journal article, UNL has a similar policy, but there's no statewide policy.

The proposal also defeats the purpose of tenure. Faculty members work hard to earn the right to tenure. Although the faculty members are guaranteed due-process hearings if firings prove necessary, the process itself isn't fair to them.

Just look at the recent problems with Ohio State football coach Earle Bruce, who was fired by the university's board of directors. Bruce wasn't fired because of financial restraints at Ohio State, but the move met stiff criticism from athletic department officials, fans and opposing coaches.

Bruce has since filed a lawsuit against the university, arguing breach of contract. Unless NU is careful, it could wind up

in a situation just as touchy as the one Ohio State is in with Bruce.

# Residence hall food service, book bag thieves attacked

## Letters

### Residents like halls, but want better food

I would like to say a few things in response to Ron W. Eis' letter of anger to the people who have written recently about the poor food service in the residence halls at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

When I moved into the residence halls three years ago, the food was not like it is today. As I stated in my letter (Daily Nebraskan, Nov. 11), the food service has gotten progressively worse as time has gone by. I feel that I am not alone in my complaints. With the exception of Eis, I have received praise for my letter from people (including a current food worker and a residence hall director).

I question why food service workers themselves have not bothered to rebut in any other way. As a health aide and health aide coordinator for the Cather/Pound complex, it would not be as simple as myself going down to Seaton Hall and canceling my contract, as Eis suggested.

Some of us have a few more commitments to living in the residence halls than you seem to give us credit for. I enjoy living in the residence halls and plan to go on living here. I do not enjoy eating cold, half-cooked and skimpy food. My letter was written to voice a concern and to help improve the food services.

Jeffery R. Psota  
junior  
music

### Food problem distorted by chronic complaints

There are those who like to contribute to a problem and those who try to

do something about it. Recent editorial letters from students only perpetuate the bad image of the food services, and they don't help solve the problem. When you have a complaint, you need to tell the manager immediately. If the complaint is about the food, then you need to show the manager or cooks so they can correct it. We don't know about problems until they are brought to our attention.

The roach problem is being blown totally out of proportion. Are we to understand that the only roaches in Lincoln are at Harper Hall? We find that hard to believe. There are a few roaches, and there are many reasons why they are there. One reason is that the students leave food scattered all over the dining room. Continuous cleaning doesn't remove every crumb they have left behind. The roach that Nancy Bauman said was in her fries was not in them when they were served. It could have crawled in while she was getting pop or a salad. The fries are taken directly from the fryer to the pass-through (between the kitchen and the line) to the serving line. The person serving would have noticed if a roach was approaching the food.

We lived in the dorms, and we know that the food is really not that bad. We did move off campus (not because of the food), and we miss the variety of food that is offered there. It's a shame that the only people who are heard from are those who complain and criticize. The special dinners, ice-cream-sundae nights and the good meals that people consistently request are never talked about. It

seems like it is the same people who come through the line and complain about the food every day. Some people are never satisfied because their expectations are too high. We cannot individually tailor meals when we are feeding about 950 students per meal. We simply don't have the

budget to serve the kind of food that some of these students are accustomed to. Home-cooked meals are served at home, not at a dinner for 950 people.

In response to Michelle Ebadi (Letters, Nov. 11), we ask why, if the halls are our homes, do students set tablecloths on fire, steal food, steal silverware and leave a mess when they leave. We should only hope that they don't act that way at home. With regard to the vegetables, all vegetables are cooked. They might be cold by the time that you get around to eating them, but we have a microwave

to heat them back up. We run out of chicken nuggets in the salad bar after one night, not three. The rolls we serve are direct from the bakery, and if one did have mold on it, it should be brought to the attention of the manager.

Students usually eat up the rolls as soon as they are put out, so they are not around long enough to get moldy. A majority of the pizza boxes in the elevator lobbies are from pizzas ordered late at night, long after dinner has been eaten.

We wish that the chronic complainers would take a job at the food service so they could see the tremendous amount of work and preparation that goes into each meal. The people that work there do a lot of hard work and they are doing their best. Our advice to the people that eat with us: Don't complain about everything, don't be rude to us when we serve you, and please pick up the mess you have made before you leave.

Wade D. Goehring  
Kim Caniglia  
Teresa Workman  
Amy Sanders  
Harper student employees

### Man cannot survive on bread, plants only

The article by Bryan Peterson (Guest Opinion, Nov. 17) is typical of someone who has little knowledge of biology, the global food situation or the current world economic situation. If everyone in the world were to start eating only plant material, the economies of many nations across the world would be severely hurt if not devastated, including that of the United States. It is this preschool mentality about feeling sorry for the animals that contributes to the current "farm crisis."

Animals cannot think any more than a potato plant can think. Animals respond by instinct to stimuli in their environment. If the potato plant could think, we must assume that it would not want to be killed and consumed for food. However, it cannot think; therefore we consume it for food without feeling sorry for it. Animals cannot think either, but we feel sorry for them. Why? I have no idea. Comparing the plight of animals to that of the slaves was not a valid point. The slaves could reason. They knew the difference between freedom and enslavement. Animals cannot think; therefore they don't know freedom. Humans have just as much right to consume animals for food as they would the potato.

One of the points made in Peterson's article was that "on a global scale, humanity could benefit tremendously from a gradual transition to a vegetable diet." This statement is totally ridiculous. If the entire world were to switch to a vegetable diet, the population of the world would quickly outgrow the food supply. Only a small portion of the earth's surface is tillable land that can raise plants for human consumption. Much of the world's surface is range land that can only be used for the production of animals such as cattle, sheep

and goats. Over three-fourths of the world is covered by water. To utilize

this effectively, we must harvest animals from the water, such as fish, crustaceans, etc. When humans consume plants for food, only a small portion of the plant is actually used. For example, we eat wheat, but not the straw. This is a terrible waste of energy. Only animals such as cattle can utilize this plant residue. Animals such as hogs can utilize human and other animal wastes. We must realize that if the rapidly growing human population is to survive in the future, we will have to utilize all available land and energy resources. We cannot resort to consuming only one type of food source, or we will simply starve to death. Consuming only one type of food source is a luxury that today's society simply cannot afford.

Animals are also an important source of nutrition. A balanced diet from each of the four food groups has been proven to be the most healthy diet. Animals are the highest source of digestible protein. They also have more of the essential amino acids required in our diets. They are also very high in iron, calcium and the B-complex vitamins, to name just a few. People who eat a balanced diet that includes meat tend to have stronger bones, keep their teeth longer and are generally healthier than those who don't have a balanced diet.

I have addressed only part of Peterson's opinion. I feel vivisection is necessary in some cases, but for the most part, I have no opinion on the subject. I do not condone any cruel treatment of animals that would subject them to pain for any length of time. However, with today's methods of slaughtering, the animals don't feel a moment of pain. For the population of the world to survive, we will have to consume animals for food.

Brent Boettcher  
animal science