

Editorial

**Daily
Nebraskan**

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Mike Reilly, Editor, 472-1766
Jeanne Bourne, Editorial Page Editor
Jen Deselms, Managing Editor
Mike Hooper, Associate News Editor
Scott Harrah, Night News Editor
Joan Rezac, Copy Desk Chief
Linda Hartmann, Wire Editor

Pickles charitable

Pickle card gambling should be preserved

State Tax Commissioner Don Leuenberger says Nebraska has the loosest pickle card laws of any state that sells them. He has formed an advisory committee to tighten regulations.

"The wide-open nature of this reinforces that element of compulsive gambling," Leuenberger said in a Sunday Journal-Star article.

A Department of Revenue report says Nebraskans spend an average of more than \$67 per person per year on pickle cards. Nebraska ranks third among 12 states that sell pickle cards.

The commission will study the continued existence of pickle parlors, which they think may result in compulsive pickle card gambling.

Where pickles are sold doesn't make them more or less addictive. Whether gamblers

buy pickles in bars or pickle parlors doesn't change the risk involved, the thrill of winning or the possibility of compulsive gambling.

One pickle parlor worker said her customers are recovering alcoholics or women who don't like the bar atmosphere.

Opponents of regulations on pickle parlors also cite the charitable aspect of pickle parlors.

Nine percent of pickle parlor profits goes to charities. Three percent goes to the state in a pickle tax.

But if pickle cards generated as much revenue as horse racing tracks, the state tax commissioner probably wouldn't be trying to regulate the industry.

To say pickle parlors promote compulsive gambling would force the state to regulate all gambling, such as horse racing.

Necessity to be reality for Lincoln's phoneless

A federally sponsored assistance program to provide low-income households with telephone service soon will be a reality in Nebraska.

According to a Sunday Journal-Star article, about 25,700 Nebraska households do not have telephones. Surveys show about 13 percent of those do not want them. But the rest — about 22,000 people — want them but can't afford them.

The program, Link Up Amer-

ica, uses long-distance profits to pay half the installation and connection charges for those low-income households that qualify.

Phones used to be considered a luxury. These days they are practically a necessity. If emergencies happen, a phone puts an ambulance or the fire department minutes away.

It is humanitarian — Robin Hoodish — that the phone company uses profits from long-distance calls to pay for the installation.



"THAT DOES IT... SOMETHING'S GOT TO BE DONE ABOUT THAT HOLE IN THE OZONE!"

Year of Dragon will decide future

Chinese cat year slips out back door while dragon awaits

Enter the Dragon. What kind of a grisly Pandora's Box has the cunning Chinese yin-yang opened?

'Round about early October, you could tell the cat was slipping. It used to sit in the corner, curled up on a chair, saying, "Why don't you all just go take a flying..." using only its cold green eyes. Sometime in October, though, it had used up its nine conniving lives and was simply making a nuisance of itself. That velvet veneer of black fur was molting off, and

his pathetic, worn carcass picked over by those refugees who tramped the ditches of America searching for higher ground. And in the year of the Tiger, he'd become so pathetic that most folk said things like, "Well, he sure is a tiger to keep going like that with cancers on his nose and little explosive Krakatoas on his keester..."

The cat is objective. He is the silent, bemused spectator. He is bad luck because he is uninvolved in the affairs of humans. He stares and his non-voice strikes terror into the hearts of the guilty and makes the virtuous wonder if their virtue has any significance in the big scheme of things. The cat breeds inertia; everyone sits perfectly still and waits until the cat leaves the room.

But we're all going to watch this cat leave and maybe follow it outside to beat its crummy little head in with a brick. It sat still through the heinous crimes of Oliver North and the Poin-dexter monster. It sat still through the political atrocities of Edwin Meese, who sodomized the Constitution so badly that even the cat was impressed, although it never said so. It sat still while Ronald Reagan tried to parade all manner of legal dead weight through Supreme Court nominations. But there is justice in the universe, because when the cat tenses its haunches and gracefully leaps from his chair, softly prowls through the kitchen and heads out the back door into the snowy night of New Year's morning, there will be a dragon waiting.

I just wish the fight were a little more fair. We can only hope the dragon toys with the little feline menace for a while before slam-dunking it down its green slimy gullet.

The dragon is here either to destroy evil or to champion it. In other words, either the thunder lizard will do a Pete's Dragon and allow Jesse Jackson to saddle it up and ride it to the White House lawn or it will arch its armor-studded back and lash its

tail over all that is decent and fair, making Pat Robertson a shoe-in. It's pretty much an even bet. The dragon's probably been waiting a long time to do some ass-kicking of some sort or another; it might not even be particular about whose ass it kicks. After watching that damn cat sit there on the chair for 365 days, it might choose Pete "Pierre" DuPont as a jockey and take him directly to the White House — no explanations, just as a sick joke. The problem with chimeras is that they're notoriously unpredictable. The dragon may have gotten conceited and decide that, in the interests of high Wagnerian drama, it might be nice to have Paul Simon in bow tie and grandma spectacles on its back singing what is reportedly the Illinois senator's favorite tune, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

It won't matter that the American public has about as much chance of electing a man named "Pierre" (no matter how often he insists his name is "Pete" and that the name on the birth certificate is a hospital misprint) to the highest office in the land as it has of electing a spotted-tongued gecko. It won't matter that Paul Simon is a loony political anachronism with the same name as a wimpy, politically anachronistic pop singer. The candidates will put their opinions on automatic pilot and float on an amorphous cloud of party line all across these United States, and the Dragon will choose one to be the leader of the doomed. Because long ago logical choices based on anything more than video handshakes and media-friendly hairstyles were forever denied this nation, the Dragon now must choose. Its choice will either lead us quickly to a merciful Armageddon or to a slow, merciful recovery of the will-sapping swine pit that has been the 1980s. We deserve the former; we need the latter. Lieurance is a senior English major and Daily Nebraskan arts and entertainment editor.

**Charles
Lieurance**



everyone could see the cat for just what it was: big, black, spoiled vermin that couldn't even make it through the whole damn Chinese year without showing its true colors.

Like Ronald Wilson Reagan — the big 666 — who maneuvered his way skillfully through the Chinese years of the Monkey, Rooster, Pig (there was a year), Rat, Ox and Tiger, the Cat is showing definite signs of wear. The cat may even be the calendar critter most responsible for the physical, mental, spiritual and political deterioration of our president. Isn't it just like a feline?

The monkey brought him to power, appropriately. The rooster saw him clucking and strutting his way into the hearts of America. The pig brought out his cold, ruthless side and saw those poor souls who'd actually been taken in by his "true blue American values" spiel (see Neil Young) abandoning ship like hot-wired lemmings. The year of the rat saw even the Republicans wondering what sort of weird George Romero walking-dead flick they'd created. In the year of the ox, he simply wouldn't lay down and die in the road to have

Letters

Use of last names confusing, reader says

This is a question mainly directed to reporters, although it also applies to most (or all) scientific reports. I have certainly seen it used most often in the Daily Nebraskan, probably because I read it so often.

When there is a story that involves a woman, once her full name is mentioned in the introduction, readers are forced to read her last name repeatedly (For example, if the last name is David, then we read, "David said..."). Occasionally, this might be replaced by "she said..." This does not seem to help as "David" and "she" do not agree in gender. I don't mean names are or should be divided into two groups by sex, but some names have been used that way and we are used to them. Why not use the first name? It is the individual who is in the story (good or bad) and not the family, and for identification purposes the full name is mentioned once.

You might ask, what is the point? After all, that's how men are identified, too. It should be different for women. In this male-dominated society (not in numbers), reading from time to time names that are obviously used by men shows it's the man who is important. If you disagree, don't get

mad, but read the next paragraph.

When a woman gets married, she loses her last name (which, of course, was a "male" name) to her husband's last name. How would the husband react if his wife asked him to use her last name or, worse, that the last names of their children be her first or last name? I think this question might be raised sometime in the future when women break the wall of discrimination and might be worth discussion by sociologists or whomever. Or am I dreaming or creating a problem that never existed and will never exist? What do you say?

Michael Gebre
graduate student

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the fall 1987 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board.

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

Students, teachers need to establish relations

In response to the article, "Educators are calculating calculus changes" (Daily Nebraskan, Dec. 4), many points need to be summed up more accurately.

In general, the average student taking calculus is overwhelmed by all of the homework. However, taking the time to sit down and figure out

problems is a very helpful learning experience for anyone. Even the mathematicians do not like having to sit down and constantly figure out problems. Students should at least try to figure out the problems assigned.

Teachers, while teaching oversized classrooms of students, have to concentrate on their subject matter while making eye contact with their students. This process of personalized teaching is very difficult. Thus, students should try to get to know their

professors. If possible, students should schedule appointments with their professors.

Showing an interest in each other, the student motivates the teacher and the teacher motivates the student. The best learning takes place when there is an active participation by both the student and professor.

Tim Becker
math and physical science