

Daily Nebraskan
University of Nebraska

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Firm backs out Glitz, cost may scare others

Lincoln Mayor Bill Harris and the City Council need to take a hint from Taubman Co., Inc., and reevaluate the downtown redevelopment project.

Robert Larson, Taubman president, told the council Monday that the project is financially impossible. The developing firm backed out of the project, leaving Harris scurrying to find another developer.

"This project, as conceived over the past two years, is not feasible at this time," Larson said.

How true. Taubman agreed to invest a maximum \$50 million in the project, with matching funds coming from the city. However, the \$100 million was still short of the \$120 million to \$130 million needed to finish the project.

The Taubman project would have included a four-block area within a six-block project bounded by 10th, O, 13th and Q streets.

Harris has said the city is still committed to some kind of redevelopment, which makes reevaluating the project a difficult task. The city has already sunk \$12 million into the redevelopment from a general-obligation bond issue approved by voters.

So far, Dillard Department Stores of Little Rock, Ark., has been the only major department store committed to the project, according to an Omaha World-

Herald article. Harris said Dillard officials are still interested in the project.

To put the project back in perspective for developers, Harris should cut certain areas of the redevelopment. The Taubman plan called for two to three large department stores, multi-story parking garages, restaurants and roof gardens.

The first thing to go should be the roof gardens. They just aren't practical in Nebraska. No one wants to spend time on a roof during one of Nebraska's frigid winters. The roof gardens would go unused for at least six months of the year.

The parking garages could also go. Downtown businesses have trouble attracting customers because of costly parking, and the area already has parking garages in the Centrum and Rampark.

There is hope for the project. J.C. Nichols Co., a Kansas City, Mo., real estate development company, has shown interest in the downtown project. According to the Omaha World-Herald article, Harris has scheduled a meeting with the firm, but the Nichols officials have said they can't be more definite on their plans until studying the possibilities offered by a downtown Lincoln project.

Let's just hope the glitz and cost of the project doesn't scare away this firm, too.

Letters

Attitudes 'mystify' athlete

In response to some of the letters that have appeared in the Daily Nebraskan, I am mystified by people's attitudes toward the collegiate athletic system. There are some things I think these articles have failed to point out.

The first is that there are few restrictions upon who can become a student-athlete. If these people feel athletes get extra unfair advantages, which they do not get, why don't they become student-athletes to receive these so-called extra benefits?

Second, a student-athlete has to pass the same number of hours to graduate as the "regular student." How can these people say the athletes' education is inferior to theirs? The effort that individuals put into their classes, whether they're ath-

letes or not, is going to determine the education they receive.

Third, the student-athlete has to deal with pressures that can't be equalled by non-athletes. Student-athletes who succeed in dealing with pressures will be better suited to deal with pressures after they're done with college. This will help them become better lawyers, doctors, engineers, teachers and scientists.

Fourth, if people are working 30 hours a week at a job they dislike, my advice to them is to find a job that they like. No one forces anyone to do a job they don't like.

J. Cody Olson
senior
sociology

1987 Big Eight Champion wrestler

Kerrey in D.C. 'devastating'

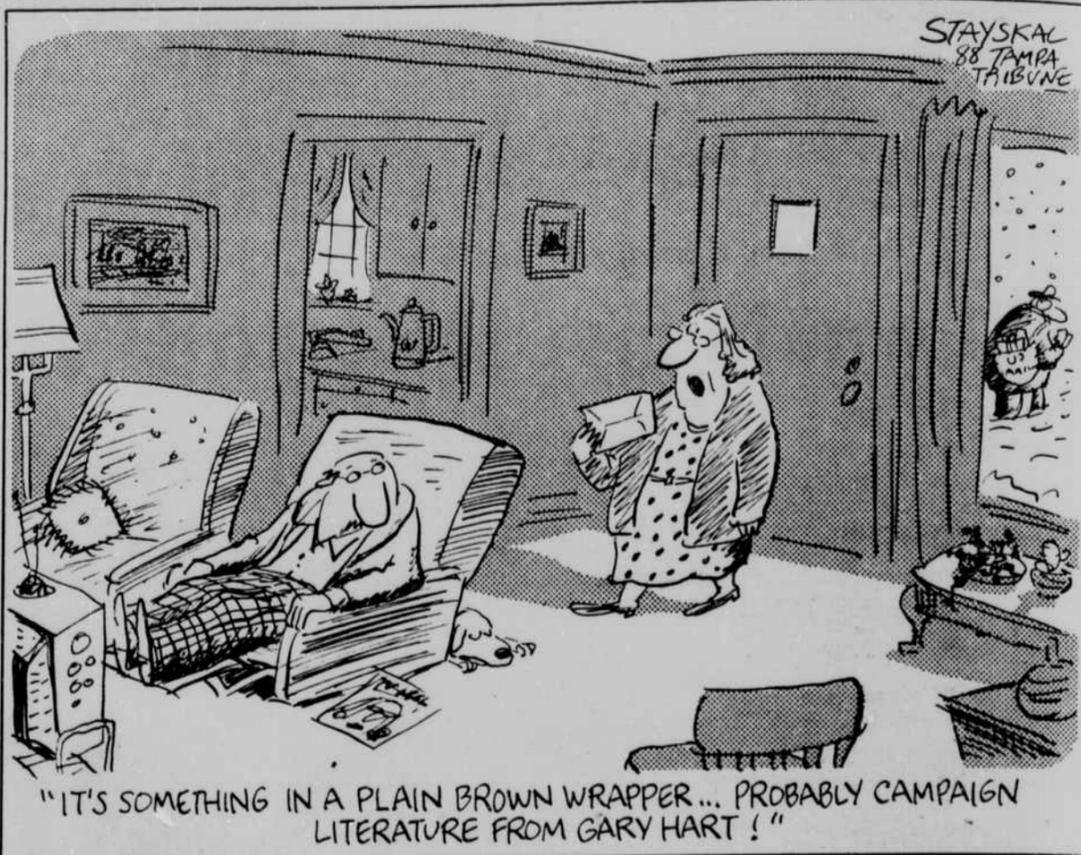
Former Gov. Bob Kerrey is quoted (Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 21) as saying he knows nothing about farming. I find this devastating to Nebraska if he should find himself in Washington, D.C. Agriculture and its related industries are a multimillion-dollar-a-year boost to this state's economy, providing countless jobs for its residents.

Such companies as Campbell's Soup, Weaver's, Farmer's Coop, Con-Agra, Monfort, Wimmer's, Farmland Industries, Norden, Dow Chemical, Elanco, Purina and IBP wouldn't even be in Nebraska if it weren't for agriculture. Political platforms across the nation list agri-

culture as one of the most important issues of the 1988 election. Nebraska's next representative will be dealing with the Farm Bill, price supports, subsidies, export restrictions and the grain surplus, all of which affect this state at every level of agricultural production.

I feel it is imperative that our next U.S. senator have first-hand knowledge of agriculture and its complex structure to insure the livelihood of the state, and that man is not Bob Kerrey.

Steve Bath
senior
animal science



Caucuses: Better than us

Nebraska spared burden of non-representative beauty pageant

Nebraska's proximity to Iowa and its Feb. 8 caucuses gives Nebraskans a unique advantage in the scheme of the 1988 presidential election: We are close enough to see what goes on, but fortunate not to have all the candidates pestering us to shake our hands, kiss our babies and milk our cows in front of the TV cameras. It is our curse that Lincoln is just within range of Omaha's TV stations, which beam political commercials at us that are meant for Council Bluffs.

We must endure countless pictures of Jesse Jackson pitching hay and George Bush wearing overalls and a seed-corn cap, candidly avistit'n' the good friendly farm folk of Iowa, solving all their problems. These are the chosen means of campaigning because they get results in the polls and on TV.

In Nebraska we are spared from most of the sour effects of the caucuses. The candidates stay at the Des Moines Hilton, not the Cornhusker, and they tromp across Iowa's cornfields, not ours. Maybe Iowa likes this kind of attention, but I suspect Nebraskans would sell their votes to whichever candidate would make the first promise to just leave them alone.

The early date of Iowa's caucuses, however, has come under fire. Some political types complain that Iowa — with a population of 2.8 million in a nation of 243 million — has more than its fair say about who becomes our next president.

And they're right. It is next to impossible for a candidate to win if he does poorly with this tiny sampling of the American electorate.

From the liberals' perspective, the system is unfair, because their favorite sons get reamed in Iowa for their left-leaning positions. For example,

Curt Snodgrass



Iowa's position as the first test of voter sentiment is also a plus to agriculture interests. Just imagine how little attention would be focused on agriculture issues if the first primary were in Connecticut. Family-farm supporters see to it that their issues are at the top of the agenda.

So liberals want a change in the system — namely, a different state to go first. They want a state that more fairly represents America as a whole.

But is there a state that fairly represents the whole nation? And if there is, how could all the powers-that-be ever agree upon which state to choose? Iowa's position in the presidential election — whether good or bad — is solidly in place and unlikely to change.

The question we should be debating is: Why has Iowa become so critical in the campaign process? The answer is that American voters have become overly dependent on opinion polls and TV for information on the candidates. A substantial share of

supporters will write off their favorite candidate if he finishes worse than second in the Iowa caucuses. People don't read the papers and the news magazines anymore — they switch on the TV and look for a face-man with style.

It has often been said that in America we like winners. Given this, who is likely to support a candidate who finished third with 12 percent of the vote in Iowa? Right after a showing like this, we expect a TV news report announcing his withdrawal from the race, noting that there is no chance of his winning the nomination. The same candidate might finish first with 60 percent of the vote in California and New York, but it wouldn't matter, because Iowa's early judgment will force him out of the race before they get a chance to vote.

TV news dominates public opinion to such an extreme that it is hard to consider a candidate who doesn't take a good picture or tell a good one-liner. Would a man as homely as Abraham Lincoln or as overweight as William Howard Taft have had a chance at the presidency in the TV age? Today we prefer a pretty package to a great leader, and with TV we are able to see the package better than its contents.

Iowa is not to blame for this problem. Indeed, many other states would probably make far worse choices. But there is something wrong with the psyche of the American voter and his fixation with polls and TV. Unless we soon come to realize how badly we suffer from it, Bill Cosby may be our next president, and nobody will know or care how he stands on the issues.

Snodgrass is a senior economics major.

Letter

All college students strive to meet goals

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to all the letters that the rest of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln students have been subjected to since Nebraska volleyball player Val Novak wrote to the Daily Nebraskan (Letters, Jan. 18). I must agree with Scott Juraneck (Jan. 26), who wrote, "The way I see it, the people who are complaining are

speaking out of jealousy."

It's not fair for the scholars to attack the athletes who complain about hard work and who have definitely earned their scholarships. And on the other hand, it's not fair for the athletes to attack the students who are upset because all of their hard work, for the most part, goes unnoticed and unrecognized. The fact of the matter is that both of groups of students have worked very hard for many years, dedicating their time to a particular goal, be it athletic or scholastic, and

deserve recognition. The athletes have spent hours sharpening their athletic skills, and the students have spent countless hours working to pay for school or studying to get here.

Finally, I feel everyone should be given credit for all their hard work that has paid off. You have all made it to college and deserve credit for that itself. Let's just forget about this whole thing.

Thomas Michael Dedsen