

Daily Nebraskan University of Nebraska

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Initiative 300

Three-month battle ends for corporation

Imperial Onion Sales, Inc. has found a way to beat the system. The corporation has battled Initiative 300 for almost three months, but its long fight has come to an end. Attorney General Robert Spire filed a lawsuit against the company Nov. 17, charging that it violated Initiative 300 despite its status as a non-family farm corporation.

But under a new arrangement, the corporation will stay in Nebraska. The agreement allows eight area farmers to grow about 475 acres of onions and sell them to Imperial Onion for processing and marketing. Imperial owners previously farmed, processed and marketed the onions themselves.

And that's how Imperial Onion landed in trouble.

Under Initiative 300, a family farm or ranch corporation is defined as one in which the majority of the voting stock is held by members of a family. One member of that family must be "residing on or actively engaged in the day-to-day labor and management of the farm or ranch." Unfortunately, none of the three owners held the majority of the stock.

The Imperial Onion owners

could have restructured the company, but they didn't. They almost gave up, but they didn't.

The Imperial case was a serious test for Initiative 300. It showed the amendment's weaknesses and some of its strengths. But in the long run, the family farm stayed intact, which is what's important.

This is a story of folks in western Nebraska helping each other out. Instead of competing with Nebraska farmers by growing its own onions, Imperial Onion has helped them out by processing and marketing the crops for them.

The new plan also shows that Nebraska can have good new crops and agriculture processing businesses built on a base of family farms. Onions have developed as an alternative crop in Nebraska during the past two years.

"I don't think it's over," said Imperial Onion co-owner Bill Weir in an Omaha World-Herald article. "I think there's going to be some ramifications over Imperial Onion in the Legislature and with the people of the state. It may not come until an off-election year, but it's already being discussed."

Letters

Abortion, murder differ only in legal terms

This letter is in partial response to Charles Lieurance's column (Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 26). It's a reflection on the Roe vs. Wade decision of 1973, which legalized abortion.

Why is it that we put restrictions on our lives? Is it human nature? It is beyond me how and why a couple can just "decide" to kill an unborn baby. I'm not saying the "decision" is easy, but I am saying that I believe no decision exists when it comes to the life or death of an unborn child. Even after 15 years of legal abortion, there are still people who have not come to grips with the realization of it. Is it so

hard to understand that abortion actually takes the life of an unborn child? The only reason I can see it is not murder is because by definition, murder is illegal, whereas abortion is not. It is very disheartening to think that unborn children are denied the right to life for any number of reasons. To be completely honest, I wouldn't trade life for the alternative. Would you?

Marie Hart
senior
speech-language
pathology/audiology

Personal life not an issue

I would like to make some comments regarding Joel Carlson's editorial column (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 1) entitled "Rather can be appreciated, too."

I agree with Carlson that "the American public deserves to see candidates who are pushed to the limit." However, this pushing needs to be done on legitimate government/political issues. The media doesn't need to hound a political candidate about his or her personal relationships.

I think the Dan Rather-George Bush episode is not an appropriate comparison to the Joni Hoffman-Bob

Kerrey incident. Rather was inquiring into Bush's role in the Iran-Contra affair, while Hoffman wanted to know about Kerrey's personal relationship with Debra Winger.

I'm not saying that the station was justified in demoting Hoffman or that Rather was not being rude. What I'm saying is that the media needs to stick to the significant and material political issues. If they do so during the U.S. Senate race, Kerrey will not have any problem with the "heat in the kitchen."

Jack Cheloha
first-year law student

Women can't challenge me

In reference to Jay VanDerWerff's letter about my views on Nebraska women's basketball (Sports letters, Jan. 28), I feel a one-on-one contest with any women's player would be unfair. I'm not a "couch potato," and any money bet "on the barrelhead" would be a waste.

I don't think any of the women could match up with me. I stand 6-foot-4 and weigh 185 pounds. So go ahead and line up a one-on-one game

with whoever you want, Jay, and we'll see who does the "whipping."

Jay, you don't understand my view. I'm not criticizing women's basketball at all. The Cornhusker women are having a great season and I'm enjoying it. My whole point is that, generally, women's basketball will not put fans in the seats, and we both can figure out why that is.

Bill Connors
UNL alumnus



NEWS ITEM: LARGE NUMBER OF CRUISE SHIPS FAIL HEALTH INSPECTIONS.

Coming inside from the cold

Moving from the Midwest doesn't move you to a better life

You can easily feel its presence this time of year, advertised on the impatient, pensive faces numbed by the sub-zero Midwestern weather. If this was any other decade or any other place, you would call it cabin fever, but somehow that diagnosis seems false in the winter of 1988.

It's nothing tangible or concrete, but it's there, hovering above intoxicated people in bars, solemnly gulping down beers that make them forget where they are and where they're going.

If you must place a label on it, then call it the disillusion of youth. But the term "youth" just seems more depressing, for the notions of one's youth seem much more elusive after age 21. Once you reach 22 or 23, supposedly the prime of your life, the pressures of responsibility and the so-called future become intimidating, if not menacing.

The last year or two of college are incredibly sobering. Parties become boring, classes become either mundane or intense, and the alcohol consumed on Friday afternoon drink-a-thons just magnifies the week's pressures.

You soon realize that the degree you're working for may not be the ticket to big-city glamour and a new life. If anything, you're just preparing yourself for a life of nine-to-five labor, alterations with colleagues and promotions, meaningless titles, promotions and vacations.

You read the papers and see stories about economists predicting impending recessions that will mostly affect the middle class in the 1990s. You read over and over, until the prophecies render you inarticulate, how millions are going to die from AIDS in the next few years.

Time suddenly seems priceless. You realize you're indirectly wasting your life in this dead-end, lackluster Midwestern town, telling yourself you'll one day get out and wallow in the fast lane. As you ponder this, Mayor Bill Harris naively tells the press that a downtown redevelopment project will make Lincoln exciting.

level homes and block parties. And instead of coming to terms with the ugliness of their middle-class backgrounds, they make fun of it and filter it through a flippant sensibility. They watch the game show "Remote Control" on MTV, a program based on parodies of the American television pop culture they were raised on.

As corny as it seems, it's much easier to laugh at the innocence of "The Partridge Family" than to look forward to the pestilence and poverty of later days.

Some become so fed up with the present that they regress back to their childhoods... or high school and the first years of college, when parties were new and school was interesting. You can even see it in this paper, chronicled in columns written by former students who moved away and yearn for their former glory days writing for the Daily Nebraskan.

And as you let everything mentally sink in, you feel insensate, seeing the futility of it all. As the cliché attests, winter kills. In 1988, sex kills, the future kills, the present nubs.

You watch, with restrained trepidation, the people stuffing resumes, boasting about jobs and internships — self-indulgence in its most honorable form. Work gets you places, but some things in its nobility seem callous, idiotic and plastic.

A generation is trite. Generation is a trite word... end of metaphor.

So you slide through these winter days, comatose, recording, not thinking. You search for something to end these years lived in limbo as you ignore the icy blur of faces around you and wait for the thaw.

Harrah is a senior news-editorial and English major and a Daily Nebraskan night news editor.

Scott Harrah



Harris tells reporters, in imperialistic tones, how wonderful life will be here when Lincoln has a Saks Fifth Avenue outlet downtown. He doesn't mention all the small, established stores that will have to dig up their roots and move elsewhere to make room for Manhattan in the Midwest.

You hear the same thing every day: Another one of your friends is either quitting school or graduating... most likely quitting. They mention the usual destinations — New York, California, Florida — firing off names of cities that they feel will be facile solutions to their situations.

They want to be modern-day Jack Kerouacs, gravitating toward the freedom and romance of being broke and mobile in those cities on the coasts, looking for all-night bacchanals and an attitude that will cloud the automatism of their lives.

They are children of the false America we hold so sacred — a world of stability, security, prestige, split-

Letter Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available.

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1988 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Mike Reilley, editor; Diana Johnson, editorial page editor; Joan Rezac, copy desk editor; Jen Deselms, managing editor; Curt Wag-

ner, associate news editor; Scott Harrah, night news editor and Joel Carlson, columnist.

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