

Daily Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Mayor contradictory Send various signals to local businesses

When Lincoln Mayor Bill Harris talks about downtown redevelopment, he's sending three different messages to the city's business owners.

On one hand, Harris always speaks on behalf of the redevelopment of downtown. Since being elected, he has been a strong advocate of this plan.

Even though there has been a delay in finding a developer, Harris has maintained the plan will be finalized before Sept. 30. If a plan hasn't been drafted by that date, the city would lose a \$6.5 million federal Urban Development Action Grant.

Harris said he wants to ask all potential developers to submit a new plan so that a \$19 million high-rise office building proposed by Selection Research Inc., could be included.

But now, Harris is contradicting himself.

Harris is talking to Jacobs, Visconti & Jacobs Inc., an Ohio-based developer that owns Gateway Shopping Center. There may be a plan in the works to expand the shopping center in northeast Lincoln. He also wants JVJ to consider

building in downtown.

Also, with the recent building of Centro Plaza in northeast Lincoln already has enough places to shop. An expansion of Gateway, with East Park Plaza across the street, would discourage people on the north side of town from going downtown to shop.

But Harris says he's against the building of a shopping mall on the south side of Lincoln.

Delta Seven Corp. now controls 400 acres of land that includes a shopping center site at South 27th Street and Pine Lake Road. But building a multi-use center would require a permit and it would have to be approved by the city council.

But Harris told the Lincoln Journal he would "definitely oppose a regional shopping center."

So if Harris is against a new shopping mall in south Lincoln, why is he an advocate for one in north Lincoln?

Harris must be stronger in his commitment to redevelop downtown and not jump at every chance to improve the shopping condition of north Lincoln.

GREAT MOMENTS IN AIR WARFARE



Writer kills computer phobia

Trendy machinery proves to be frustrating, useful, efficient

I still hate computers, but I do believe I have finally overcome my fear of them. Of all the revolutionary, time-saving inventions man has created over the centuries, certainly none has caused as much frustration as the computer. We praise them when they work, but we curse them when they do not... even when we are the ones who made the mistake, which is usually the case.

Believe me, I know. Ask people who use computers regularly, and they will have dozens of terror tales about disasters they've had with them. I have lost hours of work on a horrible spreadsheet program due to power failures, and once, I accidentally kicked the cord out of the wall socket and lost an entire file. Even the Daily Nebraskan's very easy-to-use word processor caught me one time; I mislabeled a column and the computer sent it clear over to the Arts and Entertainment department, where, of course, nobody could find it (or wanted to). If I hadn't printed up a copy on paper, I'd have lost the whole thing forever.

Nothing is more maddening than to have something go wrong with a computer and not be able to blame the damn machine for the trouble. Maybe that explains why people avoid them whenever they can. In a report just released by the U.S. Census Bureau, a survey found that only 53 percent of the 15 million Americans with personal computers at home actually use them.

Considering the cost of a typical computer, that seems to be quite a

waste of money. But it shouldn't surprise anyone. A substantial share of these computer owners-but-not-users buy them either just to keep up with the Joneses or to escape the guilt-tripping advertising campaigns that tell parents they don't love their kids if they haven't bought one yet.

Curt Snodgrass



Despite all the troubles I've had with computers (and I'm sure my complaints pale in comparison to those of people who really do know how to use them), I do think I would like to own one. They are great for word processing and financial record keeping, and a personal computer would really be handy sometimes. But my reason for not buying one is more traditional.

I'm broke. One of the most aggravating things about computers is that it seems as if little kids know them better than the rest of us. Part of this, I suppose is due to the greater emphasis on computers in the schools, but I am convinced that the main reason is video games. Kids learn to love computers by playing games on them before they try to do the hard stuff; thus, they become immune to computerphobia. I know this, because all the best video-game

freaks I knew as a kid all became computer science and engineering majors, and now they make \$30,000-100,000 a year. All those quarters really paid off.

But nowadays, everybody has to use computers on the job, or will need to learn soon. According to the Census Bureau report, about one-fourth of all employed Americans in 1984 used computers on the job in some way, and that level is sure to be rising.

Each of the last three places I've worked has introduced computers during the time I was there: the drug store computerized its pharmacy records, the air freight company computerized its entire pickup and delivery information system, and the DN, of course, installed its new computer system last fall.

I panicked each time I found out about a new computer invasion at work. But, each time it turned out to be relatively simple to learn the new system. Video games are tougher than any of the computer systems I've had to learn on the job. It's taken some time, but I'm glad to say that my fear of computers is finally gone.

I have a world of respect for people who have the ability and mentality to program computers and design them from scratch. Our computer-driven world would collapse in an instant were it not for them. But I am glad I am not one of them. For the great majority of us, it is not necessary to know how computers work. It is only necessary to know how to work them, and we should all be grateful for that.

Snodgrass is a senior economics major.

Letters

Reader responds to Middle East situation

In light of recent events in the Middle East, Americans must reassess their staunch, unconditional support of the Israeli government. At least 167 Palestinians have been killed in the clashes between Israel's army and the often peaceful demonstrators. They were not injured, not deprived of liberty, but killed. What kind of government refuses to begin negotiations that would bring about a resolution to the conflict, and instead rampantly slaughters teen-age stone-throwers?

So far, only two Israelis — one soldier and one civilian — have died compared to the 167 Palestinians dead. The civilian, Tirza Porat, was initially said to have been killed by a stone thrown by Palestinians. In a blind, self-righteous rage comparable only to those of Libya and Iran, the Israeli army blew up several Palestinian homes at random.

Even more recently, Israel's secret police assassinated the Palestinian Liberation Organization's second-highest ranking leader in Tunisia.

Shamir again had no comment, but Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said that he hoped "it will not interfere with peace negotiations," an absolutely ludicrous hope. The assassination of Abu Jihad, which means "father of the holy war," will most likely not go unnoticed in Palestinian circles.

These events and others force Americans to ask the question: "Who are the terrorists?" Are they the PLO, which has a legitimate claim to a sovereign state, or are they those who would murder and assassinate and expel those with the legitimate claim? For the Palestinians do have a legitimate claim, just as the Israelis did when their efforts brought about Israel after World War II.

The conclusion is clear and irrefutable: the Israeli government is using terrorist tactics unbecoming a civilized state. The United States must move to address the issue.

Chris Potter
sophomore
physics

Nebraskan sticks up for New York City

My personal assessment of James Sennett's column entitled "U.S. leans eastward, New York not as hot as media thinks it is", (Daily Nebraskan, April 21) was incredible. It was incredible in a sense that it was editorial journalism based in redundant and erroneous misconceptions.

I am a native Nebraskan who had the fortune to visit Manhattan in April 1987. I found the city exciting and the sights even more stimulating. What is great about New York is its people — the people who make the greatness or dishonor of any city. New York is no exception.

Sennett, I will give you two cents for the ink and paper it took to print your article. So you could bombast one of the greatest cities (not only in the free world) but in the Western Hemisphere. Sennett, your one vote

against 7.8 million New Yorkers says you are miserably wrong. Or you don't know in Hades what you're talking about.

Needless to say, your backward attitude is typical of many. At least, until you have visited the Big Apple. Life does not begin in the Midwest, it ends and begins in New York. Your degree in philosophy didn't help much, did it? It certainly didn't expand your appreciation and consciousness of the world.

Alex Wolf
Lincoln

Merlina E. Mueget
New Yorker

Editor's note: It cost less than one cent to publish Sennett's article.

Letter

Forty couples wait for every available child

In response to Jolene Shumake's letter (Daily Nebraskan, April 18) a child is never an unwanted child if the mother would consider the options available, such as adoption. It is a fact that for every child available for adoption there are 40 couples who can not have children, waiting up to seven years to adopt a child.

Many women do not choose adop-

tion because they do not know much about the process of adoption. Years ago, a child given up for adoption was taken away and the mother was never told what happened to the child. Today, a mother can pick the adoptive parents and get letters and pictures about the child if they so desire.

Also it is a medical fact that when

a woman submits to an abortion she can lose her ability to bear children later when she very well may want them. So think about it you may not get a second chance to have children if you have that abortion.

Larry L. Davis
junior
consumer science

Letter Policy

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions.

Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

Anonymous submissions will not

be considered for publication. Letter should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.