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## Segregation again

*Competition could ruin education system*

Nebraska's Legislature is considering taking George Bush's advice and allowing students to attend the elementary and secondary school of their choice.

Why?

Proponents of LB183 have argued that the open enrollment bill would force schools to compete for students, thereby increasing the quality of education. In order to attract the most and the best students, schools would have to acquire the best teachers and maintain facilities and equipment. Students who have problems with particular teachers would be able to move to new schools and start over.

Competition. That's the American way, right? But competition, by nature, leads to a loser for every winner. LB183 would probably be good for some schools and some students. But what about the rest?

The schools that prosper, even if they grow, won't be able to accommodate everyone. Students who were left behind would face degenerating facilities, decreasing state aid and the teachers that the other students are supposedly running away from.

Schools viewed as inadequate would inevitably lose any competition for students. So students stuck at the worst schools would be worse off than before.

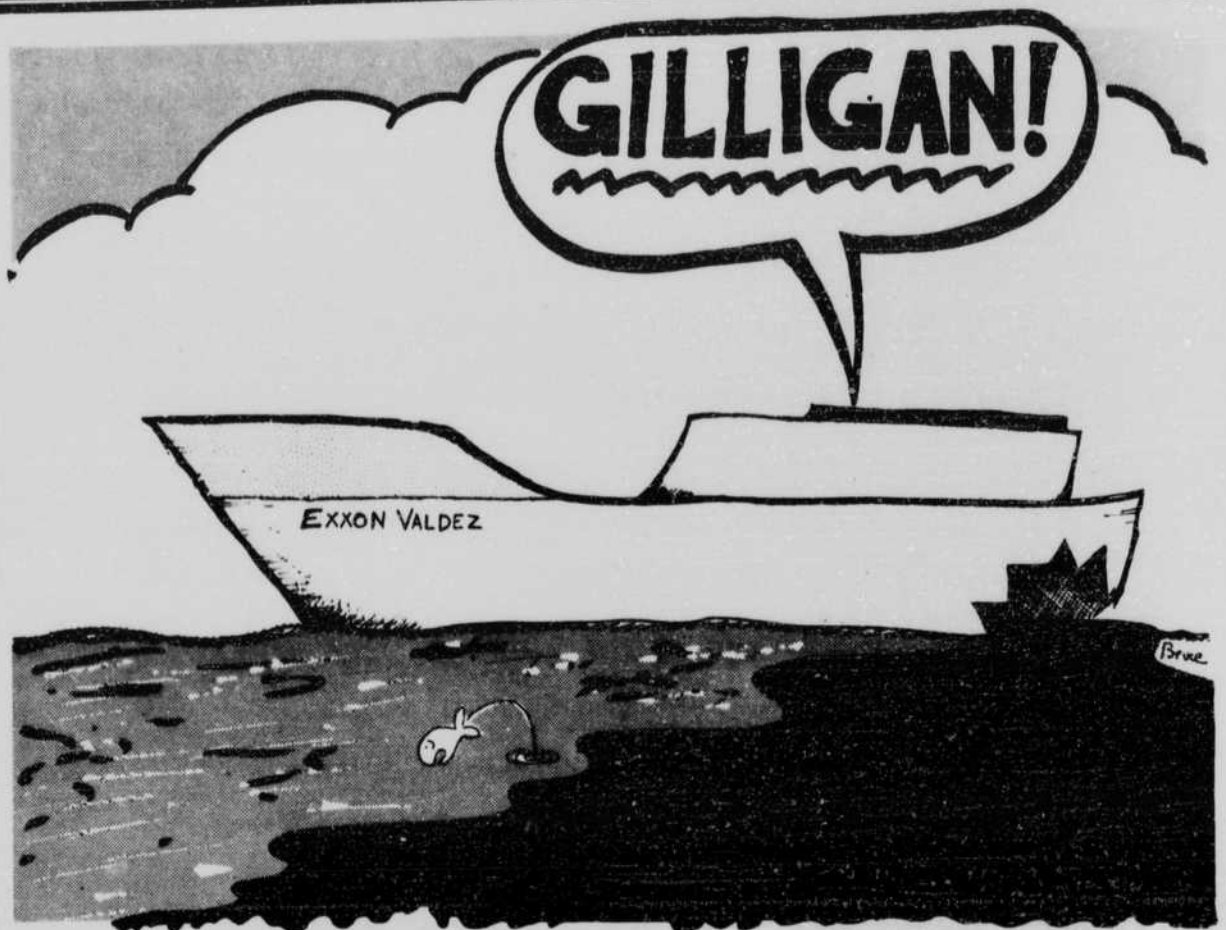
The losing schools would be those that already are underbudgeted. Students leaving those schools would take with them \$1,920 each in state aid.

Also, some taxpayers would get stiffed while some would get off easy. If most parents in an area send their children to School District A, instead of School District B -- where they live -- taxpayers in District A would have to pay an increased tax to accommodate the larger enrollment. Taxpayers in District B, if the school survived, would not have to pay as much but their children would still get the benefits District A taxpayers are paying for.

And the open enrollment bill smells a bit like segregation. Whites could, and probably would, flock from schools in North Omaha or any other district where minorities aren't so minor. High school and elementary students aren't old enough to realize that cultural diversity is needed, healthy and important. That's the American way, too.

Separate but equal went out the door in 1954. Let's not invite it back in.

-- Brandon Loomis  
for the Daily Nebraskan



## Ollie walks into gunfight alone

*Royko says Reagan should testify to support his 'hero' North*

The late Judge John King, a tough South Side Chicago Irishman, had a simple way of measuring a person's loyalty and character.

Of some people, he'd approvingly say: "If you have to walk down to the O.K. Corral, he'll go with you."

Or with a sneer, he'd say of someone else: "If you have to go to the O.K. Corral, don't wait for that guy. He'll hide in the outhouse."

He was referring, of course, to the legendary gunfight in Tombstone, Ariz., when Wyatt Earp, with his two brothers and Doc Holliday at his side, walked down to the O.K. Corral to take on the bad guys.

It was his way of saying whether a person was, to use a Chicago phrase, "a stand-up guy."

I thought about Judge King's old-fashioned standard while reading about the latest developments in the Oliver North trial.

And I was surprised and saddened to see that Ronald Reagan, the Old Cowboy, is still not inclined to walk down to the O.K. Corral with Ollie North.

North's lawyer has subpoenaed Reagan as a defense witness.

That makes sense. They'd like to put Reagan on the stand and get him to concede that he knew a lot more about the Iran-Contra affair than he has admitted to.

If North's lawyer could do that, it would make North appear less of a loose cannon, breaking laws and thumbing his nose at Congress when he saw fit, and more of a loyal, obedient Marine, fulfilling the wishes of his commander in chief.

Obviously, Reagan doesn't want

to testify about what he knew or didn't know, since the justice department has been fighting to keep him off the witness stand.

This has to be a great disappointment to North. Although Reagan fired him when the scandal began unfolding, Reagan made a point of describing North as a "hero."

It has to be gratifying to be called a "hero" by the president of the United States.



Mike  
Royko

On the other hand, it must have been confusing to North to be fired and called a hero at the same time. It would be understandable if North said: "I thought they held parades for heroes. How come I get a pink slip instead of a ticker tape shower?"

By calling North a "hero," Reagan persuaded a large segment of the population, who had never before heard of the Marine colonel, that he really was a hero. And that helped North win most popularity polls during and after his testimony at the congressional hearings.

But now the "hero" is up to his ears in trouble, standing trial for shredding government documents, providing illegal aid to the Contras and other alleged mischief while working in the White House.

If he's convicted on even some of the charges, he could wind up in a federal prison.

That would probably make him the first American fired and imprisoned for acts of heroism. If it happens, I can imagine other military men saying: "What, you want to give me a medal? Please, I beg you, don't. I have a wife and kids to think of."

So if there was ever a time when North needed a stand-up guy at his side, it's now. After all, if Reagan thought North was a "hero," that must mean he approved of what North had been doing to further Reagan's goals. And if he considered North a hero, he must have been aware of what North was up to. Or else he wouldn't have called him a hero, would he?

Of course not. I can't believe that Ronald Reagan would tell the American people that someone was a hero if he didn't know for sure that he was. Maybe he would have done that when he was a sports announcer, but surely not as president.

This, then, would be the appropriate time for Reagan to say:

"Ollie, I'm not going to let you take that long walk down to the O.K. Corral all by yourself. I'm going to be right there with you, partner."

That's not too much to ask. After all, Doc Holliday did it for Wyatt Earp, and Holliday was nothing but a dentist who gave up pulling teeth for the life of a card shark and gunfighter. I think we have the right to expect more from a president than a boozing ex-dentist.

Of course, there might be a good reason why Reagan doesn't want to walk down to the O.K. Corral with Ollie, the "hero."

Maybe Reagan didn't see the movie.

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## Student questions graffiti marker's sentiments

On March 23, I was walking along 14th Street, I suffered a blast from the past from the archaic anti-military sentiment that characterized the 1960s and 1970s. On the garage entrance to the Military and Naval Science building, a rejuvenated anti-military sentiment was expressed by a large, black, spray-painted "WAR PIGS."

Being a political science and history major, I think I would know if the U.S. Armed Forces had actively participated in any wars in the past 10 to 15 years, but none come to mind.

Surely, the defunct "flowerchild-author" of the graffiti must still be in touch with reality enough to realize that the attempt of an insult to the dedicated armed forces personnel inside is a total failure. Most of the people inside that building aren't old

enough to even remember our last, although undeclared war, Vietnam.

In fact, out of all the active duty personnel in the building, there are only a handful who were in the service during Vietnam, and even fewer who actually experienced any combat there. Of course, the failed insult couldn't be addressing any of the dedicated ROTC students since the combined combat experiences of these armed forces hopefuls only add up to a few fist fights.

To the person or persons responsible for the graffiti, I say this: If you must voice your opinion, at least be brave enough to do it the correct way. How about an organized rally? Or perhaps a picket line or sit-in? Instead, why don't you try coming back to the present and support a real cause -- like pro-life, pro-choice or anti-

drugs?

I'm willing to bet you aren't even old enough to remember when the United States was involved in Vietnam. So, why don't you forget about trying to reopen a wound in America's past that is probably older than you are, and of which you understand very little?

Whatever your belief is, at least believe in it enough to be able to profess it in public, not in the middle of the night with spray paint on a garage door. Even gay rights activists, who constantly receive negative publicity, are man enough to announce their beliefs in public! Grow up! You're in college! Now, don't you feel silly?

John Vela  
sophomore  
political science/history

## opinion READER

### Correct KRNU facts revealed

Everyone has a right to express an opinion when that person has facts supporting his or her claim. But no one should have a right to sound off when they are ignorant to the facts.

That's exactly what Mark Hoffman did when he criticized KRNU for not playing "alternative" music and trying to compete with area radio stations (Daily Nebraskan, March 21).

First, KRNU gets its music donated. Our budget is very fragile and we rely on record donations from local stores. Therefore, we are not in a position to ask for hundreds of "alternative" music albums from stores to change format. We have to go with what we have. I'm surprised a broadcasting student wasn't aware of this blatant fact.

Second, KRNU is a learning facility first, and there is absolutely no competing with other area stations. KRNU is non-commercial; we don't have to worry about scoring impressively on the arbitron ratings to stay on air. That's why KRNU can afford to put rookies on the air like

Hoffman.

Finally, KRNU does offer alternative music. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 p.m. to midnight and on Tuesdays from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. students bring in the small samplings of music they own. On these nights, they put together excellent shows. Also, we offer a sports talk show, news, sports broadcasts of football, basketball and baseball home games. KRNU has the most variety of any station in Lincoln.

Rick Alloway is one of the most dedicated and professional station managers around. He is very much respected in the department, and if he could change the format, he probably would. However, what's being proposed is not feasible. If Hoffman would have been willing to ask a few simple questions before writing to the Daily Nebraskan, he could have saved himself much embarrassment.

Tim Washburn  
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