

## Daily Nebraskan

Editorial Board  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Amy Edwards, Editor, 472-1766  
Lee Rood, Editorial Page Editor  
Janc Hirt, Managing Editor  
Brandon Loomis, Associate News Editor  
Brian Svoboda, Columnist  
Bob Nelson, Columnist  
Jerry Guenther, Senior Reporter

### What others think

#### Drunken behavior, fur trade criticized

This is a bad time to be in the fur business. Industry profits have stagnated in recent years, and this month, animal-rights activists are preparing their most aggressive campaign against furriers and people who buy furs.

Starting on the busiest shopping day of the year -- the day after Thanksgiving -- the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals will stage dozens of anti-fur demonstrations all over the nation, including a parade down the middle of Fifth Avenue in New York City. The group hopes that their all-out assault will communicate the message that the fur industry is built on cruelty and vanity, and to buy or wear fur is to support those hollow principles.

The dedication of groups like PETA and Trans-Species Unlimited to the anti-fur cause is unswerving; they are completely committed to driving all fur retailers from the marketplace, drawing attention to the cause through organized civil disobedience.

The public needs to know the practices involved in ranching and trapping animals for their pelts. If the truth were publicized about the industry's disregard for the suffering that animals like the lynx, mink, raccoon, sable and fox are subjected to, fur sales would be irreparably damaged.

Already, there is reason to believe people are grasping the social implications of buying a fur garment.

"Profits are plunging," says PETA spokesperson Chantal Hoffman. "As people realize this is a business of cruelty and greed, furs will go out of fashion. It won't be long before all fur retailers are gone."

-- The Daily Iowan  
University of Iowa

Early last Saturday morning, an argument got started inside O'Malley's Tavern. When it got a little heated, it was taken outside. There, it turned into a stabbing that put a Gainesville man in the hospital.

Déjà vu.

In just one weekend this month, four students were arrested for disorderly conduct and underage drinking. A bouncer at another bar was beaten with a bottle as he tried removing a rowdy patron. Another student was arrested and charged with battery, disorderly conduct, intoxication and underage drinking after an incident in a Krystal parking lot.

It seems fights, beatings and violence go hand in hand with kamikazes, pitchers and Long Island ice teas.

Students continually complain about unfair laws that restrict the drinking age, bar hours, and open containers of alcohol. But when we continually cause alcohol-related disturbances, our complaining is without merit.

With our words we say that we are old enough and responsible enough to exercise our right to drink alcohol. Yet, with our actions, we tell quite another story.

-- The Red & Black  
University of Georgia

## opinion READER

### Minorities aren't 'crying wolf'

Dave Codr's letter (DN, Nov. 14) typifies the fear of white America. Dave Codr seems to feel that minorities have no reason to speak out against the fear and oppression that dominates our society.

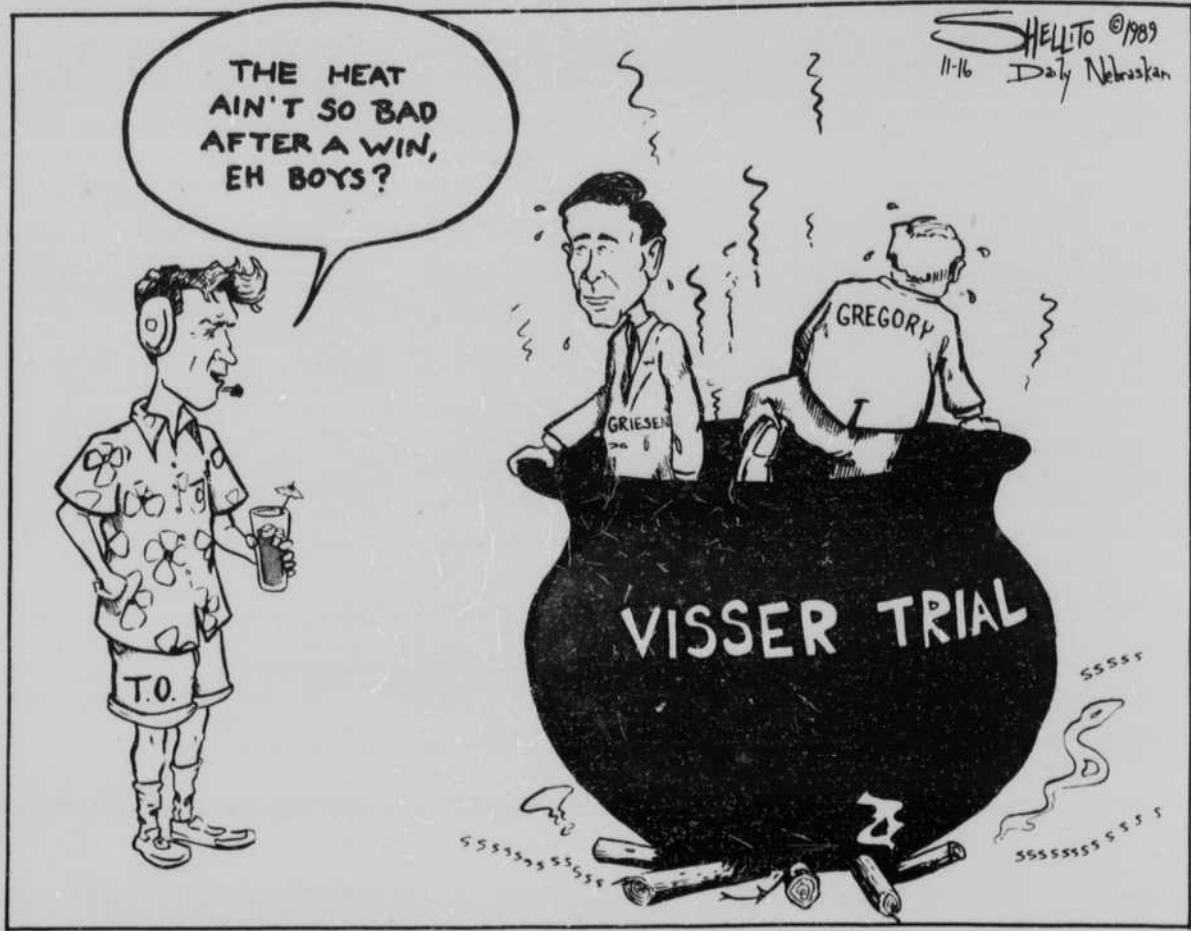
Codr reinforces those attitudes with this quote from his letter, "Minority groups seem to be complaining that everyone is against them. The 'out to get us' attitude only causes problems."

Yes, that does cause problems, more so than any T-shirt dispute could. People speaking out against racism, sexism and prejudice are not "screaming for blood" as he put it. Codr suggested in his letter, "I

suggest the minority groups who are complaining follow in the footsteps of recovering alcoholics who don't complain about alcoholic T-shirts... "Alcoholics who win their personal battles, and have conquered their own limitations, need not worry about who can sell what T-shirt."

People of color, of religious minorities, gays, lesbians and others have not yet conquered their limitations. These limitations are fear and prejudice. Quit holding us back! I hardly call this "crying wolf."

Rich Higgins  
junior  
art



## Leaders must act responsibly

### Vision is needed if regents to be more involved in decisions

Last Friday was not a particularly good day for the NU Board of Regents.

Struggling to "find itself" after the tumultuous July firing of NU President Ronald Roskens, the board at its November meeting continued taking steps toward greater regent involvement in university decision-making.

Two stories from Friday's meeting, however, say much about the limits and potential impact of that involvement.

The regents' debate over demolition of the Woodruff Printing Co. building at 10th and Q streets revived the question of to what extent the regents really run the university.

And comments from two board members about the need for a liberal arts program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha made one wonder whether some regents ought to be running a university at all.

Friday's meeting saw discussion of a proposal from UNL administrators seeking to acquire and demolish the old Woodruff building and create a parking lot for the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

With that proposal came a report from UNL Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance John Goebel stating that the building "has no particular or aesthetic value, (and no) particular place in the heritage of the city."

The regents agreed with Goebel and voted 7-0 to demolish the building (Regent Nancy Hoch was absent). But after the vote, concerns were raised by some that Goebel and other administrators had not provided the regents with a full range of information on the issue.

A comprehensive packet requested earlier by the regents and put together by UNL College of Architecture faculty was not delivered to all the regents until during the vote, despite having been ready for some time.

Much of the information in the

packet supported the positions taken by UNL student Regent Bryan Hill and others who had opposed the building's demolition, causing some to wonder whether there was a reason for the packet's untimely delivery.

More disturbing than the apparent maneuvering behind the Woodruff vote, however, were the bizarre comments made by two regents about the need for a liberal arts program at UNO.



Brian Svoboda

While discussing a study of existing programs mandated by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission on Postsecondary Education, Regents Robert Allen and Margaret Robinson questioned the usefulness of a UNO liberal arts program in theater.

Allen commented that the programs produced few graduates and were not "cost-effective." Robinson questioned the ability of the program's graduates to find jobs in the real world.

The two regents' comments created considerable alarm among those who felt the university should be more than a degree factory providing workers for Nebraska businesses. UNO Chancellor Del Weber was quick to differ with the assessments made by Allen and Robinson, saying that liberal arts were "the heart and soul" of a university or college, and that their curtailment would prove disastrous to the university.

So, in the end, what do these two stories from last Friday's meeting say about the regents?

The Woodruff incident illustrates the hurdles the regents yet have to

clear as they try to become more involved in university decision-making.

Since the elections of Don Blank, Rosemary Skrupa, Robinson and Allen to the board, the regents have seemed more eager to take an active, rather than passive, role in policy making. Ronald Roskens, in fact, was one of the first casualties of that eagerness.

But the constant presence of paid administrators, and the fact that such administrators often have their own agendas, makes it difficult for the regents to make the sort of involved, informed decisions they now seem to desire.

The debate over the liberal arts program suggests that such involvement on the part of the regents could have its consequences.

As the regents take on a greater role in making policy, the personalities and perspectives of the individual regents assume greater importance in the shaping of university policy. The ignorance shown by Allen and Robinson about the need for the theater program at UNO shows that an empowered board could threaten as well as promote the university as an institution.

Serious changes await the NU Board of Regents in the coming months. For democracy's sake, one would hope that the regents continue to increase their role in university decision-making.

But with power comes responsibility. If the regents are to make more of their own decisions, they must make them wisely. A broad, open-minded perspective is crucial to the governance of a university. As the board becomes more active, let us hope that regents such as Allen and Robinson prove capable of such vision.

Svoboda is a senior political science and Russian major, and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

## letter POLICY

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all

readers and interested others. Submit material to the Daily Ne-

braskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

## editorial POLICY

Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the

UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper.

According to policy set by the re-

gents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.