

# Senator, Nee, Cooper Park protesters upset readers

## Ecology students say park protest was misdirected

Amidst all the media hoopla over the Cooper Park escapades, the objectives of the environmentalists/tree sitters/fence scalers have been obscured. If the groups and individuals involved were attempting to convince us to be more aware of the long-term impacts of human activity on the environment, we laud them and encourage them; if, as it appeared, their goals were to save a handful of trees, we feel the activities of the last couple of weeks were quite misguided.

We, as students of ecology (as defined by Krebs, a well-known contemporary ecologist, to be "the scientific study of the interactions that determine the distribution and abundance of organisms") earn our keep investigating the impact of various factors on native organisms of the Great Plains. Although not usually the focus of our studies, we acknowledge the impact of humans on native systems, and, as such, we are also environmentalists. Habitat reduction following human activities has had severe impacts on many native species. One such activity involves the introduction and cultivation of exotic species by naive (albeit well intentioned) individuals and groups. The trees of Cooper Park are one example. The 28 elm, 21 locust, 17 hackberry, nine cedar, four pine, four ash and two crabapple trees that were removed are not indigenous to prairie environments and their presence in this region is emblematic of the very "progress," as decried by Bob Nelson, which humans have wrought on the tallgrass prairies of this region.

Through mobilizing to "rescue" the Cooper Park trees, these environmentalists imply, by their action, that it is acceptable to destroy native vegetation to plant exotics such as these trees, but it is unacceptable to remove these very same weeds in order to expand a school. Yes, James Zank, we applaud the efforts of the Lincoln Public Schools to improve our school system and improve the educational opportunities of our children; we also applaud the citizens of Lincoln who participated in the democratic process of public hearings and voting for the bond issue for improvements of Lincoln's public schools in 1988. We submit that most conservationists (conservation as defined by Teddy Roosevelt to mean "the wise use of natural resources") would agree that the clearing of less than 20 percent of the trees (from a stand of 500) in order to improve the educational opportunities of a large number of students is indeed a wise use of our natural resources.

We agree that many development projects of past and present have been implemented without taking into account their long-term impacts on the environment. We are quite excited, however, by the large number of people who feel that this is no longer acceptable behavior. Nonetheless, we feel there are much more worthy causes for individuals and groups to champion: the preservation of local tracts of native prairie, actively opposing the Two Forks Dam project, supporting conservation of the Platte River system, and recycling, just to name a few.

The importance of realizing our mistakes and taking steps to clean up the environment need to be applauded, and Ecology Now (perhaps they would be more appropriately referred to as Environment Now) has taken great

steps to make people aware of important environmental issues. However, in the final analysis, we feel that no matter how noble these group's intentions might have been, concerning this issue, their efforts have been misdirected.

Spence Behmer  
Rich Alward  
John Rowe  
graduate students  
ecology

## Longsine shocked, questions wisdom behind comments

This is an open letter to State Sen. Lorraine Langford of Kearney.

The occasion of my 23rd birthday a few weeks ago brought to mind the question, "Will I ever feel like an adult?" Now, having been exposed to your wisdom, I can answer unashamedly.

No, I will never feel like an adult. Formally, the distinction between child and adult was one between those who are developing physically, and those who have developed. But it is also used to distinguish between those who have grown beyond concrete operational thinking abilities into abstract thinking modes.

Unfortunately some people, having developed physically, never grow to think abstractly. Even more people, who possess some basic abstract thinking ability, never use it. They cease growing and become mature. Mature, I trust, you will recognize as your self-inflicted euphemism for reactionary, unthinking and inflexible.

I'm intrigued by your idea that young people make some of the worst decisions in the world. I have long been convinced that the worst decisions in the history of the world have been made by white men over 30. However, most of the truly cataclysmic world happenings have been due to the failure of white men over 30 to think about things in such a way as to make defensible the proposition that they had actually made decisions. Only in the modern age of expanding civil rights and liberation is it possible to make a similar generalization about white women over 30. Soon anyone over 30 will be equally responsible.

I am shocked by your accusation that young people are disinterested in policy issues. From my experience, young people are highly interested in even such mundane policy issues as arise in the Nebraska Legislature.

Many of us are distraught that our senators waste time with efforts to limit the rights of expression and attempts to inflict flag worship on unsuspecting youth in primary grades. Many students are also stupefied by our senators' perceived need for convoluted taxation of illegal activities in Nebraska. Transparent legislation, laws clearly written for clearly defined purposes and well crafted to provide clear effects are nearly always superior tools from the standpoint of concerned citizens. I don't have time to follow dozens of confused rambling proposals from the Unicameral.

I have, until now, been a disinterested opponent of such things as a vote for the student-regent. However, I now believe that such minor problems as double representation can be easily eliminated and that some benefit may result. Students are obviously not being adequately represented by senators such as you, and perhaps that

is right. After all, they make up only a small portion of your constituency.

If it is only that you have lost touch with students, I would be more than happy to arrange a meeting between you and some students concerned about whatever list of policy issues that you provide. Take heed though, some students will be so immature as to seriously consider new solutions to old problems.

Gary W. Longsine  
senior  
economics and international affairs

## Biased statement made by senator provokes reader

It is remarkable how far ignorant, bigoted people can go in this state. While it's been obvious that you can be the governor of Nebraska and still be an imbecile, I had hoped that the Legislature was composed of more culturally aware, intelligent people. State Sen. Lorraine Langford has proven that wrong.

If students in the age range of 18 to 20 make the "worst decisions in the world," how does that speak for the quality of our educational system? If students can't be trusted to share their insight into our educational system, then damn it, Sen. Langford, why don't we just stop the whole educational process, sell off the university property and save the taxpayers' dollars? Let's just make the state into a wasteland of impoverished farmers and nuclear waste dumps. Why don't we just disband the state of Nebraska as a whole?

This is of course an extreme idea, but then it seems as though Sen. Langford is extremely prejudiced against a group of people of a certain age who want to learn. Never mind that there are people in that group who defend in our armed services, work on politicians' campaigns, strive to end the nuclear arms race, work for the preservation of the environment and usually hold down part-time jobs in addition to attending school and maintaining households. I want to assure the feeble little mind of this senator that no one I know has a lifestyle that would be appropriate as the screenplay for "Animal House IV."

Sen. Langford doesn't trust students to make good decisions, and we're the ones that are going to do it in the future. I only hope that the young people of her district are listening so they can make a good decision when she comes up for re-election. No one should have to put up with such an arrogant, biased, shortsighted, out of touch individual, let alone allow her to hold public office.

James A. Zank  
junior  
arts and sciences

## Disappointed fans form club against basketball coach

After sitting through an absolutely pitiful season of basketball here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln we have decided to start our own club called the "NEE must flee" club. We cannot believe that with all of the money and tremendous facilities the athletes have available that Danny Nee cannot and has not produced a team that is at least competitive on a national level. It certainly says something that people, Dick Vitale for one, have called the Bob Devaney Sports Center "the best place for the worst basketball."

With the exception of one player (who has no business on the court of a Division I basketball game) Nebraska has some real talent. Clifford Scales could play for many of the better programs around the country, and if Nee would quit treating Rich King like a child and let him build some real confidence, he could develop into a very successful college player. Carl Hayes has shown some real talent and if Nee doesn't ruin him, he should be awesome.

We realize that the Big Eight Conference has really turned into a powerhouse, but what about our non-conference schedule?

Wyoming beats us by 30 points? There is no way they have that much of an advantage on us in talent. Miami or Ohio beats us? Come on! Nee has had four years now to implement his own system with his own players and look at what it got us.

As students, we feel like we are being cheated out of at least some excitement. Look at what Tony Barone has done at Creighton in the same amount of time Nee has been here. Digger Phelps has been booed at Notre Dame this season and look at us. We cannot believe that there is not any more negative press for our basketball program. If you compare the amount of heat being put on the athletic programs here at the university, you would think that the football team is the loser. And to top it all off, Bob Devaney gives Nee an automatically rolling over contract for four more years! It makes you wonder if Devaney really wants a winning basketball program that will take away some of the limelight from his pride and joy (ours, too): the football team.

Another classic example of what a fine coach Nee is, is how he handled Eric Johnson last season. In the first two games of last season he scored something like 61 points, which prompted Nee to shut him down. Hindsight is always 20/20 granted, but look where he is now. Would anyone who watched the way Nee handled him have been able to see his real talent and leadership? The fact that he is playing for the Utah Jazz in the NBA should speak for itself.

Our suggestion: Fire Danny Nee and buy out his contract. We doubt

that this will ever happen here, but if it does, we should hire someone like Rick Barnes from Providence, R.I., who will be taking a team with much less talent to the NCAA's. Or how about an assistant from a program like North Carolina, which is where Kansas got Roy Williams who will probably win the coach of the year award this season.

Brian Staudenmaier  
senior  
marketing

Tye Martin  
junior  
business administration

## Negative views of senator surprise student

Dear Sen. Langford,

It is attitudes like yours which help to perpetuate the negativism toward the youth of today. I was shocked by your comments concerning your opposition to the proposed student trustee vote on the basis of "immaturity" and apathy of college students. I am surprised that you are not carrying your backward attitude and stereotypes one step further by sitting at home cooking and cleaning for a living.

The day before your comments were made, an article (DN, March 9) showed the following:

"About 500 students at Arizona State University in Tempe demonstrated last month after regents voted to raise yearly tuition by \$116 for in-state students to \$1,478, and \$1000 for out-of-state students to \$6484 at ASU."

"In Oklahoma, 10,000 students attending public colleges and universities presented regents a petition protesting proposed tuition increases ranging up to 12.5 percent."

These figures show that college students are "worried about the courses taught and how much those course cost." I am certain that, should tuition increases of similar magnitude be proposed in Nebraska, students would not just stand by and let things happen.

In addition, if students between the ages of 18 and 20 "make the worst decisions in the world," why do 18-year-olds have the right to vote? When U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph was fighting to give 18-year-olds this right in the early '70s, he obviously felt that they were mature enough then, as they are now. I would only question the maturity and ability to make political decisions of those 18- to-20-year olds in Kearney who voted to elect you to the state Legislature.

Amy Lee  
senior  
meteorology



**IN CONCERT**  
Alligator Recording Artist  
**Charlie Musselwhite**  
and his Blues Band  
"With unabashed excellence, Musselwhite and his band set the standard for blues bands everywhere." - Rolling Stone  
Wed., Thurs., March 14 - 15  
The Zoo Bar, 136 No. 14th St.

**Pickles' low prices will shock you-but not this bad!**

**Nobody sells more music for less.**



17th & P · 237 S. 70th · 3814 Normal

