

Daily
NebraskanEditorial Board
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Quibbles 'n' bits

High percentage ranking is deceptive

Figures don't lie. Or do they?

A report published by the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges shows Nebraska near the top of the list for increases in state aid to higher education over the past three years. But the figures are based on percentages, which means in Nebraska, ranked 32nd of the 50 states in actual dollars given to higher education, even a small increase yields a big percentage.

The more important rankings are the ones that show Nebraska at or near the bottom of UNL's eight peer institutions in state funding for items such as operating finances and faculty salaries.

Granted, improvements have been made over the across-the-board cuts of the past decade, but until state financing for higher education brings Nebraska out of the basement, the percentages don't mean much.

—Jana Pedersen
for the Daily Nebraskan

KKK column disturbs reader

Brandon Loomis, a senior news-editorial major and Summer Daily Nebraskan editorial columnist, has written an article (DN, June 14) that disturbs me and should disturb any University of Nebraska student, faculty or employer regardless of ethnicity. To suggest that the Ku Klux Klan should be able to continue to "generate fear" and "cut its own throat" with bad publicity is absurd. About as absurd as the origin of such an organization as the Ku Klux Klan in America.

The idea was one of Cameron, an officer in the military, from a late 19th Century play where several little black youngsters were frightened by two white youngsters who held a white sheet over their heads. Later, one of America's most embarrassing organizations, the Ku Klux Klan, was born. The Ku Klux Klan has never made any positive contributions to the decency of American society. The fear is in the individuals who belong to the group, and they generate fear. The members of the group want to remain behind their masks and don't want anyone to know their true identities. When the group, which historically consisted of prominent businessmen, was exposed, they had to leave the group and only support the Ku Klux Klan "under the table" or "behind closed doors."

As early as 100 years ago, a black Baptist church in central Illinois was threatened, and fear must have gone through every nerve and through every bone of the little prayer group that met on a Wednesday night in about 1898. That is, until one black woman discovered the familiar-looking shoes of one of the white men and cleverly asked, "Joe, is that you? What are you doing here?" The group of Klansmen who had tried to upset an African American group in a prayer meeting

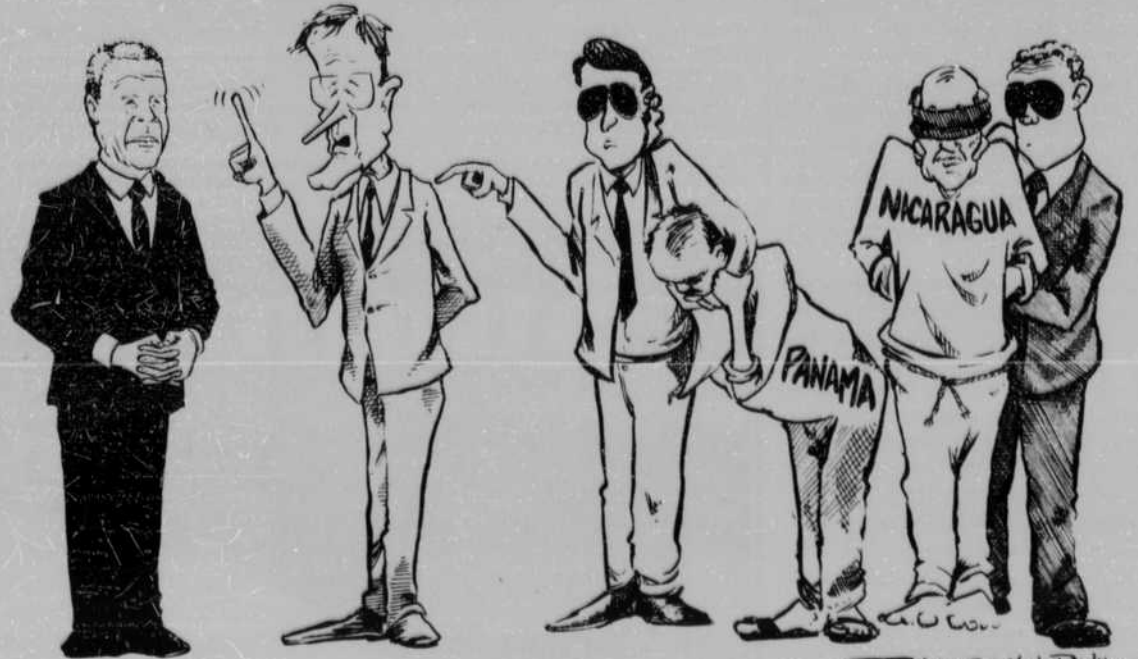
fled the premises in fear and never returned. The "bottom line" exposure and the unveiling of any mystery is the beginning of fear which is the beginning of knowledge.

As for Spike Lee's successful movie "Do the Right Thing," let's get it straight, Mr. Loomis. More of us saw the movie than just you alone. It was not the movie that brought the riots. It was the truth that America yet faces and faced in the movie that brought the riots. Just as some truths in America have led angry United States citizens to desecrate the flag through flag burning. When we continue to allow violence and hatred and evil and all of the things that separate men and women and boys and girls from each other to exist, we will have a once passive people behave as a "cat in a corner," fight back, and sometimes the fighting is not as passive in nature.

The First Amendment to the Constitution is just what it says, the First Amendment. There are other amendments. This amendment does not stand alone but in harmony with the others, including the 13th, 14th and 15th, which were necessary because this country had forgotten a major resource of persons--African Americans. It seems some views of yours are similar to those of many, who when it is convenient scream, "The First Amendment!" I hear so plainly what the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. so loudly proclaims, yet from his grave he says, "Violence and evil will eventually self-destruct" (paraphrased). But before it does, it takes educated people like you and myself and the constituents of this major university to stand tall and not tolerate and never accept the evil of such a group as the Ku Klux Klan.

Maurice Tate, Sr.
instructor
Teachers College

NOW LISTEN NELSON, YOU MUST END THIS TALK OF AN ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE WHITES...HUH, OH, I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU...NOW, MR. MANDELA...



Colorado student inspires ballad

New legal pressure makes life tough on rugged Americans

Americans just ain't willing to make room for the rugged individual no more.

It seems like there's a new wave of legal pressure on those who would forsake suburbia and live off the land, shooting things and drinking homemade corn whiskey.

Subsistence hunting and fishing is increasingly under the gun these days, and I'm just glad James Fennimore Cooper isn't around to see it.

The Alaska Supreme Court recently ruled unconstitutional that state's law giving rural residents preferential subsistence hunting and fishing rights, because recreational hunters from the cities think they're being discriminated against.

Now the federal government wants to step in and manage the fish and game on the two-thirds of the state that it owns, which could severely restrict the caloric intake of natives who still respect and survive on the balance of nature.

This is not a debate restricted to Alaska. Anti-hunters and recreational hunters alike want to push subsistence hunters out the door throughout the country, especially in the upper-Midwest. I just can't believe it.

Yes, some animals which are hunted are shrinking in population. But it's development, not hunting, which brings about this problem. Besides, recreational hunters as a whole take many more animals than do subsistence hunters, so it makes sense that if there are to be bag limits, theirs should be smaller. You can pretend hunters are raping the land, but in reality, that job is left to cities and industries.

Outlawing or cutting back on subsistence hunting and fishing won't save animal populations, but it will kill a way of life.

This country was founded on at least the myth of the rugged individual. When things got a bit congested in the East, we moved west. We created a lot of hell along the way that we're paying for now, but that spirit has always been what every American identified with in one way or another. To outlaw what we've revered for centuries makes no sense. To outlaw the practice Native Americans have employed for centuries longer makes even less.

Brandon
Loomis

Americans used to read and watch westerns. That may seem like just a trivial trend in entertainment, but it really was the result of conquering the frontier. When there was nowhere left to go, Americans sat in their cities reading about the good old days and wishing they could get off the freeway and back to nature. Most have given up by now, thinking there's no nature to get back to. If there is a parcel of land out there somewhere, they think, certainly no one should be able to enjoy it. What they don't realize is that the people enjoying it aren't abusing it.

Hopefully I've learned a lot of things in college, one of which is that for every smart person I know, there's a dumb one. Some of the dumb ones periodically make me long for Grizzly Adams reruns, or to go out and be Grizzly Adams myself.

When I was a freshman, I read about a University of Colorado stu-

dent who was missing for about a month. When he finally showed up, it turned out that he had just packed up his all-terrain vehicle and roughed it out in the wild of Wyoming. He was sick of society, so he made his own. I support his right to do that.

I'm not sure why he came back, but I assume he got lonely or had some debts. Anyway, I've always had this image of a guy foraging around for grubs, maybe shooting a few jack-rabbits, and sleeping in a lean-to.

The summer after that episode, I wrote a little ballad for the mountain guy and decided that some day I'd head into the woods or the desert and just shoot things until I died.

Here's my story:
*Living in a lean-to hut,
Sautéed larvae in my gut,
I am the mountain man
and I eat good food.*

*Let me tell you what I eat.
I eat beans from a can,
kill critters whenever I can,
I generally wind up eating Spam.
I'm a mountain man.
Stubby Raccoon and myself do fine,
living betwixt the willows and the
pine,
makin' head cheese and dandelion
wine.*

*We're a mountain clan.
Let me tell you what we eat
(etc., etc.)*

I just want to say that when I'm 65, and finally out of debt, I want to be able to kill critters and make head cheese while tobacco spittle clings to my beard. I'm an American, and by God, if I can't pretend I'm a rugged individual, I don't know what this country's coming to.

Loomis is a senior news-editorial major and the Summer Daily Nebraskan editorial columnist.