

Gulf crisis, meat consumption addressed

Reader presents top five reasons for eating meat

I don't mean to beat this vegetarian issue to death, but after reading the plethora of pro-vegetarian responses to my last letter I see that many facts of the issue have been twisted completely out of order. To straighten this out, I have put together my top five list of reasons to eat meat. And stay tuned, after the top five, I'll have lots of entertaining cut downs. But now, from the home office in Stegall, Neb., it's Lar's top five reasons for eating meat:

- It's healthy for you. I can hear you laughing already, but beef provides several essential parts of a balanced diet. Sandy Burnham, (letter to the editor, DN, Nov. 30) I wouldn't be too sure that any heart specialist will argue that point, since the American Heart Association endorsed this year's edition of the Nebraska Cow-Belles Beef Cookbook.

- It tastes better. I can sympathize with the people who don't like the taste of meat, but many people do like it. I just can't imagine myself drooling with ecstasy over a bean burger or a T-bean steak.

- Meat production utilizes land that would have no other use. I'm not referring to forest land, and I'm strongly opposed to deforestation for livestock production. But the harvested crop land and wide open ranges of the west are a vast resource for livestock producers and suffer no damage from well-managed grazing.

- Meat production has many other benefits. By-products include leather, pet food, medical supplies, and dairy products. These are things that plants cannot provide for us. Every part of the animal has a use, something the majority of meat-beaters are too ignorant to acknowledge in their zeal to save the planet. And you can't play football with a "beanskin" either.

- Meat is good for our economy. The meat industry is an important part of many communities because of the jobs it provides and the money it puts in to local economies. Before the vege-terrorists get so concerned about the horrors of the "factory farming" of beef, maybe they should look into the conditions of migrant workers in lettuce and soybean "factory farming." I hope you can taste the pain of exploitation in your next salad.

And now, the only reasons for reading these letters — Lar's top five cutdowns:

- I have studied basic compositional techniques, Leah Miller (letter to the editor, DN, Nov. 30), but the person who typed my first letter obviously hasn't and that is why some sentences didn't make sense. Your

letter is correct grammatically, unfortunately your ideals don't make sense to me.

- According to Sandy Burnham, my meat-eating friends and I will be dead in 40 years. This may be so, but eating meat is not going to kill us. We stand a greater chance of dying in a blimp accident.

- Fran Thompson says (letter to the editor, DN, Dec. 3) I'm "... ignorant of what really goes on in meat production. ..." I guess living on a ranch for 20 years isn't enough qualification. I only wish I had grown up in the city and visited the country a couple of times to know the "real" truth about meat production.

- That's a nice life Fran. I'm glad you've got the time to spend "seven or eight years right here learning." Most of us get out in four or five and DO something with our lives instead of writing letters to the Daily Nebraskan.

- In my first letter, I made the mistake of telling vegetarians to "get a life." I apologize to those vegetarians who can understand the value of meat production. Instead, I wish to address those radicals heading the anti-meat movement. In your zeal to discredit the meat industry you are shooting yourselves in the foot. If I remember correctly, the environmental movement of the 1960s became "Who Cares?" during the '70s because people went too far. In the '90s we will see a backlash against the green movement of the '80s because you have gone too far. Zip it. And here's a message to all you neo-hippie, eco-freak, beef-bashing, granola loser, left-wing lunatic, "Diet for a New America" people — get a life.

Matt Larsen
junior
broadcasting

Columnist praised for objectiveness about Sen. Kerrey

Mark Fahleson's editorial column about Sen. Bob Kerrey (DN, Nov. 30) is the first objective, unemotional piece ever written about the senator. The article exposes the Kerrey mystique for what it really is — a mystique and nothing more. Are Nebraskans so starved for recognition that they are willing to vote for a president based simply on personality and not on substance? I applaud Fahleson on his clear-thinking journalism and question how someone with his objectivity ever got a job with the Daily Nebraskan.

Lewis Coulter
senior
finance

Loss to Oklahoma not good reason to replace Osborne

Chuck, Chuck, Chuck! Sure you were disappointed with Oklahoma's 45-10 trouncing of Nebraska, most true fans were, but replace Tom Osborne? Get a grip!

You wrote (column, DN, Nov. 27) about the schedule change as if it were a unilateral decision, which it couldn't have been because it takes two to lambada, Chuck. The patsies of five years ago may not be the patsies of today. (Look at Georgia Tech.) Maybe Texas and Arkansas didn't want to play Nebraska. Who took Nebraska's place on their schedules? Maybe Utah State and Colorado State wanted to play Nebraska. Who were they going to play instead? You're a news-editorial major, Chuck, try doing some research.

You wrote about replacing Osborne with Barry Alvarez of Wisconsin, which finished in the cellar of the Big Ten. Is Dick Sheridan and North Carolina State going to a bowl this time? Who's next on your list, Chuck Fairbanks?

"The players aren't to blame." Give me a break! Tom Osborne didn't fumble or throw an interception during the Noy. 23 game. His blocking and tackling didn't break down against Colorado. As good of talent as Nebraska has and continues to have, there is no way that any coach can stop players from making mental errors that lose games.

No, you wouldn't be a better coach than Tom Osborne, Chuck, but at least you realize that. But did you realize that maybe he could easily take your place at the Daily Nebraskan? Your job is easy, Chuck. It's just a simple matter of second-guessing, which coaches dare not do lest they lose their jobs. Here's a prediction for you, Chuck: Tom Osborne will win at least one national championship more than the Pulitzer Prize you will never win. That's what you call a cinch bet!

William Messman
Lincoln

Americans need education before making comments

"Go back to your f—ing country."
"Go back to Iraq."
These are some of the pleasantries being showered around by some uneducated Americans. Since the gulf

crisis started the frequency of such quotes has increased every days that goes by.

I was born in Saudi Arabia and spent a major part of my youth in the country, and though a Pakistani by nationality, nowhere on the face of this earth does it say that the combination makes you an Iraqi. In the past few weeks my friends, most of them from Pakistan, have been the target of such cheap and disgusting remarks, reflecting how broad-minded these guys are. Maybe they need to expand their horizons beyond the "big red Cornhuskers."

I hope no one takes this letter as a cry of help, because believe me we have some answers for these "kids." The whole point is the general knowledge of the people in America. It really is ironic to hear such remarks. Most of these guys don't even know where Iraq is. I wish before these "patriotic" Americans open their big mouth, they look into their own past and find from what corner of the world they come from.

All I have to say in the end is "go back to your history and geography books."

Amer Sheikh
senior
computer science

Reader questions the 'if' and 'when' of gulf activities

Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait all seem so far away, but every newscast or newspaper article brings them one step closer to me. I, being an 18-year-old female college student, will not have to even think of going anywhere near Saudi Arabia, but that is not the case for everyone. It is very frightening to think that one of my best friends could soon be sent there. Some soldiers may be ready, but many are being sent not wanting to go. What I take as being boring and routine at times, my daily life of classes and homework would become a luxury to many of the men and women over there.

Sherry Zeilinger
freshman
math

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