

Gulf, regents, developers upset readers

NU regents sing verses of praise to greedy scheme

While on East Campus last week, I happened to wander into Varner Hall to get a closer look at this vast monument to NU administration. After turning down two or three hallways, I became quite lost and somewhat concerned until at the end of one poorly lit section I saw a bright slice of light coming out from beneath a closed door. Wanting a closer look, I knelt down and peered into the keyhole. Who should I see but our regents enjoying a final meeting before the end of the semester. At one point, with champagne glasses in hand, they took up a particularly boisterous song which I thought might be of interest to your readers. (Please feel free to sing along with stout bravura to the tune of "God Save the Queen"):

Lusting for pow'r are we
Fighting eternally
Greed save the scheme
We dumped ole Ron as chief
For some quite unknown beef
Yet we reign o'er our meek fief
Greed save the scheme

Oodles and scads of dough
We wasted on our show
We called a search
And then with Tommie O
We propped up our own beau
Let no one from below
Our choice besmirch

(solo verse for Robert Allen)
Serving my power base
On him I'll bring disgrace
Whate'er befall
Hector, phone tap, and snipe
Complain, protest and gripe
I will yet force this tripe
On one and all

It matters not to most
Who serves in this dour post
He'll too go soon
But following Henry K.
We fight on anyway
The glories of war today
Near to make us swoon

(Last verse, everybody sing, except Robert Allen.)
And now honor we'll feign
So that quite long we'll reign
Yea, grand we'll seem
Short-memoried voters ne'er
Nor jaded students care
This our sly hearts we'll never bare
Greed save the scheme

Jeff Mills
graduate student
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Marches, protests not good solutions to Mideast crisis

Your front-page story (DN, Dec. 10.) about the protest march prompted me to write to you about our terribly serious business in the Persian Gulf. It is, in fact, so serious that easy "solutions" such as marches and discussions among people who share similar views will not work. We have opponents in the Mideast now who can render the entire area a smoking wasteland. Already, Saddam Hussein has destroyed Kuwait and many of its inhabitants. Before his Kuwait adventure, he systematically exterminated Kurdish tribesmen, using poison gas. Similar tactics were used against Iran. I recall no vehement protest, public or private, in the United States related to the use of gas as a weapon of war on both sides of this conflict. Economic sanctions will not work effectively alone, and evidence is mounting that they are failing now. Negotiations are unlikely to produce a long-term solution unless several problems (Arab unity, the Palestinian problems, Israel's security, stability of petroleum supply and economic planning) are addressed simultaneously. Clearly, these problems demand more thought and effort than a simple "keep us out of war at any price" philosophy can provide. It will

also require more than a "simple" military solution. It will require long periods (years or decades) of painstaking cooperative work, patience during setbacks, and ability to tolerate indifference to solve the Mideast's problems. This quest may engage the energies of the next two generations as completely as the Cold War has done for the past two generations.

Richard Voeltz
associate professor
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Lincoln developers ignoring existing downtown vitality

The revitalization of downtown Lincoln has been an issue for several years. Problems of the past have created a lack of vitality within the downtown area. However, there are still some activities within the downtown area that give at least some vitality to the downtown center. This includes the Haymarket historic district, the financial/governmental corridor along 13th Street, and a college/youth corridor existing along P and Q streets from 12th Street, then turning south along 14th Street to N Street. Although not like a major link between the campus and downtown, similar to those at other major campuses across the nation, this corridor attempts to provide services and entertainment to college and youth groups. Kinko's, Nebraska Bookstore, movie theaters, the Zoo Bar, Duffy's, O'Rourke's, the Coffee House, Twisters and various restaurants are within this corridor providing these services and entertainment. Both the Haymarket historic district and the financial/governmental corridor are protected by their establishment in the downtown area, Haymarket by a zoning ordinance, and the financial/governmental corridor with its importance to the economic structure of the city.

But what about the college/youth corridor? Remembering from my freshman year, four years ago, this corridor was located on blocks along 10th and 11th streets — south of campus. Those blocks were flattened for parking for the Lied Center for Performing Arts. Students then looked to the east where the present corridor now exists. Recently, this corridor has been disrupted by the construction of the University Square parking garage, a dead use of space. The city is now considering eliminating another block of this corridor for a parking garage serving a proposed convention center. This block is the north half of the block south of O Street between 14th Street and Centennial Mall. That area includes Twisters, the State Theatre, and the Chartreuse Caboose. All three of these businesses, especially Twisters, are important to the vitality of this college/youth corridor.

From these recent occurrences, one can conclude that the city does not see this activity being important to the downtown area. I would say that it is important, not only for the students who are sitting in their lonely dorm rooms wondering what to do, but also for the community as a whole. To revitalize a downtown, you design new activity building upon activity that already exists there. This is important, because if you eliminate areas of activity that are successful for other activities that are seen to have a bigger potential, and that new activity fails, then you have created a downtown more dead than it was before.

The city council and the planning commission should consider this activity and other activities that presently exist there before taking a risk and destroying them for this convention center. I think that it is important that the student body at UNL tell these city leaders how important this area is to them before they destroy it. If it doesn't stop, what's next? Tearing down the Zoo Bar, the longest running blues bar in the country, for a parking garage?

Terry Brinkman
graduate student
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Regent's whining about Massengale damages university

As an alumna of the University of Nebraska, I am appalled by the never-ending vitriolic babble spewed forth by Regent Robert Allen of Hastings. It is beyond any understanding how Allen thinks his constant whining to the press about his dissatisfaction with the selection of Martin Massengale as president-elect, his shady taped conversations and his personal attacks on other regents could possibly benefit the University of Nebraska.

By his actions, Allen is promoting and propagating an already damaging view of the NU Board of Regents as a divisive and divided body seemingly incapable of operating in a professional manner. Not only is this unfair to the other members of the board, but Allen is deliberately inflicting irreversible harm to the national reputation of the University of Nebraska.

Allen should do the voters of his district and the rest of the state a favor and resign his position as regent. Then those who truly care about the quality of the University of Nebraska could get on with the business of governing the institution and leave the petty tantrums behind.

M.J. McCann
Lincoln

Reader questions whether lessons have been learned

Alas, the year known as 1990 is fast becoming a memory. What happened? How, who, what for, why not, so what, why wasn't it better than the previous years? 1990 was viewed as the harbinger of the optimism and renewed national spirit that precedes a new decade, a new century, indeed a new millennium. It stands as a litmus test of what could evolve and what could be destroyed through the neglect of our immediate history. We survived the '80s — not without scars, mind you — and that is something to be savored, surely. You would think we might have taken our cue from the rest of the known world as we face the future, yet it appears that on the humanitarian front we just took a large step back.

Did we learn anything from the previous decade?

The 1980s bore some of the most obscene and vulgar forms of humanity (and inhumanity) known to the human race. Every decade offers up its own personality in a buzzword or two, and the accepted phrase in journalism today appears to be the Decade of Greed. Misleading, perhaps, for greed had good company throughout those years.

I, and many others who attend this institution, did the bulk of my growing up during the '80s. Our history, then, parallels that of the entire world, and I am not sure if 'proud' is the operative word.

We saw the evolution of the teenage dealer in lethal narcotics, and the subsequent everyday slaying of those millions of youths who were innocent and confused enough to become involved in the drug trade; the crippling social disease that came out of nowhere and claimed the lives of more than 100,000 homosexual and heterosexual Americans, and the government's shockingly inept reaction to the outbreak of AIDS, coupled with our own brutal indifference and divine judgment on all who died from the neglect. Homelessness reached an all-time high, our defense budget assisted in the eroding increase of the national deficit, the middle class nearly vanished, Donald Trump was actually looked up to, and we have a man in the vice presidency who attempts to speak Latin to our Latin American neighbors. Mind-boggling.

The revelation of the pop duo Milli Vanilli's fraud should not come as a tremendous surprise; the boys just mirrored the accepted mood of the nation around them. Something

immediate, sugary, pleasing, corrupting . . . and completely hollow at the core.

A miracle happened amid all the muck. Near the end of this 10-year coma, a tiny little crack was knocked into the face of a mighty wall, and the crevice grew with rushing force until Eastern Europeans stood on the very real brink of regaining personal freedoms.

At the end of the 1980s, I faced the coming decade with more eagerness and freshness than I had ever felt before. Then we watched the environmental issue become a passing fad, social problems burning ever higher, and our president decided to send American soldiers to restore peace and order to a foreign land that's been incapable of realizing such things for the last 20,000 years.

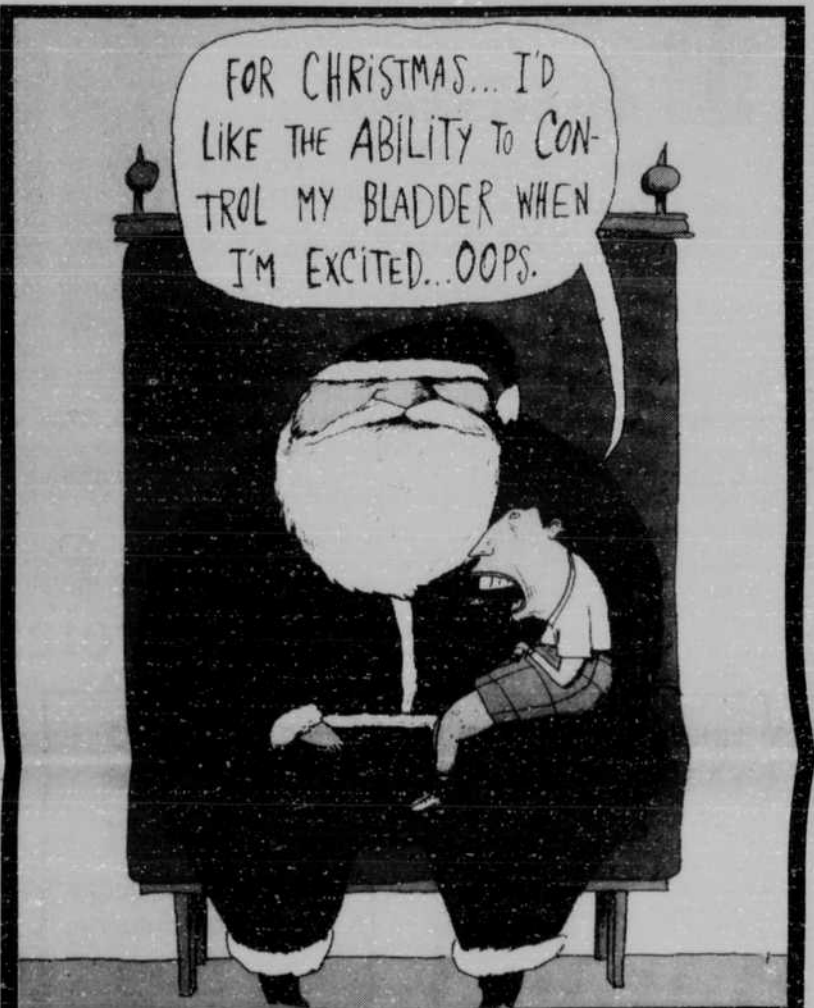
1990 was the year of second best,

sometimes second worst. We only have nine years until a definite new age comes upon us, and we might see in the coming years whether the American Empire is on an irreversible trek downward.

It's not hard to be a good human being, and in doing so, effectively become a good Yankee. I'm trying my best, and persuading those around me to open their eyes as much as they can so the walls they have between themselves can crumble just as easily. There will be about 10 billion humans in the next 50 years breathing each other's air, and I hope we have enough to go around. Or better still, I hope we can share it voluntarily.

Happy New Year to one and all.
Peace.

P. Joseph Winner
freshman
Arts and Sciences



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