

Winds of change?

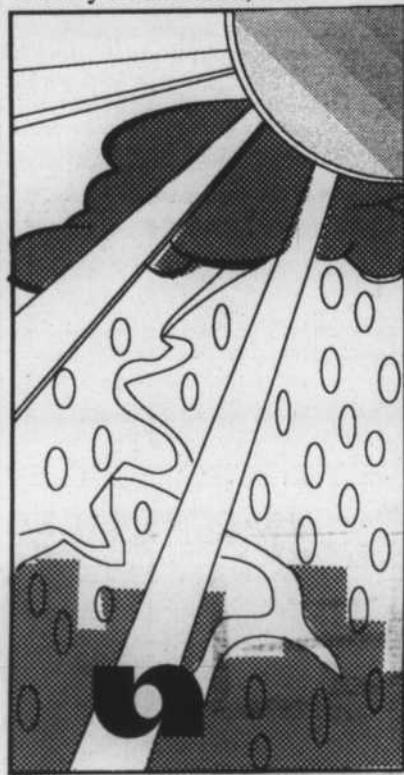
Fall semester forecasts brewing storms

So far, this summer has been the sixth-coolest on record in the United States.

Don't count on things to heat up this fall at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The forecast:

Relatively boring with a slight chance for a better government in November. Plan for showers of meaningless allegations that will muddy the campaign trail along the way. Be sure to carry an umbrella, Bill.



David Badders/DN

Temperatures will rise a little when students start moving into Abel-Sandoz Residence Halls, their cars stuffed with J. Crew fashions and stolen stop signs, to search for parking places. They'll find that construction on the Beadle Center on Vine Street has sucked up the only paved parking lot for those residents and moved two other lots farther from the complex.

But strange winds are blowing in the parking office. Plans for warning tickets during the first week of classes and an improved system for buying parking permits should take some of the steam out of the parking boiler.

The winds of change will continue to blow across campus as a flood of improvements change the

face of UNL. New turf will green up Memorial Stadium; an addition to the College of Business Administration building will near completion; and a flurry of work will end the final phase of renovations at the NU Coliseum and Campus Recreation Center. Plan on art students to continue their fruitless prayers for a rain of capital construction funds on weather-beaten Richards Hall.

Once again this fall, a budget controversy looms on the horizon. Gov. Nelson's plan calls for all state departments, including the university to plan for a 10-percent cut. UNL students, administrators and faculty members still are picking up the pieces after last year's cuts whipped through the university.

Watch for other unexpected storms of controversy to spring out of the hot fall season.

But count on a whirlwind of ASUN members to try to come to the rescue. Andy Sigerson and the bunch will concoct some resolution or another. Their goals will aim to solve the problems of the university whether it be parking, budget troubles or diversity. That wispy gust will get blown away as quickly as it develops.

This summer an unstable atmosphere surrounded the athletic-director search that left a bad taste in the mouths of wealthy contributors to the athletic department. The storm will spill over into the new year as Bill Byrne gets his first taste of Husker mania.

Beware another squall out of the east as groups of haughty University of Nebraska at Omaha students demand their worth be recognized with a hyphen.

Across the globe, unseasonable tensions in Iraq will mount as Saddam Hussein tries to pull the nation up by its bootstraps after the Persian Gulf war.

And here on campus, the dark cloud of racial tension still will hang over the university. Every UNL student group will try to overcome it. Nonetheless, students will be hurt emotionally, maybe even physically, as these conflicts cut the heart of UNL in half. In the end, nothing will be forgiven or forgotten.

Women and minorities will be left in the fog when officials try to fill permanently the gaps in numerous interim positions at UNL.

At best we can hope for a knock-em-dead snowball fight between the Greeks and dormies like those of the late 1980s.

But all in all, normal conditions will prevail campuswide. Pray for an early snow.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1992 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are: Chris Hopfensperger, editor; Dionne Searcey, opinion page editor; Kris Kamopp, managing editor; Alan Phelps, wire editor; Wendy Navratil, writing coach; Stacey McKenzie, senior reporter; Jeremy Fitzpatrick, columnist.

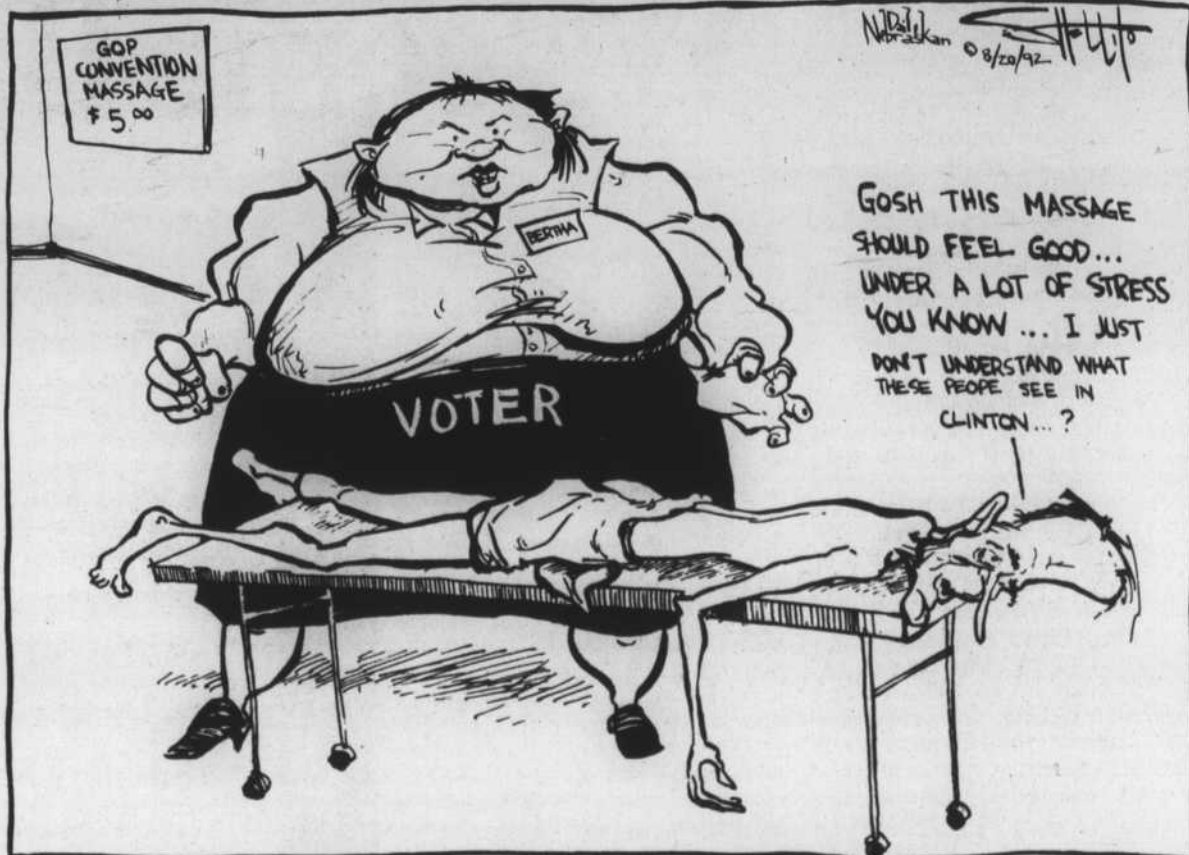
Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its

employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

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 regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.



CHRIS HOPFENSBERGER

Taking a look into the 'real world'

I merely wanted to be a sports reporter.

In fact, I hadn't planned on working at all during my freshman year. After slaving through high school, college was supposed to be a time of education and relaxation, including a first year chock full of blissful ignorance.

But that was before my roommate said the Daily Nebraskan's sports editor was looking for writers.

A door into the lives of my childhood heroes opened in a dark corner of my mind. Images of Mike Rozier, Dave Hoppen and Bob Devaney danced through my imagination.

I entered the DN office — little more than a kid who had played journalist at a high school newspaper — with limited experience, no examples of my work and no idea what I was getting myself into.

I left with a sports assignment.

All of a sudden I was in the know. I was talking to Terry Rodgers and Tom Osborne, covering football and volleyball games and getting to spout off in a column each week.

At the time, I was perfectly happy being just a "sports guy" instead of being a part of the big picture at the DN.

I came into the office, wrote my story and left.

What went on after that and in the other sections of the newspaper was beyond me. I didn't consider myself a true journalist or newsperson.

Besides that, the DN never really struck me as a "news" paper. I read the sports section, glanced at the cartoons and struggled through the crossword puzzle.

At the time, sports was the most important thing in the world, Tom Osborne was the most powerful man on campus and I was a minor — yet fulfilled — part of it all.

Only in looking back do I realize what I was missing.

Almost every day, the Daily Nebraskan was offering University of Nebraska-Lincoln students the best campus news coverage. It contained issues and stories important to everyone at UNL, but I was not in on them.

The stories of the regents' mysterious dismissal of former NU president Ronald Roskens passed me by.

The controversy over the firing of a general studies adviser who kept a file on alleged "irregularities" in the treatment of student-athletes came and went.

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property



Issues around the world, across the country and on this campus are shaping the "real world" college students are about to enter. If those future doctors, lawyers and journalists don't know what is going on around them, they are at a serious disadvantage.

The "parking controversy" sparked, burned and blew out on the front pages of that fall's Daily Nebraskan.

But the closest I got to the cover of the newspaper was following the debate that raged on the editorial page over the artistic and creative value of "Jim's Journal" — the paper's daily comic strip.

I went on to cover major football, volleyball and women's basketball games, and I had a good time doing it.

But eventually I caught on to everything I was missing.

The night war broke out in the Persian Gulf, I was at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. While everyone else watched CNN, I saw Sue Hesch lead the Nebraska women's basketball team to a 67-64 win and a share of the league lead.

It kind of put things in perspective. Guard Meggan Yedsena, then a freshman, put it best: "I felt kind of greedy at times."

That night, after I finished my story, I helped out the copy desk by editing stories and writing headlines for a special Desert Storm section.

I ended up a long way from the sports desk.

I became part of the DN "family."

LETTER POLICY
of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's

Suddenly, I was eating, breathing and living the world of journalism.

Working at the Daily Nebraskan has cost me some things, but I have gained a wealth of friends, knowledge and experience. I even learned to read the news pages.

Last year, I paid close attention to the stories and results of the budget cuts that have affected everyone at the university.

I watched carefully as the university selected Graham Spanier to fill the long-empty chancellor's office. I waited as the university failed to replace several interim administrators.

And I lived through the pain and disharmony caused by an act of violence and a picture on the front page of the Daily Nebraskan.

Today, some of the stories have changed, but the DN is still here in the basement of the union.

Issues around the world, across the country and on this campus are shaping the "real world" college students are about to enter. If those future doctors, lawyers and journalists don't know what is going on around them, they are at a serious disadvantage.

And this year the news is too important for anyone to bury his or her head in the Astroturf.

Half a world away, Saddam Hussein continues to defy the world that left him in power in Iraq.

In Houston, President Bush continues to lead a campaign for re-election despite a faltering economy, a broken pledge not to raise taxes, a miserable record on the environment and a vice president who can't spell.

Right here on campus, the university once again must dissect its budget to present a 10 percent cut to Gov. Ben Nelson. And administrative offices remain to be filled with permanent staff members.

I am much more well-versed on the news of the day.

But that isn't to say my roots haven't followed me.

The Daily Nebraskan is striving to patch its differences with the athletic department stemming from incidents last spring.

My roommate, working hard toward law school, is a varsity football player.

And I still read the sports section first.

Hopfensperger is a senior news-editorial major and the editor of the Daily Nebraskan.

name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.