

Daily  
**Nebraskan**  
Editorial Board  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Chris Hopfensperger..... Editor, 472-1766  
Dionne Searcey..... Opinion Page Editor  
Kris Karnopp..... Managing Editor  
Alan Phelps..... Wire Editor  
Wendy Navratil..... Writing Coach  
Stacey McKenzie..... Senior Reporter  
Jeremy Fitzpatrick..... Columnist

EDITORIAL

## Dual careers

UNL steps in to help partners find jobs

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has reached the level of modern society by implementing a program that allows for the best of both worlds.

UNL's dual career program helps partners of prospective faculty find a job at UNL or in Lincoln. The program became official UNL policy July 14. But it came years after it was needed.

One can only wonder how many top-notch employees, namely women, were lost to other universities more in touch with the modern working world.

More than half of the women in the United States are in the labor force. Many professionals are married to other professionals.

Dual career families aren't a new trend. Such families have long been on their way to becoming the "normal" families of the future in the United States.

Married women have the right to pursue a career. They shouldn't have to give up their dreams to follow those of their husbands. Employees shouldn't have to split their families to make enough money to support them. Now at UNL, they won't.

UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier was careful to ensure that no one would be hired because of their spouse's appointment.

"It is not about creating two jobs when there is only one opening," Spanier said. "It is about facilitating the employment of a spouse; it's about caring beyond the 40 or 60 hours (an employee) works for us."

The program will be a tool to recruit ethnically diverse faculty members. It will be an incentive for these employees to stay at this university where the majority of professors are white, middle-class men.

And most importantly, quality employees won't be lost from UNL because of its lack of a dual career system.

## Cookies and cable

Republicans bring up another non-issue

Republicans continue to plug away at the non-issues in this year's presidential election: Bill Clinton's weight, Hillary Clinton's cookies and, now, President Bush's veto of the cable bill that Congress overrode Monday.

The bill requires the Federal Communications Commission to set rates for basic cable service where cable companies have a monopoly, and it enhances competition from other companies that can provide programming similar to cable. It also requires cable companies to negotiate with local broadcasters before carrying their signals.

Some Republicans have accused the Democrats of trying to make the veto of the cable bill an election-year issue intended to make Bush, who had successfully vetoed 35 other bills, look bad.

But the call for increased regulation crossed all party lines. The 74-25 Senate vote to override the veto was identical to the roll call vote to pass the bill last month. The majority included 24 Senate Republicans. The 308-114 House vote was equally one-sided.

"This is an attempt to embarrass the president 30 days before the election," Senate Republican leader Robert Dole said. "That's what this is all about."

Republicans took care of embarrassing Bush themselves by accusing the Democrats of dirty politics. The overwhelming majority in the two votes not only overrode Bush's veto, but it also sent a message to the public that the president is out of touch with what Americans want.

The vote was nothing more than an example of democracy working the way it should: the elected voting in the best interests of those who elected them. It should be left at that.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1992 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. 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 regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish 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.

LETTER POLICY

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others. Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Letters should include the author's 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.



JENNIFER ERNISSE

## Books tell truth about Columbus

Row, Row Your Boat,  
Gently Down the Stream;  
Merrily, Merrily, Merrily,  
Merrily,  
Life is but a Dream.

I wonder if this song could have been brought over by those courageous voyagers of the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria; those brave and timid souls, who under the great Christopher Columbus, set sail across the deep, dark ocean to set foot on vast new undiscovered lands. Christopher Columbus is a true hero without whom America would be an entirely different place.

I used to love Christopher Columbus Day in grade school. Actually, one of my favorite episodes of "The Brady Bunch" centered on Greg filming his family in a rendition of the first Thanksgiving for his history project.

All that great TV sitcom fodder about how the Indians and Pilgrims sat down and ate huge turkeys together. I used to take such pride in my grade school art class projects: my pilgrim hats, my Pintas, my "hand" made Turkeys and especially my coffee-can Indian drums.

History and I grew together quite nicely through the ages just like a faded pair of Levis fits snugly around your thighs. My first A in college was in my freshman honors history course.

It wasn't until my junior and senior years in modern fiction classes that I finally came to know the truth about a voyage 500 years ago. There is a very brilliant and talented author who was highlighted by the professor who taught these two English courses.

The author was Jamaica Kincaid who penned such novels and stories as "Annie John," "Girl" and "Lucy." Kincaid is a native of Antigua, an island in the West Indies, as are her main characters.

She writes coming-of-age stories. In "Lucy," the main character of the story writes a particularly powerful passage about defacing the picture of Christopher Columbus in her history book. Part of Lucy's growing up includes the refutation of the standards and ideals imposed on indigenous people by the white majority.

It was in our discussion of Lucy that I realized the horrible truth about Christopher Columbus and what happened in 1492. The childhood hero became part of an ugly, skewed picture of power, racism and decimation.

So, as I reflect on our upcoming

celebration of Columbus Day on Monday, it is with disdain and disgust.

I think the celebration of Columbus Day is paradigmatic of all the subtle "isms" we have running rampant through our society — racism, sexism, antisemitism, etc. Of course, many people will tell you how far we've come as a society, that we no longer discriminate or deny access to opportunity to minorities. How blind and ignorant they are!

Sometimes I wish I had a time capsule to go back to the 1960s or even to the 1860s to see just how bad it was for minorities.

Some days I really think I would rather have been the totally repressed housewife of the 1900s than the semi-repressed-but-everyone-thinks-I-have-the-same-opportunity-pre-med student of 1992.

I just can't help but feel that overt sexism would have been better than trying to fight covert sexism that is almost impossible to directly, empirically quantify, much less justify to members of the majority.

We, as Americans, pretend we are so progressive in our attempts at multiculturalism and the inclusion of minorities in our education process. Do you think a country trying to imbue multicultural education would purposely, systematically and overtly attempt to promote minority awareness by presenting Christopher Columbus as a hero?

Our educators aren't stating the facts, namely in the form of shocking statistics such as: In 1620, 10 million to 20 million Indians inhabited the United States. In 1900, 250,000 Indians inhabited the United States, most of whom were confined to reservations.

Do you think the vocabulary word for next week in elementary schools could be "genocide" instead of "pilgrim"? This is not an education system we are so anxiously willing to put upon our young students; instead, it is system of perpetuation and proliferation of ignorance and racism.

And it is these little things, like Columbus Day, that matter.

As if this brainwashing of our children is not enough, adults are just as willing a participant in these subtle dynamics of racism.

What government allows this "tradition" of racism to continue in lieu of the hard facts after 500 years? Do we need a holiday that badly? Why is it that Philip Glass' dance piece, "The Voyage," a tribute to Christopher

Columbus and exploration, is appearing in 200 U.S. cities and stars such bankable artists as Twyla Tharp and Mikhail Barishnikov?

You know, there is a reason why Indians are also referred to as Native Americans.

Perhaps it is because THEY LIVED HERE FIRST!

And how did our majority-status ancestors treat them? We hunted the Indians like animals, and if that didn't work, we pushed them onto their own self-contained barren lands to live amidst the extremities of Mother Nature and the cruelties of human nature.

I realize this is not easy to stomach. I realize I am presenting counter-intuitive ideas to the basic, patriotic, non-biased themes most Americans have been raised on. But this is the only way to confront and stymie racism by re-evaluation.

Don't take it for granted that terms like freshman or non-traditional student are the best descriptions for people in such groups, that just because you don't yell out hateful obscenities to persons of a different race that you, therefore, are not racist, and please don't let history's ability to mix perception with reality deter you from finding out the real truth about the holidays you celebrate.

Do something different Monday. Don't celebrate Columbus Day because someone said you had to. If you've thought about it and still want to celebrate Columbus Day, be my guest. But what I hope is that you take an alternate route to celebration.

Write your congressperson a letter saying how our state should follow South Dakota's precedent by not celebrating Columbus Day.

Read "The Red Convertible" by Louise Erdrich, or, better yet, struggle through N. Scott Momaday's brilliant "The Ancient Child." Rent "Dances with Wolves" one more time.

Gain insight into Native American living. Educate yourself. Read and absorb a different culture. Denounce the hatred and perpetuation of racism for us all today, for our children tomorrow and for our country.

With re-evaluation and education, Monday and every day ensuing, we can be better Americans who accept our sometimes sordid past to construct a more harmonious and proud future.

Ernisse is a senior pre-med major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.