

Daily Nebraskan  
Editorial Board  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

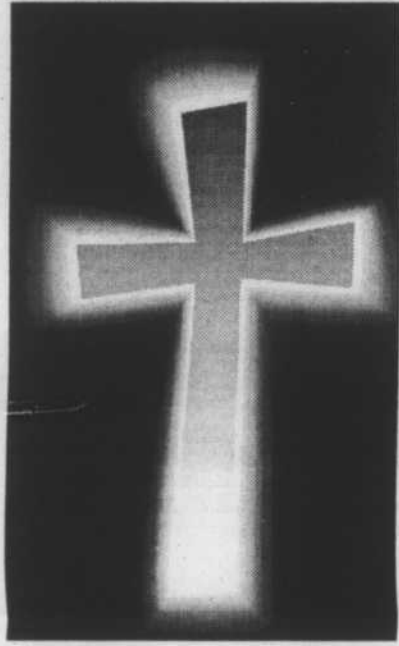
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EDITORIAL

## Against the grain

### ASUN resurrects commencement debate

A recent U.S. Supreme Court decision banned prayer in graduation ceremonies in schools from the elementary to high school levels. More recently, the UNL Commencement Committee decided to eliminate the invocation and benediction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's commencement ceremonies.



The committee's decision — made for a public university — follows logically from the Supreme Court decision regarding other public schools.

Tonight, ASUN senators will defy logic and debate a bill that would ask the committee to go back and reconsider its decision.

The issue was raised in the committee by Herb Howe, UNL associate to the chancellor and a committee member. Howe said he brought it up because of the diverse beliefs and non-beliefs represented by UNL's

graduates.

The Supreme Court decision about the role prayer should play in graduation ceremonies also played a part in raising the issue, Howe said.

"This is an academic exercise," he said. "Let's keep it academic."

But ASUN Speaker of the Senate Andrew Loudon said the prayers were an important tradition in graduation and that the Supreme Court case didn't ban prayer at university ceremonies.

"It's not against the law," Loudon said.

That means nothing.

Fighting words and blatantly racist comments are protected in most places by the freedom of speech. That does not make them right — or excusable.

The existence of prayers at graduation ceremonies goes against the grain of multiculturalism and sensitivity UNL is trying to foster.

Only so many religions could be represented in the invocation and benediction at commencement. Having to choose the representative of one religion over another — no matter how it is done — makes representation of all students impossible. That constitutes discrimination.

For UNL to look over the emotions created by religious differences while it is trying to create peace between students along racial lines would be hypocritical.

Imposing the religion, or a religious speaker, of the majority on the diverse graduating class of UNL should be insulting and offensive to all students.

But Loudon said the ban was not supported by the two committee members from the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln members of the committee. It is unfortunate that ASUN's representatives were less progressive than the other members.

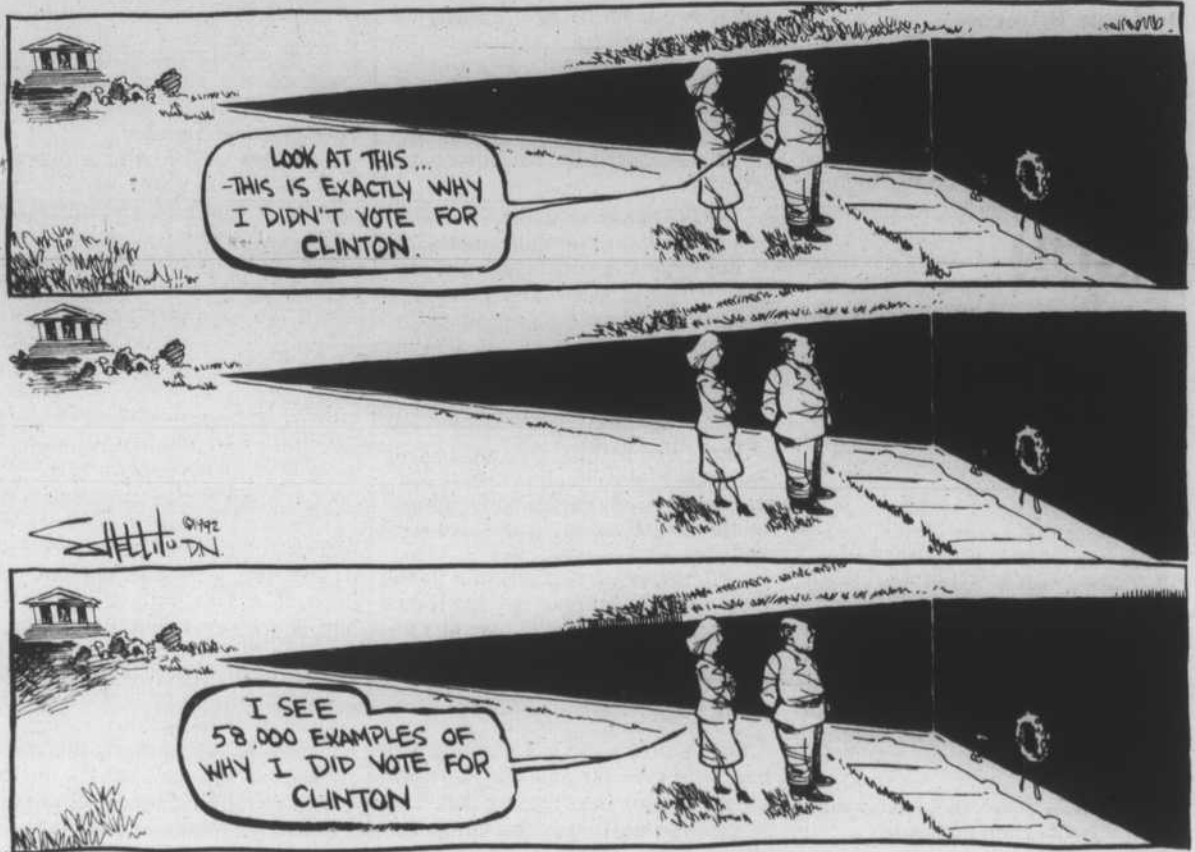
Tonight, when Loudon plans to introduce his bill on emergency status, hopefully the entire group of senators will be more open.

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.



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### UPC response

We're writing in response to the letter to the editor ("UPC," DN, Nov. 9) that comments on University Program Council members leaving in the middle of UPC events. The information in that letter is completely erroneous.

UPC is composed strictly of student volunteers who are the first ones to arrive at a program and the last ones to leave. There has never been a system in place for awarding points for attendance, nor is it necessary.

The committee members are there because they want to be there and enjoy being at the programs. They are true volunteers and should be commended for their hard work and dedication toward providing quality programs for the students at UNL.

The thought that UPC is only a resume stuffer is ludicrous at best. Skills such as leadership, decision making, problem solving and communication are all developed to help students pursue careers in higher education, student affairs and entertainment.

The UPC Executive Council members are more than willing to answer any inquiries about UPC events, but Suzy Beemer jumped the gun and made assumptions based on incorrect information.

We are looking forward to seeing you, Beemer, at future UPC events and hopefully at UPC committee meetings so you will have a better idea of how our organization works and the dedication and passion that goes into each event.

Gary Doyle  
president  
University Program Council

Karen Freimund  
vice president  
UPC

Neither the writer of the article nor Dasenbrock shows any awareness that some people cannot "drag out their cross-country skis . . . to navigate some areas of campus this winter," or that for some people it's not an issue of "wear(ing) proper footwear this winter on all areas of campus" to be able to get around.

Kristin Seacrest  
psychology  
junior

#### Resumé fillers

We have always appreciated the quality and diversity of the classes sponsored by the English department. However, recently we have been treated rudely by a graduate teaching assistant who got up and interrupted our single goal in life — filling our resumé.

We have heard many things about UPC, but credit to attend? What the Sam Hill are you talking about?

As a graduate student, you should be very familiar with research, but I guess you wouldn't receive a good grade for this researched topic because you are completely wrong.

When one criticizes a person or organization, one should know at least a couple of facts before opening mouth and engaging foot.

Although we are not familiar with the event that you are referring to, as hardworking, very-little-gratitude-receiving volunteers who also attend classes, have jobs, do homework, maintain a decent grade point average — or at least make a whole-hearted attempt at it, attend cultural events and juggle these responsibilities, have a social life and be responsible citizens, we resent being labeled resumé fillers.

With the time and effort it takes to program an event for the student body, the least we should be able to do is put it in our resumé. By being UPC chairmen, we are sure that one line on our resumé is going to assure us a six-figure salary upon completion of matriculation at this university.

We will agree with you that some of our comrades are "resumé-stuffing scumbags," but then again almost every organization on this campus has its share of these selfish, egotistical people. But in this white, heterosexual, male, corporate, capitalist society of America, this is the way we are socialized: to be strictly out for self. When you stop being a graduate teaching assistant, will you not put this in your resumé? After all, you have put in countless, tireless hours to earn that line in your resumé.

David L. Rabe  
chairperson  
UPC Major Concerts

Angela T. Green  
chairperson  
African-American Special Events

Barbara DiBernard  
associate professor of English  
director, women's studies



David Badders/DN

#### Calendar errors

I realize the Daily Nebraskan is not a professional newspaper and that its readers are therefore expected to overlook an occasional error. Recently, however, I have been appalled by the lack of attention paid by your staff to the movie theater listings at the end of the weekly Diversions section. Just in the Oct. 22 issue there were a total of 25 errors, not only simple typographical errors in show times, but in the actual movies listed.

Movie-goers are not the only ones affected by this blatant apathy toward simple investigation. When people go to the trouble to go out to a movie and find the movie they had planned to see is not showing, they automatically take their anger out on the theater employees. Not only is this unfair to the employees who are not responsible for the error, but it also harms the theaters themselves by causing more people to choose to rent rather than go out.

All it would take to print the correct information would be a simple phone call or even a walk downtown. How is it that these mistakes still make it into the paper week after week? A simple typo once in a while

#### 'Ablest implications'

I was alarmed by the ablest implications of an article about budget cuts ("Budget cuts to leave snow on some paths," DN, Nov. 3.)

I hope that Bud Dasenbrock, director of landscape services at UNL, and others who decide which sidewalks at UNL will not be cleared of snow this winter because of budget cuts will be consulting students, faculty and staff with disabilities so that all buildings will be accessible to them after snowstorms.