

Daily
Nebraskan
Editorial Board
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jeremy Fitzpatrick Editor, 472-1766
Kathy Steinauer Opinion Page Editor
Wendy Mott Managing Editor
Todd Cooper Sports Editor
Chris Hopfensperger Copy Desk Chief
Kim Spurlock Sower Editor
Kiley Timperley Senior Photographer

EDITORIAL

Out of focus

UNL must turn its attention to academics

The end of the spring semester provides a perfect time to look back on past accomplishments. But few of those with serious investment in UNL can look back over the last semester and feel that anything worthy of pride has been accomplished.

The semester got off to a bad start when NU President Martin Massengale announced his plans to not seek an extension of his contract when the speculation emerged that the NU Board of Regents was unsatisfied with his performance. The slow pace of the regents have dealt with selecting a new president is indicative of their overall poor performance this semester.

But UNL suffered its largest setback when the Nebraska Legislature announced plans to cut the University of Nebraska's budget by nearly \$14 million. The Legislative Appropriations Committee eventually cut that in half, with UNL expected to take a \$3.5 million cut.

UNL cannot be expected to excel and improve with substantial budget cuts and the loss of such important benefits as the Writing Lab and the Academic Success Center. Without programs like these, UNL will be passed over by prospective students in favor of schools that have more to offer than cut programs and tuition increases.

Even UNL sports programs fell victim to controversies, with recent debate over student seating at Memorial Stadium. Not only does the university plan to cut student academic benefits, but by moving the student section, it is taking away the fun of attending home football games as well.

From budget cuts to regents' infighting, from conflicts with the Creighton baseball program and Republicans vying for positions in Young Democrats, the past semester at UNL was one full of debates, shaky futures and regret. UNL's focus needs to return to one of academic excellence and commitment.

Come together

Bosnian conflict needs cooperative effort

The United States is teetering on the edge of the abyss that is the former Yugoslavia. If we are not careful, we could fall in.

Saturday, President Clinton moved closer to committing U.S. troops to halting the war in Bosnia. He dispatched Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Europe to seek allied support for possible military action to stop Serbian attacks in Bosnia.

Christopher said Clinton had decided on the direction that he believed the United States and the international community should take.

"This direction involves a number of specific recommendations, including military steps," Christopher said.

President Clinton is right to act on the Bosnian crisis. The rapes, ethnic cleansing and slaughter there must be stopped. To do nothing would be silent acceptance of the atrocities that resemble a Europe of 50 years ago.

But Clinton must also be very careful of taking military action to end the war. Yugoslavia is not the open desert of Iraq. It is a conflict much more similar to Vietnam.

The only way to resolve the Bosnian conflict is through a multinational effort. The United States cannot do it alone. If President Clinton attempts to, he will bog the United States down in a conflict with no end in sight.

Working together with the United Nations in a shared effort, the United States can help bring justice to Bosnia. Working alone, it can only guarantee many American lives will be lost.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1993 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

The Ideal

Thank you, Jeremy Fitzpatrick, for the editorial (DN, April 27, 1993). The appearance of *The Ideal* must have caused considerable consternation at the Daily Nebraskan's basement den, for the paper's very existence is proof of your failure to accurately and impartially represent all views present at this university. After a hard day's study at the Law Library, your hilarious inability to draft a coherent response to the DN's recent loss of ideological monopoly on this campus really lifted my spirits.

For a first edition, *The Ideal* is actually quite good. Unlike your own state-supported publication, it was the result of hard work and personal dedication by a small number of students who overcame funding challenges, computer crashes and time shortages to get a new newspaper off the ground. As a first effort, it can only improve, but your criticism fell into exactly the trap you mock in your new rival: the substitution of ideology for analysis.

First, you attempt to marginalize the opposition by categorizing them as "ultra-conservatives." I know several of them and can attest that their views are far more representative of Nebraskans in general than are either yours or your paper's. The first edition was indeed stronger on rhetoric than on insight. Unlike the DN, however, *The Ideal* states its editorial bias right on the masthead. As champions of reason, they can be expected to improve in this respect, while I have waited in disappointment for two years for your paper to do so.

Peter Szczepanski
second-year law student

Republicans

Oh, the truth does sting! My reference to the College Republicans' heist of the Young Democrats' election as a dirty trick, in keeping with the sorry record of the Republican Party in national politics, certainly pricked some thin Republican skin.

One should not be so surprised at the outpouring of convoluted protests from College Republicans. But the defense of such actions by the executive director of the state Republican Party, Philip Young, is another matter. We should be able to expect greater wisdom and ethical judgment from the spokesperson of the state party.

Instead, we get a lamentable defense of lying, deception and misrepresentation. You guys just don't get it! Fair play and following the rules are essential for civil society and democratic politics. Regrettably, such things appear to have little meaning for you.

Mr. Young's statements do far more than could I to prove the truth of my original characterization of this episode.

Bill Avery
political science professor
faculty adviser, Young Democrats



James Mehlsing/DN

Free airfare

In response to Shawn Traudt (DN, April 29, 1993), we would like to take you up on your offer. We have come to the conclusion that you are right when you say "it's only a matter of time" before the United States entirely joins the conservative movement. And Shawn, we believe that you are true to your word when you say, "Give me a call and let me know how much you need for airfare to the liberal country of your choice." We would like a total of nine one-way tickets to Zurich, Switzerland. We have taken the liberty of calling some of the airlines so as to quote you an estimated price range.

Knowing that you are price-conscious, we can probably agree that the nine of us will be flying TWA for a total of \$10,062. Don't worry about it, Shawn, coach seating is fine. However, we will need that free ride to the airport that you promised.

One quick side note: Mr. Kepfield, we advise you to be wary of the people participating in conservatism. If all conservatives are as generous to others as Shawn, the movement will soon be stalled due to lack of operating funds. So heed our warning about the people you admit to your little club, because as John Stuart Mills once said, "Not all conservatives are stu-

pid, but most stupid people are conservatives."

Mike Brox
senior
finance

Karl Souders
sophomore
arts and sciences

Retraction

I wish to state that no official connection exists between the Nebraska Chapter of Delta Upsilon Fraternity and Students for America. While some members of our chapter are active in SFA, most do not necessarily endorse or support that group, its ideology, or its newspaper, *The Ideal*.

Steve Parde
chapter president
Delta Upsilon

Numbers

For many people, comfort can be found in numbers. Gary Young (DN, April 26, 1993) seemed to have taken a sigh of relief when he read conflicting reports concerning the number of homosexuals in the United States. I find it surprising that you are so proud to pick up the oriflamme of this new study as quickly as you discredited the old one. Where is the importance in the numbers? Does not one single gay American deserve the full inalienable privileges that any citizen does? Does not 1 percent of the population, roughly 2.5 million people, deserve equality of opportunity and the right to pursue happiness? I hope, Mr. Young, that you pursue a challenging career in law, but you will never earn one if you do not accept equality under the law. Justice is blind, but I fear you might be peeking just a bit.

Kevin Oliver
UNL alumna

Military

If we're so concerned with military efficiency on the combat field that we won't allow homosexuals in combat, then why do we allow military personnel to smoke and drink? I would find the efficiency argument more convincing if we were taking other steps to ensure that our military was in shape and ready for combat. I find it very disturbing that a smoker or a soldier with a hangover is supposed to protect me. Requiring military personnel to take care of their bodies would far outweigh any ill effects that could result from a homophobic soldier in the foxhole; and besides, isn't the bigoted soldier the problem and not the homosexual?

Paul Koester
senior
agronomy