

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"My first year in college was the first time I did homework. I didn't want to be considered as a dumb jock. I was supposed to flunk out. I was supposed to be digging ditches in Norfolk. But I knew I could beat it. I'm not the sharpest knife in the drawer, but I'm not the dumbest guy on the block, either."
— Former Nebraska football player Kevin Raemakers, who serves as a fund-raiser for Nebraska athletics.

"I'm glad there's a law finally in place. Things like this will hopefully never happen again."
— Jim Knoll, father of Jeffrey Knoll, approving of Nebraska's new anti-hazing law.

"It was never my intent to destroy a library. The last thing in the world I would want is to destroy a library."
— Fort Worth, Texas, disc jockey A.W. Pantoja, who incited people to storm the Fort Worth Public Library by announcing he had hidden \$10,000 in the books. Several thousands of dollars in damage was done to the library.

"You are so far ahead of the horse, you are ridiculous. You're making people choose whether they want to choose or not."
— Tom Sires, University of Nebraska-Lincoln engineering professor, telling the Academic Senate what he thought of a resolution spelling out faculty concerns about establishing an independent engineering college in Omaha.

"We all pick up tabs. I'll carry this one to my grave."
— Harry A. Blackmun, retiring Supreme Court justice and author of *Roe vs. Wade*, remembering the case that made him the most vilified Supreme Court member in history.

"We'll get through this if everybody will just stay calm and let the market work itself out."
— President Clinton, seeking to soothe the nation's nervousness about the stock market.

"From growing up in the Midwest, you can do anything you want. That's the way we were raised. Nebraska has an ethic about it. Here's the job. Get the job done. Now go play."
— Nebraska native and UNL alumna Sandy Veneziano, production designer for *"Star Trek: The Next Generation The Movie."*

"We have bad seats, and now we have to pay \$20 more for them. We feel like we're getting shafted."
— Association of Students of the University of Nebraska president Andrew Loudon.

"You still, bottom line, get to the question: 'How are we going to pay for it?'"
— Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., on health-care reform.

"Where's Ben been? He comes in, talks for 15 minutes, then he goes back to his office."
— Republican gubernatorial candidate Gene Spence

"Every time I vote, we win."
— Vice President Al Gore, joking about his tie-breaking vote in the Senate on President Clinton's budget.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1994 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

English courses

I'm writing in response to Jim Rose's April 1 letter concerning the quality of composition courses at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. That was an April Fool's joke, right? Tell me so, please.

It is true that much freewriting is done in English composition courses, but to not give yourself (or others) enough credit for your ideas, lumping it all under the label of "trash" for any ideas that result, is a real shame. Some great ideas come from all of this.

Freewriting has proved to be a very useful tool in generating ideas for writing, much like brainstorming with yourself. Most of the greatest writers on the planet use this technique to help themselves write, so it would seem to be useful for you, too.

As for your criticism of what occurs in workshops or small groups, why does he assume that all the burden lies on the teacher? Is it the instructor's fault that students are too undisciplined to stay on task? I think not.

Too many students just don't give a damn, put no effort into classes, do poorly and then blame the instructor.

That dog doesn't hunt. We are talking about college students who are choosing to be here.

If we are going to place blame, let's place it in the proper place — on the students. We are adults and need to take responsibility for our own actions.

Rose's letter makes it sound like his teachers actually had the unmitigated gall to make him responsible for his own education, rather than spoon-feeding him.

This also holds true on his point about evaluations. If one were to grant — not that I do — his premise that teachers don't try to push students because they will get bad evaluations, is this the fault of the instructors? No, just as in the world of broadcasting, one will do what is necessary to keep his job.

However, I don't even grant the premise that instructors are really teaching based on student evaluations. Most administrators can tell the difference between the evaluation of a disgruntled student who is just mad because the teacher made him or her

work and the evaluation of someone who truly had a problem.

The amount of effort that it takes to teach a workshop class is also evidence that instructors are trying to help students learn, in spite of themselves.

It is far easier for the instructor to assign some lame book on "how to write," lecture every day, assign a paper every two or three weeks, grade the papers and start the cycle over again than it is for the instructor to



James Mehling/DN

guide 20 students on 20 different works in 20 different stages of development at a given moment in time.

It takes vastly greater preparation, patience and ability to do more than what Rose seems to want — the lecture classroom. This also requires that the student take responsibility and do some work.

As to his final assertion that UNL is a "brain-dead party school where you go to screw around," I feel sorry

for him. If that is what he is getting out of it, then what he is putting into it must be equally, or more, pathetic.

You reap what you sow. It hasn't always been easy, but I'm reaping a good education.

If students here are not happy with the composition courses, then the students need to put more effort into the courses. I've found the teachers, especially the English faculty, to be the ones who truly are seeking new ways to improve their teaching and help their students.

However, all the new ideas, creativity and enthusiasm still can't make someone who doesn't want to learn do so.

James Finley
English education
senior

Stereotypes

I enjoyed the article by Paula Lavigne that recounted the successful career of Sandy Veneziano as a production designer and Veneziano's gracious references to her teachers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (DN, April 6, 1994). Unfortunately, my pleasure in hearing this good news was disturbed by what is most likely a minor part of the story.

Nevertheless, I think it is far from trivial and that it requires a comment.

Veneziano was apparently talking of her experiences with people from large cities who hold "Nebraska stereotypes."

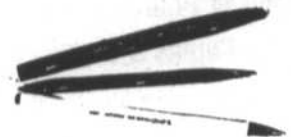
"Some of them still think there are still Indians and no toilets," she said "but that's only from people who haven't been there."

When responding to those who may not be knowledgeable about Nebraska, I believe it is important to recognize the four Native American nations that are our direct neighbors: the Omaha, Ponca, Santee and Winnebago. The people of these four sovereigns and other indigenous peoples are a substantial and fruitful part of Plains culture. They struggle every day for their existence as political sovereigns and human beings.

There are still Indians; they endure and flourish.

John Rockwell Snowden
professor
law

P.S. Write Back



The Daily Nebraskan wants to hear from you. If you want to voice your opinion about an article that appears in the newspaper, let us know. Just write a brief letter to the editor and sign it (don't forget your student ID number) and mail it to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 'R' Street, Lincoln, NE 68858-0488, or stop by the office in the basement of the Nebraska Union and visit us. We're all ears, so pick up a pen and write.