

Daily Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"If I have to do this one more time, I'm going to commit suicide."

— Lisa Cardillo, Missouri flood victim, after accepting a ride with her three young daughters on a fire department boat.

"I honestly don't know."

— Lt. Gen. Richard Keller, responding to questions about what threat might have been posed by two U.S. helicopters that were mistakenly shot down over Iraq by U.S. warplanes. Twenty-nine people died in the accident.

"There are positive and negative role models, and each of you needs to be a positive one. Role models — if you're one, God bless you. If you're not, become one."

— Gale Sayers, NFL Hall of Fame running back, addressing 152 student-athletes at the Nebraska Student-Athlete Academic Awards Banquet.

"We do not do anything to hook smokers or keep them hooked. We no more manipulate nicotine in cigarettes than coffee makers manipulate caffeine."

— James Johnson, chairman and chief executive of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., testifying before Congress.

"All I know about Whitewater is what I read in the papers, so I don't understand it."

— Humorist Garrison Keillor

"It will be exciting for me to do something else for a year. I'm going to be 67 in June, you know. That's not a kid. I want to finally enjoy some things I'd like to do."

— Retiring Iowa State basketball coach Johnny Orr

"The implication of your remarks, sir, is that ... I should stop being president and do my homework on this issue."

— President Bill Clinton, responding to a newspaper editor on a Whitewater question.

"Are we not still confronted each day with issues of equality, justice, compassion, sensitivity, tolerance and understanding?"

— Graham Spanier, UNL chancellor, speaking at a Holocaust commemoration at the State Capitol.

"It's important to help individuals understand that school is cool."

— Ben Nelson, Nebraska governor, before proclaiming April 11 as School is Cool Day.

"Whenever we find out about something like this, it's a done deal. I don't have any specific plan of action because I haven't got all my questions answered. They (the Parking Advisory Committee) did a pretty slick packaging job."

— Andrew Loudon, ASUN president, explaining why ASUN could do little about parking fee increases.

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

Double standard

In a dichotomous culture (oppressor/oppressed; dominant/minority) such as ours, a problem isn't perceived as being real unless the dominant group has affirmed its validity. As much as this is upsetting Kimberly Spurlock (DN, April 13, 1994), that is part of the essential nature of oppression systems.

This in no way requires you to lower your professional standards. Quite the opposite. Members of the target groups must be better at what they do than their non-target group peers to be considered "almost as good."

Nanci Rivenburg
senior
biology

Apology

"A leader admits his mistakes and accepts responsibility for them." Michelle Steinauer, I couldn't agree with you more. In response to your letter to the editor on April 14, I must confess that the reason Andrew Loudon has not mailed the required letters resides in the Electoral Commission. It is the commission's responsibility to provide him with a list of individuals to write to, and the commission has yet to do this.

While no good reason exists for this delay, mitigating circumstances such as the disbanding of the 1993-94 Electoral Commission, spring break and services I have been asked to provide in other campus elections have contributed to the delay.

In fact, Loudon has asked me for this list of names on at least three occasions. I shall do everything in my power to move this process forward, and you shall receive your letter within the next week.

As a leader in the election process, I accept responsibility for this delay in action, and I apologize for any trouble this may have caused you.

Mark A. Byars
Association of Students of the
University of Nebraska Electoral
Commission Director

Objectivity

In response to Kimberly Spurlock's column (DN, April 13, 1994):

Any writer should realize that what they write may be influenced by their own opinion and view. Objective writing can be ensured only if it is done by a party not involved in the issue at hand. An article about discrimination should not be written by a person who discriminates or is discriminated against.

The above statement is also true for any other kind of reporting or

writing.

The fact that a white person produced and reported a video that showed the opinions of several black students on campus (to show how black students on campus feel) is more believable, not because the person was white, but because this person was — as an objective viewer — more likely to present the truth unchanged by their opinion or experiences.

Billy Pettijohn
sophomore
computer engineering



Amy Schmidt/DN

Parking fuss

First I was surprised, and now I'm annoyed with all this fuss about parking at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Every day I use the remote lots, and it is extremely rare not to have a parking spot waiting for me. What is the stigma attached to remote parking? So what if it takes five or 10 extra minutes to get to where you need to go? It takes that long to walk from the more expensive lots.

A parking garage is a stupid, expensive idea. This town has enough ugly concrete buildings.

To solve this thing, we're going to have to compromise. We should all consider remote parking when we buy our permits for the fall, and if these lots become insufficient, they should be expanded. Simple solutions are out there. Quit complaining and take advantage of them.

Scott Ferguson
sophomore
Spanish and English

English reform

In response to the ongoing debate about English composition courses at UNL:

I am a double major in English and history. I have taken all levels of

composition courses and have also found them to be "easy A" courses.

In English 254, I asked to be taught formal writing that would help me improve my history papers. I found it hard to believe that as I received A's in English courses, my history professors were giving me B's because of my poor sentence structure, awkward style and poor editing skills — even though I worked harder on my history essays than I did on my English essays. I can't be the only person with this problem.

Why isn't the English department giving students the skills they will need in their future jobs and their other courses? I am still using the same formal writing techniques that I learned in high school for my college classes. No one has taught me anything different in the English department. Yet my history classes of the same level expect better writing.

I believe the solution to this frustrating situation is to reform the curriculum of English composition classes.

Jackie Purvis
junior
English and history

Spurlock

Kimberly Spurlock (DN, April 13, 1994) concludes her column on racism, "... would you refuse to listen to my story because I am black? If your answer is yes, I suggest you dig your own grave, because you are already dead and need to lie in it."

Is a dead person still a human being or just an object? The worst criminals recognized by society are still human beings. Even Hitler was a human being.

No matter what a person's views are, he or she is still to be considered a living human being, worth treating with all the dignity and consideration due a fellow human being. Any other assumption may open the door to conduct inconsistent with decent society.

Another point: you can't listen to a dead person. Spurlock said, "My columns are written from my perspectives — my truths." Can it be assumed that someone else's perspective, however racially insensitive, is also their "truth"? Personally, I am uncomfortable applying the word truth randomly.

For instance, I see little recognizable truth in Hitler's perspective. Whether your discussion partner is speaking truth or not, you still must listen. You can't be heard unless you will also listen.

Robert J. Tobin
graduate student
geology