

Daily Nebraskan

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EDITORIAL

Two steps back

Loss of men's gymnastics solves nothing

The University of Nebraska has won 10 national titles in its history.

Two were in football, in 1970 and 1971. The other eight — all in the past 15 years — have come under the guidance of Francis Allen, Nebraska's men's gymnastics coach.

After a gutsy performance by Nebraska's four seniors and three underclassmen, Allen got his eighth title Saturday.

But it may be his last.

At this year's convention, the NCAA passed Proposal 158, which states a sport must have 40 schools in it to remain a sanctioned sport.

Only 36 schools have men's gymnastics teams.

That means, after the completion of next season, men's gymnastics will more than likely become extinct as a championship sport.

"For this team's legacy to continue, the sport needs to continue," Allen said. "They did their part. Now I need to do my part."

Allen has a tough task ahead.

He has said Proposal 158 is just another prong in the process of achieving gender equity, but cutting a low-cost, low-numbers sports like men's gymnastics does little to achieve gender equity.

It doesn't accomplish anything, except eliminate a sport that epitomizes the combination of power and grace.

The NCAA seems bound and determined to achieve gender equity — no matter the cost.

Gender equity is an admirable goal. But the concept was designed to create opportunities for women, not destroy them for men.

Proposal 158 should be repealed at next year's convention. Otherwise, the NCAA will be eliminating a lot more than just another sport.

"It will be a darn shame if the NCAA discontinues these championships," Ohio State coach Peter Kormann said, "because the gymnastics you saw out here was on par with world-class competition."

"You don't get that in any other NCAA sport."

OTHERS' VIEW

Last month, a federal judge correctly stopped the warrantless gun searches taking place in Chicago public housing departments. U.S. District Judge Wayne Anderson said violating the constitutional rights of residents was more frightening than the guns themselves.

Violence during the summer led to the Chicago Housing Authority's decision to request that police conduct random, door-to-door gun searches. The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit on behalf of the residents, arguing that people retained their constitutional rights while living in public housing.

Violent crimes committed with guns are a terrible problem, not only in the projects but also in society in general. More than 300 episodes of gunfire took place in the Robert Taylor Homes project during a five-day period last summer.

But the search of households without a warrant is unconstitutional.

No matter how worthy the desired end, we should not condone the suspension of constitutional rights for any group. Low-income people already suffer too many assaults on their human dignity. The upholding of their constitutional rights should be applauded.

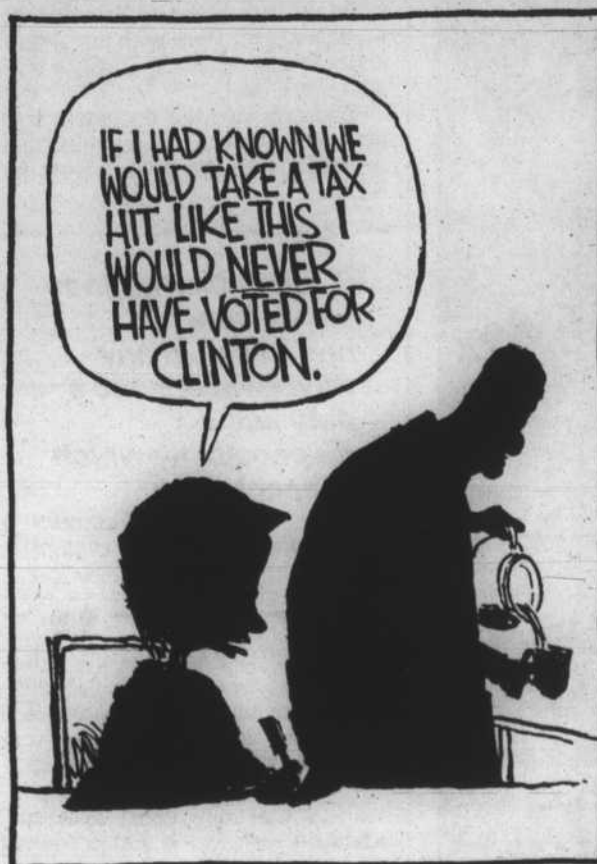
— University Daily Kansan
University of Kansas

EDITORIAL POLICY

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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

Spanier

I must agree with Regent Robert Allen in regard to Chancellor Graham Spanier and his agendas. I find nothing wrong with Allen coming out into the open with his letter.

Just as many campus organizations come out publicly to decry what they perceive to be problems on campus and with the school's administration — or to bleed over multicultural hiring or gay rights, etc. — Allen merely puts the issue into the public arena and allows us all to discuss Spanier's policies.

What the state needs is excellent institutions of higher education and the ability to retain these trained graduates in the state to attract business and to expand the state's prosperity.

Instead, the current administration has involved itself with gay rights, despite the relatively low gay population on campus, and it has been embroiled in the Mexican American Student Association boycott over hiring in the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs (an ironic twist if ever one could be found) and an agenda to undermine the learning atmosphere for the sake of political correctness and, quite frankly, socialism.

There is nothing wrong with multiculturalism itself, but what is needed before a multicultural education is an education in the basics and in the areas pertinent to succeeding in the job market.

I applaud Allen for having the courage to come forward and express his concerns, which do not simply translate into his own self-aggrandizement, and for involving us all in this discussion and for opening the door for many of us to voice our worries.

Jason A. Beineke
Lincoln

Allen

According to the April 20 issue of the Daily Nebraskan, Regent Robert Allen is critical of Chancellor Graham Spanier's "liberal, sociological philosophy" regarding homosexuality.

For centuries our world has lived without tolerance and acceptance. Numerous wars have been fought for hatred. We cannot possibly understand love and acceptance, because we are a fighting breed. If I do not like my neighbor, I can claim he is a Jew, a wetback or a fag.

I can even say it in such a manner as to make being one of those things seem bad, even evil. Spanier is breaking tradition — a long tradition of hate and ignorance. Obviously Allen believes the world does not need to be a better place, just the same place.

Certainly Allen is correct in sending his views to The Lincoln Star. Of course, when Allen criticized another

university official for answering a reporter's question regarding a separate engineering college for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, that was a different story.

According to Allen, that man was wrong to share his views, because such matters are private. Speaking to the papers is a right reserved to Allen.

Stephanie Call
sophomore
education



'Sheer horror'

When I walked out of Selleck Residence Hall April 23, I was mortified to see the American flag by the Nebraska Union still at full mast. Never before have I gazed in sheer horror at such a blatant disrespect for human life.

I found out about former President Richard Nixon's death at 9:11 p.m. on April 22. The flag should have been at half-staff by 9:15 that same night.

I expected the uninterested and uncaring comments I received from my fellow students about Nixon's death. I did not expect the same from this university.

It does not take much for a person to get off their lazy butt and go lower a flag. This "it can wait until morning" attitude displayed by the university ridicules this entire nation and everything it stands for.

I am utterly repulsed by this apathy. Perhaps if Nixon had made a large financial contribution to this university, the flag would have been lowered that night.

If the University of Nebraska-Lincoln wishes to show disrespect for the dead, then it should be done behind closed doors.

So, go ahead UNL, take your time getting that flag down. It was around 11 a.m. when you finally got to it.

This university disgusts me. Our former commander in chief deserves better than this. But then, what more

can I expect from a university in Nebraska?

Scott Knutson
freshman
English

Beef

In response to Jim Anderson's April 21 letter dealing with the vegetarian lifestyle: Distorting the facts about beef production is a sad way to make a point.

Approximately 50 percent of all land in the United States is devoted to grazing. Of the land being grazed, 85 percent is too high, rough, dry or wet to be farmed. By not using animals as a harvesting tool, more than 1 billion acres of grazing lands would be wasted and would not serve to lessen the world's hunger.

There is no basis for the argument that much of the grain fed to cattle could be used to feed the world's population. Today, the United States alone has grain surpluses that could feed the world's population. The problem is not of supply but of distribution. Starvation is often the result of poverty, political pressures or deficient infrastructures of stricken countries.

The cow's impact on grain supplies is also minimal. Most of the grain fed to a cow comes in the last 90-120 days prior to slaughter. At least 85 percent of the nutrients a cow consumes in its lifetime come from nongrain sources that are not suitable for human consumption.

In addition, the impact of beef production on the environment is overstated. It is estimated from scientific research that only 6 percent of all land converted from forest is ever used for grazing. Arguing that grazing causes soil erosion is contradictory to the principals of sound range management, which are based upon the use of grass and other perennial crops to hold the soil.

The estimation that it takes 2,500 gallons of water to produce a pound of meat is severely overstated. Current estimates of 200 gallons of water per pound of meat are used for the production of grain-fed beef. For all beef (not just feedlot-fed beef) the average is much lower. Most of the water consumed by the animal is not "used up" but is recycled as a part of the natural hydrological cycle — as are most of the so-called "pollutants" in the beef industry.

What we choose to eat is a personal choice. However, trying to force or persuade people to choose a vegetarian lifestyle by guilt and misrepresentation of the facts is irresponsible.

Brett Kirch
Daren Redfearn
Rob Mitchell
graduate students
range and forage sciences