

MICHELLE PAULMAN

# ASUN action is wake-up call

If I died today, I think my family and friends would prefer to bury me in my car — or at least make it into a memorial shrine.

That would save them from having to clean it out.

At last glance, my car contained a ton of soda cans, a coat hanger, a coat, five phone books from different cities, seven maps from different states, two dozen cassettes, two dozen used AA batteries, half a quart of oil, a gallon of antifreeze and several garbage bags, which obviously were not serving their purpose.

That's just what's visible.

Then there's the empty refried-bean can under my seat.

How a bean can got in my car is a mystery to me. I opened the door one day, and there it was. Its top was wide open, as if to say "Hi, slob."

There were no tortilla packages or corn chip bags, not even a spoon. I don't remember ever eating plain ol' refried beans with my hands while on the road. I could have put the whole can on a stick, frozen it and eaten a beancicle — less messy and almost as tasty.

Just having an empty bean can in my car is one thing. Letting it stay there for three weeks is a testament to my sloppiness.

Maybe I'll finally pitch the bean can. Or maybe not. That can is more familiar to me than things around campus.

This place has just gone to heck in a handbasket since I left.

Those kooky university folks have planted grass over a perfectly good parking lot. Now, I love grass as much as the next gal, but whoever designed this green space must believe the best way to get from Bancroft Hall to the Nebraska Union



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is by way of Bangladesh. If I wanted to explore meandering paths, I'd go to East Campus.

● With impersonal, computerized enrollment, future generations will miss out on the thrill of trying to guess how the little old ladies will mispronounce their names at drop/add.

● Richards Hall still is standing, but only because of Silly Putty.

● The Lied Center for Performing Arts still is standing, but only because paying the cost of destroying it would require twice as many ticket sales as it currently generates.

● Memorial Stadium still is standing.

● DaVinci's is not standing. Perhaps if they had served refried beans ...

● Heiress to "The King," Lisa Marie Presley, has wed pop icon and bean tycoon Andrew Loudon.

When it comes to beans, no one knows less than the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

In case you don't recall, ASUN pulled a hostile takeover of the University Program Council last spring. Even I heard about it, and I was in Europe.

If you pay any attention to posters in the union, the Daily Nebraskan classified ads, residence hall bulletin boards or anything beyond the end of

your nose, you know that UPC provides this university with a diverse mix of entertaining and educational programs. Sure, they may not appeal to everyone, but neither do fraternity keggers.

Loudon and ASUN say they want to hold UPC accountable for the funds it receives from students. This would be a noble idea if ASUN truly represented the students of this campus. But ASUN is full of resume stuffers who can — by any means necessary — garner enough votes to win.

Student government on this campus has become as ugly and rotten as a big pile of beans under the front seat of a small car on a hot summer day. Moan all you like, but the problem will not go away until you do something about it. Maybe this UPC quandary is the wake-up call we need to change things around here.

I, for one, am tired of being on the outside of my university looking in, but come election time this year, I will be miles away from here, my diploma flapping in the breeze.

That doesn't mean there will still be beans under my seat.

Paulman is a senior news-editorial and history major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

MATTHEW WOODY

# UNL changes — or maybe not

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Monday brought with it the first day of classes at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Campus was abuzz. Bookstores were crowded, classes were full, and freshmen were lost.

Despite the many tell-tale signs of the beginning of yet another school year, those of us who've been here awhile know much is different at UNL this August.

For the first time ever, students can ride Lincoln's StarTran buses for free — thanks to a \$228,000 contract with the university. According to StarTran, more than 2,000 passengers rode the buses Monday with a UNL pass. All a student has to do is flash his ID card and bus pass and BAM!! — have a seat. Not a bad deal.

Except, of course, for the fact that the university (translation: the students) is paying for this service.

Mike Cacak, manager of transportation services at UNL, said the stash of cash for busing came from last year's parking budget.

Hmmm. I can buy that. But, why then were the substantial increases in parking permit fees needed?

Perhaps to pay for the new parking garage that won't be built. Last spring, university officials hastily came up with a plan to build a garage smashed between the Nebraska Union and Alpha Phi Sorority. Unfortunately, it took whining from sorority alumnae before they realized the impracticality of that location.

Where should the university build a parking garage? The best spot would be just east of the Temple Building at 13th and R streets. But that would interfere with the proposed "gateway to campus" park. And campus beautification seems to have priority over parking at UNL.

Which brings up the much-argued and much-completed green space



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north of the Nebraska Union. During the summer, construction crews ripped up an asphalt parking lot and left grass in its place. Environmentalists cheered, and commuters groaned.

I'm all for green space on campus. But I'm more for the idea of "If you're going to do something, do it right." No one seemed to notice that another parking lot still is next to "Spanier's folly."

Or, if Chancellor Spanier was serious about removing campus eyesores, he would do something about Richards Hall.

As of now, I don't have a class in that building this semester. But with the new NRoll system, I can drop and add all this week until my fingers are calloused and numb. Or at least until 6:30 p.m. each day, when NRoll closes. It must get tired or something.

But NRoll definitely is better than the old method of drop/add, which came with Disneyland-length lines. I can even change my schedule in the privacy of my own home. That was the location I chose when challenged to "register for UNL classes from anywhere in the world." Yeah, as if it isn't hard enough to decide which classes to take.

I'm thinking of changing my major to university administration. Obviously, a lot of math isn't needed for that one.

Remember the daVinci's at 13th and Q streets? It's gone. The university, which has owned that plot of land for the last few years, knocked it

down to build an Area 10 parking lot that provides 17 — count 'em, 17 — faculty parking spaces.

Now, I'm no parking crybaby. I do just fine parking in a metered stall or walking to campus. I don't feel sorry for those who have to park in a remote lot and walk a little bit, or for those who can't have a spot right next to their residence hall or greek house. That's life.

But what's worse is that common sense doesn't seem to be a job requirement for university administration. It's no wonder the university is under the state budget ax every two years. I wonder which departments will lose funding next year.

Definitely not the athletic department. It's self-supporting and does a fine job of putting out quality teams in all sports. But not even the athletic department is immune to goofy management.

Athletic Director Bill Byrne has "asked" for a mandatory donation from football and basketball season ticket holders. It's what all the other big schools do. Well, NU shouldn't jump off a cliff because other schools are.

But it's not the end of the world. The Nebraska athletic program will be here long after Bill Byrne, and parking problems will outlast Graham Spanier.

What can you do?

Woody is a senior news-editorial major. He is the Daily Nebraskan arts and entertainment editor and a guest columnist.

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