

OPINION

Wednesday, October 26, 1994

Page 4

Daily
Nebraskan
Editorial Board
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jeff Zeleny Editor, 472-1766
Kara Morrison Opinion Page Editor
Angie Brunkow Managing Editor
Jeffrey Robb Associate News Editor
Rainbow Rowell Columnist/Associate News Editor
Kiley Christian Photography Director
Mike Lewis Copy Desk Chief
James Mehsling Cartoonist

EDITORIAL

Warming up

Student spirit can fuel Homecoming fire

Take the pompons out of your closet, students, and get ready to celebrate Homecoming 1994 and the 200th consecutive NU football sellout.

"Sellout Celebration," the theme of this year's homecoming, officially began Monday, but the festivities are just warming up.

This week, students will have the opportunity to vote for homecoming royalty Wednesday, pump up the football players at a pep rally Thursday and burn some buffalo at the bonfire Friday.

All students will have a chance to show NU spirit this week.

In past years, students have been lax in assembling school spirit in preparation for the Saturday football showdown. Few students attend the pep rally or get involved in the Husker Howl. Instead, some vandalize or destroy the lawn displays built in front of greek houses.

Alumni also have been missing homecoming events. The tradition has disappeared from the week, they believe.

This year students have a chance to change their ways. Students can make homecoming a strong NU tradition again.

School spirit will not be a problem Saturday at the game against Colorado, but let's get an early start this week by participating in homecoming events and showing Husker pride.

OTHERS' VIEW

Misleading information and inaccuracies are the only things to be found in the recent report on military base closings from the Business Executives for National Security.

The report details how 26 of the 67 military bases that were ordered to close in 1988 remain open in some capacity. What it fails to mention is that 13 of the 26 bases are housing new branch offices of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, a department that has shrunk from more than 300 offices in 1988 to less than two dozen today.

This means that the 13 bases were closed, and in fact, the facilities simply are housing other governmental agencies.

The report also fails to take into account the devastating effects a base closing can have on a community. When a base is closed, the government implements programs to help the town adjust, a process that takes time.

And look at the positives. Since 1988, 41 military bases have ceased operation, saving taxpayers millions of dollars. The reduction and relocation of the Defense Finance and Accounting Services branches also saved tax dollars, and it brought jobs to the towns that had the empty base facilities.

Pentagon officials have said that on average, it takes five or six years to close a military base. If it's taking longer than projected in a few cases, fine. At least the intention to cut the spending remains the eventual objective, and in the meantime, people get to keep their jobs.

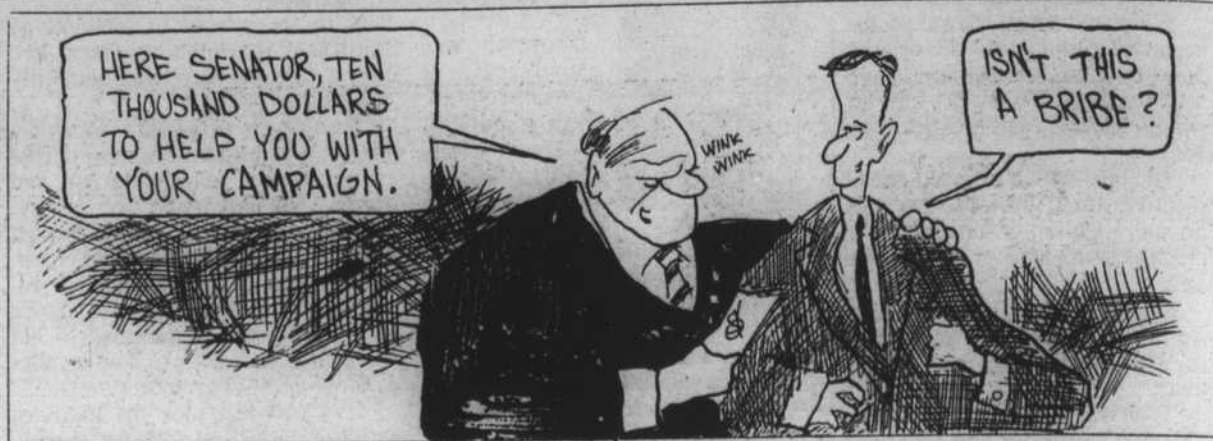
— The Daily Illini
University of Illinois

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 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.

LETTERS 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.



MIKE ROYKO

Toenail clipper cuts off problem

We live in a time of so many amazing high-tech inventions. And I have just happened upon one of the most useful products ever seen.

The way I found it is an interesting story in itself.

I am one of those people who hates to cut his toenails. It is a stressful, acrobatic chore, involving bending, stretching, twisting, grunting and hoisting a stubborn leg onto a sink.

Nature made toenails very thick to allow man to kick smaller creatures, as was his destiny. This makes them difficult to clip.

And if your clipper is sharp enough to do the job, the slivers of toenail can shoot through the air like shrapnel missiles. We can only guess how many people have been scarred for life by their own toenail shards or those of a loved one.

Because of these hazards, I sometimes go long periods of time without clipping my nails. And recently I was walking barefoot through my home when I heard a terrible yowling.

I look down and was shocked to find that I had impaled the cat on my uncommonly long nail.

Deciding it would be bad medical practice to remove the wounded cat from my toenail, I hopped on one foot to the car and raced to an animal clinic. It wasn't an easy drive with a leg sticking out the window, so as not to dislodge the cat.

"You handled it just right," the veterinarian said as he removed the angry creature, stitched its wound and declared it healthy.

Then he chuckled and said: "The same thing happened to me once, except it was a tiny in-law instead of a cat. But since I discovered Easy Hold by Trim, the world's finest toenail clipper, it is no longer a problem. I highly recommend it."

And that's how I bought my own Easy Hold toenail clipper at the corner drug store. A wonderful device that makes clipping one's toenails almost a pleasure.

It is sharp and powerful and has clever thumb and finger grips that prevent slipping. Through extra leverage, it requires so little



"If your clipper is sharp enough to do the job, the slivers of toenail can shoot through the air like shrapnel missiles. We can only guess how many people have been scarred for life by their own toenail shards or those of a loved one."

strength that even an arthritic should be able to hack through the most monstrous nails.

And it somehow gobbles up the clippings. That eliminates the danger of your being wounded by one of those tiny, sharp missiles.

In opening the wrapping it came in, I happened to glance at the printing and saw these words: "Developed in cooperation with the University of Mississippi Medical Center."

I've always been proud that the University of Chicago leads the world in Nobel Prizes, many of them for scientific discoveries. Yet I don't remember ever dashing out and buying something discovered by any of the Nobel Prize winners. I don't even know if their discoveries have made me happier or healthier.

But here we have the far less prestigious University of Mississippi helping create a product that will make life easier for the many millions of us who have toes.

A call to the university put us in touch with the man who invented the amazing Easy Hold — the widely unknown Eric "Ric" Rommerdale, 52, a retired Navy dental lab technician who now runs lab technology at the university's School of Dentistry.

"Well, well, well," he said, "you found me. I usually stay out of the limelight."

(His modesty explains why we have not seen him on "60 Minutes.")

"You really want to talk about this?" he asked.

Of course. There are an estimated 2.5 billion toes in this country. And around the world, I can't even comprehend such a number.

"Well, it isn't that glamorous. In

about 1988, I was getting gas at one of those stop-and-go places that have soda pop and stuff, and I saw this old fella trying to cut his nails. But the thing kept slipping out of his hand. He said: 'I wish someone'd come up with something that'd help me hold onto these things.'

"So I went home and played around with the idea in my workshop. And I finally came up with this thing. I had friends try it, and everybody seemed to like it."

After a while, he called Revlon, the biggest seller of all sorts of nail clippers.

"Some Mr. Vice President told me, 'We're not interested in anything you're doing.'"

Probably some Ivy League guy with an MBA.

So he called the much smaller W.E. Bassett Co., and the president came to see him, looked at his invention, and asked him to redo his entire line of implements — scissors, tweezers and, of course, nail clippers.

Mr. Rommerdale declined to say how much he has raked in since his contribution to gracious living went on sale two years ago. "I'm just a poor retired sailor." But he conceded that he makes 2 percent of the sale royalties.

And he deserves it all for his vision and creativity. The rest of us look at our toes, and what do we see? Just our toes.

He looked and saw his fortune.

"I've done a lot of things," Mr. Rommerdale says, "but I guess this is what I'll be remembered for."

By me, that's for sure. And my cat too.

Copyright 1994 Tribune Media Services, Inc.