

# OPINION

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Daily  
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EDITORIAL

## On the watch

*Allen's criticism responsible, but too loud*

Shortly after 2 p.m. today, fireworks could erupt at the monthly meeting of the Academic Senate.

That is when Regent Robert Allen of Hastings and UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier will take the stage at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education.

It should be interesting to see what, if anything, the two say to each other. It seems when they are on their own turf — 104 miles away from one another — accusations and comments fly freely.

On Dec. 19, Allen wrote a letter to NU President Dennis Smith calling for Spanier's termination. On Dec. 22, Spanier tried to defend himself in a letter to Allen.

Back and forth. Back and forth.

This squabbling has served only one purpose: providing the news media with fodder during an otherwise quiet semester break.

It's no secret that Allen speaks his mind about any — and often every — issue. It's also no secret that Spanier often tends to conduct some of his work behind closed doors.

Both are to blame.

But overall, Chancellor Spanier has been good for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His list of accomplishments goes on and on.

However, putting Allen's stance on social issues behind, his comments also aren't entirely bad for the university. UNL needs a watchdog, even if it does bark too loudly at times.

During Spanier's first two years at UNL, he remained fairly quiet and low-key. But during the last six months, the changes he has made are enough to make one's head spin.

We are certain Spanier generally does what he feels is best for the university and the state, but we cannot take that assumption for granted.

Regent Allen certainly can — and should — keep a watch on all university officials; that is his job.

But he should just bark a little quieter.

## NRoll nonsense

*Inefficiency plagues registration system*

The Fall 1994 semester brought a revolution to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

For the first time ever, students could register, drop and add classes without even getting up off their sofas. The NRoll system — long overdue at a school like UNL — allowed students to avoid the massive lines that once were as much a part of the registration process as bubble sheets and the Nebraska Union ballroom.

But as much of a boon as NRoll is, it reeks of administrative inefficiency.

Last semester, a number of students were dropped from all of their classes after inadvertently pressing a button. The NRoll system was adjusted for a student's verification of such an action.

However, the most inane feature about NRoll is that students can only access it until 6:30 p.m. on Mondays through Saturdays, according to the Schedule of Classes.

During the week when students' class schedules are foremost on their minds, NRoll's hours should be extended for dropping and adding.

Why should an automated registration system be shut down at 6:30 p.m.?

The administration responded once to an NRoll oversight; let's see it happen again.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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MEHSLING - OMS DAILY NEBRASKAN



"JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME".... (AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

## Year in sports not promising

One day through the new year, Nebraska sports fans had to be thinking that 1995 was going to be a great year for sports.

The Nebraska football team ended its bowl jinx and gave Tom Osborne his first national championship.

While the athletes ran across the field at the Orange Bowl, Cornhusker fans ran through the streets of Lincoln, Omaha and other Nebraska towns and released years of pent-up frustration.

Since the win, most fans have had broad smiles showing teeth whiter than their national championship T-shirts.

Fans waiting in line for more souvenirs seem to entertain themselves with their thoughts as their blank stares take them back to the Orange Bowl.

For more than a week, Husker fans have been dazed by the hysteria that has surrounded the national championship.

But fans are completely confused if they think 1995 is going to be a great year for sports.

In fact, 1995 could prove to be the worst sports year since the days of World War II.

The National Hockey League started the new year off on the wrong skate as players and owners rejected offer after offer and hit fans with a slapshot across the face.

The owners set Jan. 10 as the final deadline for the death of the NHL season.

If you're one of the sports fans blinded by the Husker football frenzy, wipe the drool off your chin and check your calendar — the hockey season dies today.

And if you want some even more ominous news, no professional sports league has ever halted play for an entire season and



Jeff Griesch

survived.

The NHL may be gone forever. But what the hell, nobody in Nebraska cares about professional hockey, anyway.

Besides, the NHL season just cuts in on NBA highlights.

But the future of professional basketball is not exactly as clear as the crystal of the Sears Trophy either.

The 1994-95 National Basketball Association season was threatened with a similar fate as hockey, but owners and players swallowed their pride temporarily so they could enjoy a non-competitive sports entertainment market.

But the NBA's problems haven't gone away.

If basketball doesn't get its management and labor problems solved this summer, the players will strike next year and the 1995-96 season may be doomed.

And let's not forget those balking, babbling, babying Major League Baseball buffoons.

After more than four months of pointing fingers, sucking thumbs and crying for their mommies, baseball owners have refused every offer that the players' union has proposed.

The owners keep saying the future of Major League Baseball is in jeopardy unless a salary cap is

imposed and every other unworkable, unattainable, uncontrollable financial plan that the dumb, old men have accepted.

The owners' ultimatum rings of 'My way or the highway,' and the players are beginning to respond.

Shane Mack, one of baseball's best outfielders, has signed to play in Japan next year.

Mack is a proven veteran just entering the prime of his career, and he doesn't want to waste his best years waiting to play.

Hundreds of other free agents are in the same position as Mack, and they may resort to similar measures.

Mack's exodus shows that he and a lot of other big-leaguers have given up hope on starting the 1995 baseball season.

If the players have given up hope, the season will not start. If the owners refuse to give up some of their more ridiculous ideas, more than 100 years of baseball may be washed away.

So that leaves Nebraska sports fans with even fewer sports options than usual.

In 1995, sports fans can count on an anticlimatic Super Bowl, a boring and drawn out NBA Finals and the College World Series.

But with flashbacks of bowl magic and national titles filling their heads, Nebraska sports fans could care less.

They have a title. They have a U-Haul full of memorabilia. They have a great recruiting class to dream about. And they can rest easy at night knowing that spring football is just a little more than two months away.

Griesch is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior sports reporter.

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