

OPINION

Thursday, November 2, 1995

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Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Bret Gottschall/DN

Football ethics

Time to make athletic department liable

This year has been plagued by issues involving the football team. It's no coincidence that the negative attention comes in a year when we are also reigning national champions — the public eye has turned on us in a way we have to get used to.

It looks like Lawrence Phillips will play this weekend, something which should prepare us for another wave of questions and accusations.

And there will be further events and further inquiries — it won't ever end, not unless we start losing.

That's just the way the news is.

Fortunately, we don't stand much of a chance of losing.

So, by way of preparing ourselves for the coming storms, it's time to take a serious look at the way we do things around here.

We need to be able to make an accounting for our actions.

The NU system is really five campuses, not four: UNL, UNO, UNK, UNMC and UNAD — the University of Nebraska Athletic Department.

As long as we were left to ourselves, athletics officials were allowed to pretty much make it up as they went.

They could play it by ear, fly by the seat of their pants.

No more.

What we need at UNAD is accountability — not to some Sunday school teacher ethic, but to boards and review systems and finally to us, the university community.

They are our teams, after all.

No longer can decisions be made without some sort of due process. No more whims of head coaches.

That's not saying anyone but a coach can say who plays when and how much — you can't coach winning teams by committee.

But it does mean that decisions that have nothing to do with game day but have to do with students' rights and the university's rights to protect itself from legal prosecution have to be made. They have to be subject to a process of review, and have to be taken, in some measure, out of the hands of those who have, until now, run their teams and departments like minor gods.

The time has come for the UNAD to fall into line.

And not a moment too soon.

Editorial policy

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1995 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: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



MEHSLING 1995 DAILY NEBRASKAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chilly reception

All I could do after reading the most recent article by "the frosh," Adria Chilcote, was grit my teeth and wince.

Maybe she doesn't know what the word transition means, or maybe it's the whole adjective thing that stumps her.

I just can't fathom why the DN gives a third of a page to her every week. Thousands of students read this paper. How can the DN justify printing an article that wouldn't even receive a "C" in English class?

She starts with cars, takes a move toward hair and just when you think you've got a grip on the article, she takes you on a journey into her in-depth analysis of television.

Whoa! Wait a second, my brain has to rest.

She's writing about nothing, and she's writing about it badly.

Megan Roth
Sophomore
Undeclared

Artsy for art, see?

Regarding the letter by Christopher Nollett (Oct. 31) I am confused and dismayed by your ill-considered attack on public funding for the arts.

The fact is, our government spends such a relatively tiny percentage of its budget on the arts (.005 percent) that, economically speaking, it is a non-issue.

Politically speaking, unfortunately, is another matter. The Right loves to see uninformed persons such as yourself take this bait and run with it — they hope that in your fury at having spent that oft-quoted 68 cents on art for the year, you won't notice the \$2,000 you spent on the S&L bailout.

What do you really know about art? You think Republicans in Congress aren't elitist? They shake

art in your face like a red rag because they know you aren't of the social class raised to appreciate it or recognize its value. But don't you know their children go to private schools and learn all about Monet and Corcoran?

Christopher, art isn't just something that people "like." That's a bad Hollywood joke. Art can be

opportunity to see it.

Lauri Morris
Graduate Student
Art

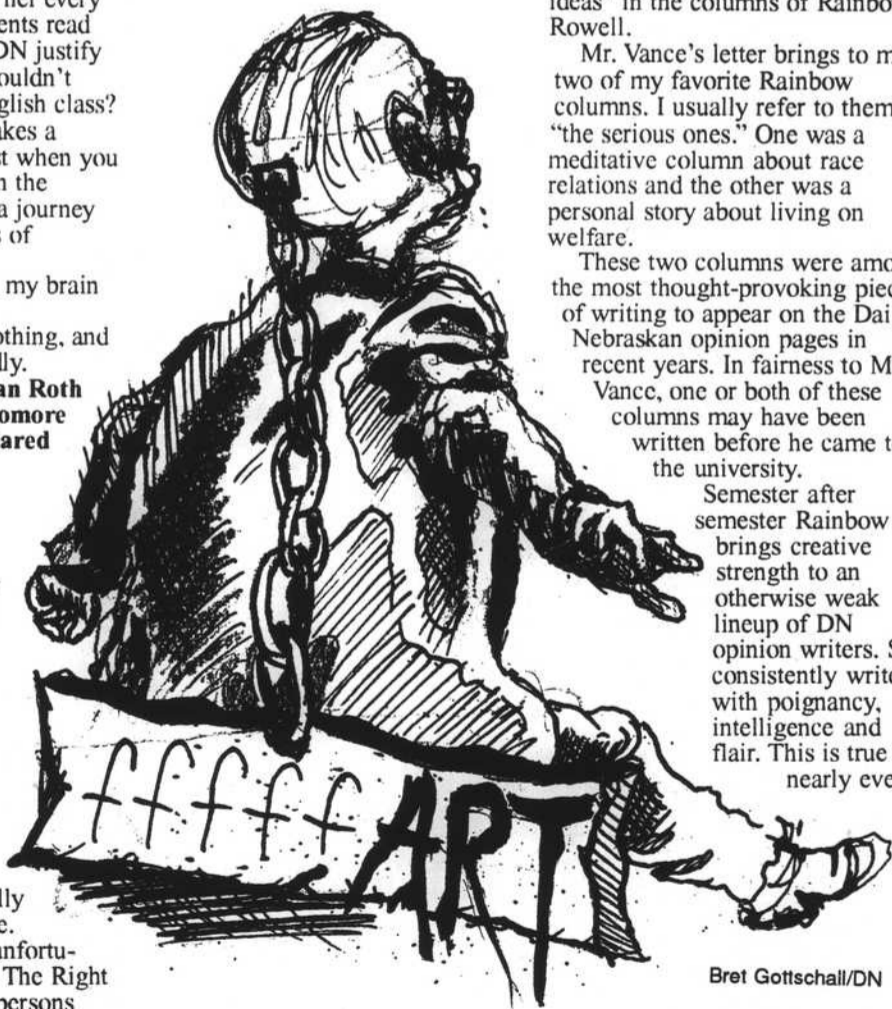
Rainbow rebuttal

Jim Vance (Letters, Oct. 30) says he is disappointed with the "lack of seriousness and thought-provoking ideas" in the columns of Rainbow Rowell.

Mr. Vance's letter brings to mind two of my favorite Rainbow columns. I usually refer to them as "the serious ones." One was a meditative column about race relations and the other was a personal story about living on welfare.

These two columns were among the most thought-provoking pieces of writing to appear on the Daily Nebraskan opinion pages in recent years. In fairness to Mr. Vance, one or both of these columns may have been written before he came to the university.

Semester after semester Rainbow brings creative strength to an otherwise weak lineup of DN opinion writers. She consistently writes with poignancy, intelligence and flair. This is true for nearly every



Bret Gottschall/DN

social critique, spiritual experience, or just plain old affirmation of humanity. If you knew what you were missing, you'd be demanding your right to see it. The paltry amount that the government spends on the arts in this country helps to ensure that you will have the

topic she addresses, whether it be frivolous or serious.

The DN is lucky to have her, both as a managing editor and a columnist.

Mike Lewis
Former DN staff member
Lincoln



...to the

Daily Nebraskan

Send your brief letters to:
Daily Nebraskan, 34
Nebraska Union, 1400 R St.,
Lincoln, Neb. 68588, or Fax
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Letters must be signed and
include a phone number for
verification.