

OPINION

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Page 4

Daily
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Long haul

Campaign '98 kick off comes too early

The pundits have started their banter.
The supporters are beginning to fall into line.
The field of candidates is taking shape.
With the election drawing ever near, the campaign is underway.
Campaign '98, that is.

Already, Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns and state auditor John Breslow, while not making official announcements, have made known their intentions to seek the 1998 Republican nomination for governor.

Jan Stoney, the 1994 GOP nominee for U.S. Senate, became the latest quasi-candidate Friday.

The Democrats are surely posturing, too, but announcements from that side will likely be delayed by Gov. Ben Nelson's bid for the U.S. Senate. If Nelson is elected, Lt. Gov. Kim Robak would take over the office, thus facing election herself in 1998.

But don't worry. The sound bites, the attack ads, the stickers and balloons at Husker football games — they'll all arrive soon enough.

In the meantime, there's that little matter of the 1996 election, featuring heated Senate and presidential races — hence more sound bites, more attack ads and more stickers.

And long before decision '96 is over, decision '98 will be in full swing.

"Three years is a long time away; a lot can happen," Stoney said Friday.

Don't you know it.

Different strokes

News, opinion two distinct disciplines

You are on the Opinion page.

Most days you could look across to the facing page and see page two of the opinion section, sometimes called "commentary." Not today, but most days.

The opinion page exists as a forum for opinion. Ours and other people's.

Strictly speaking, the only opinion expressed anywhere on these pages that represents the position of the paper is right here, in the unsigned editorials.

They're unsigned because no one person is responsible for shaping the editorial stance of the paper — our Editorial Board (made up of senior staff) oversees that.

The columns, editorial cartoons and other material on these pages represent solely the opinion of their authors — with a catch.

The opinion editor or the editor in chief reserves the right to edit, change, shorten, improve or totally reject anything submitted to these pages, however they see fit.

Everything else in the paper is news. And that's a whole different ball game.

Editors and reporters have to make a million ethical and journalistic decisions every day — which stories to pursue and which to drop, how to approach sensitive issues and what constitutes news as opposed to the merely trivial.

Disagreements, even loud ones, are common. Still, the paper continues to come out.

The difference between opinion and news is not always clear, even to those who have made a career of reporting.

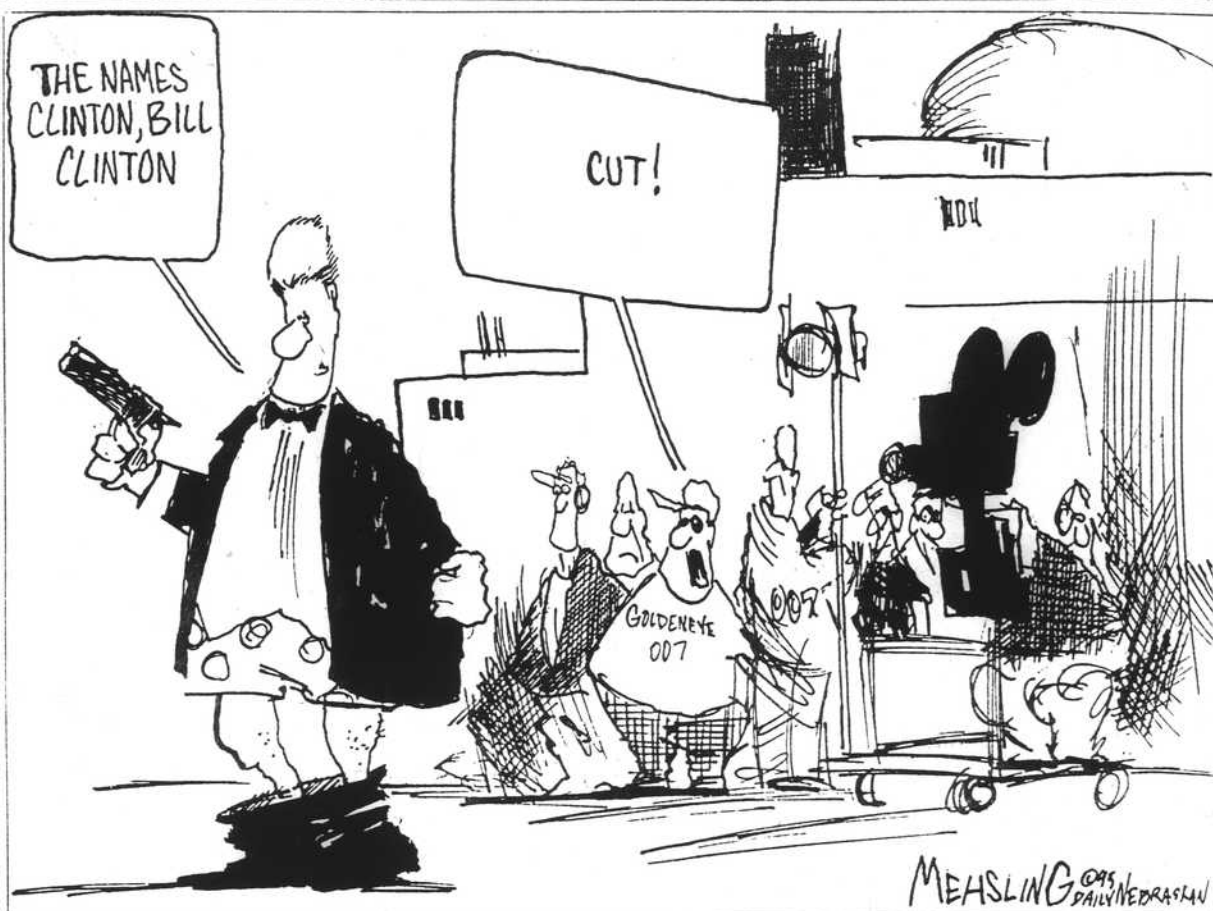
But it's important to realize there is a difference and to make a distinction between the two.

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.



Turkey time

Crisp autumn air conjures festive feelings

I have this weird, sentimental fascination with fall.

A soft spot, if you will, for the distinct emotions and feelings October and November bring.

Just call me Mr. Sensitive Season-Loving Guy.

The guy who always seems to resurface around this time of year. As soon as the trees begin changing color, ol' Mr. Sensitive Season-Loving Guy rears his ugly head and starts gettin' all mushy.

But I haven't always been like this.

When I was five, I couldn't believe my kindergarten teacher didn't know her seasons. So I took it upon myself to spell it out for her: "Football, basketball, baseball and hockey."

Duh.

But as I've grown, my appreciation of our land's mystical change from one season to the next has too. And I find the memories and feelings they each create amazing.

Everybody has their own personal favorite season. The season you fell in love, the time of year you were married, or the season you canoed naked down the Niobrara.

Whatever.

But I don't think I am alone in taking a great fondness for this time of year.

Come to think of it, a better name for the person that lies within me might be The Fall Guy.

There is just something about the fall in Nebraska that makes me happy.

The abundance of squirrels is hard not to notice, and they are even harder not to find intriguing.

It's not that they try to be so darn cute just a runnin' and a playin' with no cares in the world — they just can't help themselves.

They honestly look like they are having a good time.

The cutest and most daring of the furry little creatures (they take turns darting in front of my bus every morning), squirrels somehow add to the beauty of the season for me. Call them November's version of reindeer.

And indoors, too, there are reminders of autumn. Especially at my house; my mother has as a skill equalled only by Clark W. Griswold in matching decor to the season.



Ted Taylor

"I have just two words to describe my family's feast: large and brown."

Paper turkeys stuck on every wall, napkins with turkeys on them, decorative Smurfs dressed as Pilgrims — only a mom could make orange, brown and yellow look attractive.

My mother even dons shirts with the holiday themes — just to add to the holiday spirit.

Most of you probably enjoy the season merely for the kick-ass meal your family prepares each and every year. I am no different.

But I have just two words to describe my family's feast: large and brown.

Brown?

The turkey is brown, stuffing is brown, mashed potatoes are sort of brown, the gravy is brown, the yams are a brownish-orange, bread is usually brown — and, at our house, the tablecloth is dark brown.

A potentially drab sight indeed, but spiced up by mom, who thaws out some peas just to throw in a splash of color and keep my brother from commenting on just how depressing her table looks. (Which has become a Taylor family tradition.)

But please don't get me started on the pumpkin pie.

You can't tell me the last time you gutted a pumpkin on Halloween, you didn't almost gag and say, "Man, this is gross!"

So then why all of a sudden — after you take out the seeds, mix in some brown sugar, put it on a crust, call it a pie — it becomes a traditional Thanksgiving treat? Call me un-American.

And let us not forget the ecological contribution of the season. The glorious colors the trees take on.

Sure we all like the green trees and nobody likes to play golf on a dead golf course, but the colors fall creates immediately stimulate the eye.

Heck, even the trees get tired of wearing the same thing all summer and gleefully take the opportunity to trade in that boring green ensemble for a saucier new fall wardrobe. (Before they go and "get naked.")

The reds, yellows, oranges and browns — delicately intertwined to create that signature fall color.

But there is one reason I love fall more than any other season: The weather in the fall can be roundly described as crisp.

Like a Vlasic pickle or a celery stick, the temperature of fall is just cold enough. You finally get to take off the T-shirt and shorts you wore all summer and slip into your favorite jeans and sweat shirt.

If the choices are muggy summer, biting winter and soggy spring, give me crisp autumn every time.

(How can anyone really enjoy a soggy season?)

Give me the temperature of football Saturday, the temperature where every person alive says, "This is perfect — if it stayed like this all year, I'd be happy."

But that temperature won't be around for much longer.

As we all know, living in Nebraska allows us to throw the concept of equinoxes out the window and realize that winter comes when it's damn good and ready.

Like last week. So enjoy the fall while you still can.

And there you have it. My reasons for loving the fall — my simple reasons for feeling happy during this time of year. I hope they make you think of the season, reminisce a little, and smile a lot.

Or maybe you think you're just too cool to admit you smile and giggle whenever you see a cute little squirrel running across the street with a nut in its mouth.

Oh well, Happy Thanksgiving to you too.

Taylor is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.