

# OPINION

Monday, March 4, 1996

Page 4

Daily  
**Nebraskan**  
Editorial Board  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

J. Christopher Hain ..... Editor, 472-1766  
Doug Kouma ..... Managing Editor  
Doug Peters ..... Opinion Page Editor  
Sarah Scalet ..... Associate News Editor  
Matt Waite ..... Associate News Editor  
Michelle Garner ..... Wire Editor  
Jennifer Mapes ..... Columnist

## Hockey monopoly

Stars join the Lincoln sports scene

Friday's announcement that the United States Hockey League will be expanding to Lincoln was long overdue.

Lincoln has been ready to take this step for at least five years.



The Lincoln Stars — who will begin play next fall at the State Fair Coliseum — will provide the city's growing population with another team to back.

For years, the community has provided enthusiasm and support for the city's high school and college teams. Nebraska's football team has sold out Memorial Stadium for more than 30 years. The Cornhusker volleyball team consistently receives some of the best fan support in the nation. Thousands of fans pack the Bob Devaney Sports Center for Nebraska basketball on a weekly basis.

The entire state congregates in Lincoln every spring to celebrate the high school state wrestling, swimming and basketball championships. But hockey has been missing.

The Lincoln Stars will fill that gap.

Amateur hockey in Omaha already has proved to be exciting. The Omaha Lancers, who are the most successful team in the USHL, consistently outdraw the Racers and Royals, both of whom are professional teams and play their sports at a much higher level than USHL hockey.

But the Lancers and the Stars have a monopoly over the state's hockey fans, and the two teams should develop an intense rivalry over the next few years. But don't expect the Stars to compete right away.

In the Lancers' first season, they didn't win a single game. The fans kept coming back, however, and eventually the team moved from Hitchcock Ice Arena to AKSarben, where they now draw more than 6,000 fans for every game. A seat at a Lancers' game is the toughest ticket in town, and second only to Husker football in the entire state.

The Lincoln-Omaha rivalry is a natural. Star fans should pack the coliseum every time the Lancers travel to town. We know the same will be true when the Stars journey to Omaha. Because the engineering debate between UNL and UNO appears to be cleared up, the two cities are in need of a reason to fight. Hockey can give them a reason, a healthy reason.

With the exception of the week-long Nebraska State Fair, the fairgrounds are nearly devoid of life. The Stars have a chance to pump some excitement into the fairgrounds from October to April. Lincoln has the ability to rally around the Stars just as Omaha has rallied around the Lancers. As Lincoln has expanded to the north and south, the city has been in need of something extra. Next fall, it will finally arrive.

### 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.



WHO'S WHO IN AMERICAN POLITICS?

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### No respect

The Nebraska football team still has not received the respect they deserve. What is it? Every day I drive down Avery Avenue and look up at the scoreboard in the north stadium. This is the scoreboard that has the National Championship years on it. There is still no 1995 sign on the scoreboard. What's the problem? Money? HA HA. Not a chance. The university makes millions from their football team. I am willing to volunteer my time to put up the sign, that is if the athletic department can afford it!

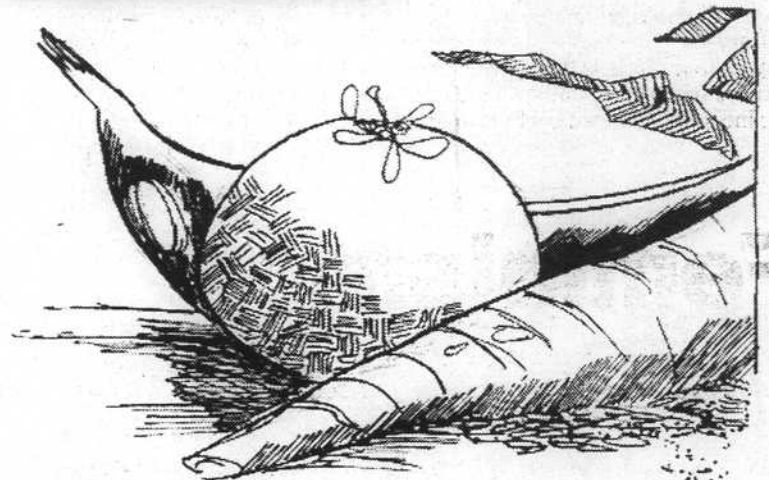
Get me a ladder, and I'm there.

Jason Lemon  
senior  
communication

#### Rabid Congress endangers wilderness

Last summer, President Clinton, pushed by a rabid, anti-environment Congress, signed into law the so-called "salvage" rider. Hidden in a government belt-tightening bill that included aid to Oklahoma City bombing and California fire victims, the pro-timber amendment has unleashed an all-out war on America's wildlife and forests.

Clinton, and some members of Congress, claim they reluctantly endorsed the proposal because they supported "salvage" logging of dead and dying trees. But such forest management practices ignore the significant value of dead trees, which help replenish the soil and provide vital habitat for cavity-nesting species such as woodpeckers. Aply called the "logging without laws" rider because it closed the courts to citizens and suspended all environmental laws, the rider defined salvage so broadly that any



tree made of wood could be cut.

As a result, some of our last ancient forests are being put on the chopping block.

According to a report issued by the Congressional Research Service in early February, the rider has cost taxpayers more than \$50 million in subsidies to the timber industry. Surely Rep. Bereuter and Sens. Exon and Kerrey cannot justify robbing Americans of their hard-earned money and the destruction of our national forests. They should support efforts to repeal this disastrous law and save what little wilderness remains.

Kathleen Marvis  
Lincoln

#### Eat your veggies

Responding to the topic of vegetarianism could cover this entire page. While Ms. Johnson's idea (Feb. 29) that people should become vegetarians may be impractical at present, Mr. Paulson's attack (March 1) was very short-sighted.

Setting aside the problems with changing people's livelihoods (ranching vs. farming), the idea of

feeding the earth with fruits, vegetables and grains is very feasible. The question is not of the amount of food that cattle provide but rather one of land use and water availability. Cattle as well as sheep and hogs eat feed grain and hay, forage on pasture, etc. To produce the feed, water and land are used. To maintain the animal, more water and land are used. Basically by eating a vegetarian diet, people bypass the animals' consumption of vegetation.

By eating a vegetarian diet, the global population would more efficiently use land and water. When speaking about the problems with feeding the world, population increases hamper the sustainability of providing food.

There are too many circumstances surrounding the world's religions to make religion an issue associated with vegetarianism. During the time of Lent, as an Orthodox Christian, I practice a diet of no dairy, no meat, no egg. This is private and personal and is certainly not an issue regarding my stance with meat vs. veggies one way or the other. EFFICIENCY IS THE ISSUE!

Polly Ann Najarian  
graduate student  
agricultural meteorology  
via e-mail

Post it

...to the

**Daily  
Nebraskan**

Send your brief letters to:  
Daily Nebraskan, 34  
Nebraska Union, 1400 R St.,  
Lincoln, Neb. 68588, or Fax  
to (402) 472-1761, or email  
<letters@unlinfo.unl.edu.>  
Letters must be signed and  
include a phone number for  
verification.