

OPINION

Monday, April 29, 1996

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Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Aaron Steckelberg/DN

Sigh of relief

UNL has hope after tumultuous year

This is how the school year ends — not with a bang, but with a whimper.

Or was that a sigh of relief?

The events of the past year have left UNL banged-up enough as it is. We will be lucky to end the school year with the familiar chaos of finals week — a couple exams, a moving truck, a whole lot of caffeine and a few good-byes.

Some good-byes have already been said.

To a young woman found slain in her south Lincoln apartment last summer.

To a student who died in a car accident while driving to work during Christmas break.

To four Columbus teens, two of them UNL freshmen and all of them intoxicated, who drowned after their vehicle plunged into Wagner Lakes over spring break.

And to a star quarterback who taught all of us a little something about heroism while helping the Cornhuskers win two consecutive national championships and giving us cause for celebration.

The Huskers showed without a doubt that they were the best team in college football — maybe the best team ever. And although they had their critics, they proved themselves on the field.

Following an equally impressive season, the NU volleyball team pummeled the competition and claimed its first national championship.

And after accompanying those teams to victory, the Cornhusker marching band earned a national championship of its own.

But time marches on, for better or for worse.

Chancellor James Moeser, officially installed Friday, will begin his first full year in office and add some stability to an administration too long in flux.

Next year water will flow for the last time from Broyhill Fountain, leaving an expanded and remodeled Nebraska Union in its wake.

And the Big Eight will undergo some expansion of its own, adding four Texas schools to become the Big 12.

But that's next year.

As this year winds down and many students prepare for a long-awaited break, UNL will settle in for a quiet summer — we hope.

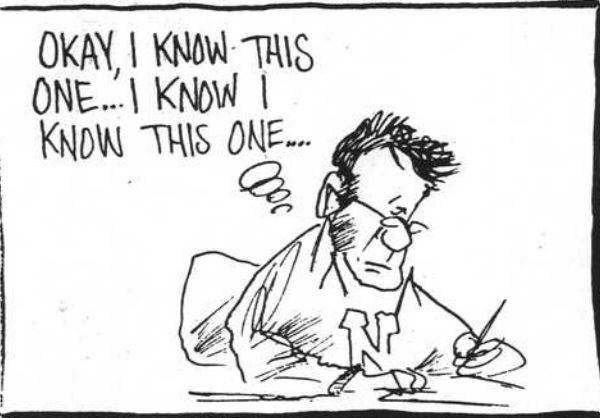
Editorial policy

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1996 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.

WELCOME TO FINALS....



MEHSLING/DAILY NEBRASKAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Truth and consequence

Following the announcement of Christian Peter's release by the New England Patriots, I was asked by local and national media to comment. I didn't feel there was much more to say — finally some degree of justice for women victimized by violence. I was embarrassed that sanctions came through the NFL and not UNL! I am now provoked to comment after reading Tom Osborne's statement in the 4/26 DN: "I think the owner reacted to publicity," Osborne said. "The NOW (National Organization for Women) and all those people. We've been through it."

Oh please. Could it be that Robert Kraft, Patriots' owner, reacted to Mr. Peter's actions, including allegations and convictions of first and third degree sexual assault. Coach Osborne, when will you stop making excuses for your players and hold them personally responsible for actions off the football field? I don't hear excuses being made for on-the-field behavior, blaming lost yards on lousy calls by officials! Is it possible that some players can't limit power and dominance to football slams and tackles?

Apparently the New England Patriots were unwilling to assume the risk and liability for a person with a repeated history of violence against women. Coach Osborne's excuses are out of bounds even in a society where abusers go unpunished and victims are held accountable.

Judith Kriss
director
UNL Women's Center

Method madness

Is Kelly Johnson serious? With regard to the Unabomber she would have us believe: "His method might be flawed, but that doesn't mean his message is" (DN, Apr. 25).

I wonder, given her recent attacks on law-abiding gun owners, if she feels the same way about Timothy McVeigh?

Sensible people will recognize that both Kaczynski and McVeigh represent the extreme radical fringe whose ideas are so distant from the main stream as to not be taken seriously. But I suppose that's asking a bit much of a liberal columnist who "might" consider



James Mehsling/DN

murder a flawed method of demonstrating one's beliefs. It's scary to see how far some will stretch common sense in the name of political ideology.

Thomas K. Eads
senior
political science/English

Money matters

I was rather disappointed with the editorial that appeared on April 22 about ecology in the '90s. The overall tone of the editorial was positive, and pro environmental responsibility. Still, the paper saw fit to seemingly take a swipe at activists, or as the unknown editorialist wrote "capitalists" who market buttons, T-shirts and so forth on Earth Day. Well, I have to wonder why is that so wrong?

Later the same editorial mentions that the cause of the environment no longer divides people by ideology. Maybe you people at the DN ought to climb out of your basement offices once in a while.

Sure, there are businesses that are becoming more environmentally conscious. Perhaps some of the less bloodthirsty republicans in the house are wavering on the issue of the environment, but they are but a few blades of grass in a field overrun with the weeds of ignorance and self-absorbed indifference. Local activists have been trying to nurture those making rational choices on environmental issues for many years. That requires capital in our society, and even the DN doesn't get printed for free. If activists don't sell T-shirts and

buttons and veggie-burgers, what resource does the Daily Nebraskan recommend? Maybe using the same "tits and ass" revenue from BJ's Hideaway that the DN uses?

Whatever the point the author of the editorial was attempting to make, I appreciate what coverage the Daily Nebraskan has given to environmental issues over the years. I hope that Doug Kouma, the paper's editor for the next school year, will continue that coverage. It just seems strange that a student paper in a school with an environmental awareness as acute as ours doesn't seem to think that much of those who devote considerable amounts of their free time to the issue.

James A. Zank
senior
English

Bad judgment

For people both on and off campus, the Daily Nebraskan often serves as the only source of news about campus events. UNL is a conservative school and the DN is a conservative paper. Its advertising policy is vaguely outlined as allowing any ads so long as they are not "obscene or offensive."

Normally I do not support censorship, but the case of the Playboy ad begs the question as the DN regularly censors what is covered in its pages. The very description of its advertising policy speaks volumes on this note. Whoever uses their power to make the final decision of what is offensive or obscene for an entire community is a censor.

The question is why did the DN not censor the Playboy ad? Allowing the ad means that the person with the power of censor did not find it offensive or obscene. In the conservative climate of this campus this acts as a tacit endorsement of what Playboy stands for.

Love Library carries Playboy but not Ms. magazine. Several football players have been accused of rape with few repercussions while condom machines are still not allowed in the residence halls. What message does all this give? Certainly not one which respects and supports women as individual sexual beings and this is both offensive and obscene if you ask me.

Nell Eckersley
graduate student at-large