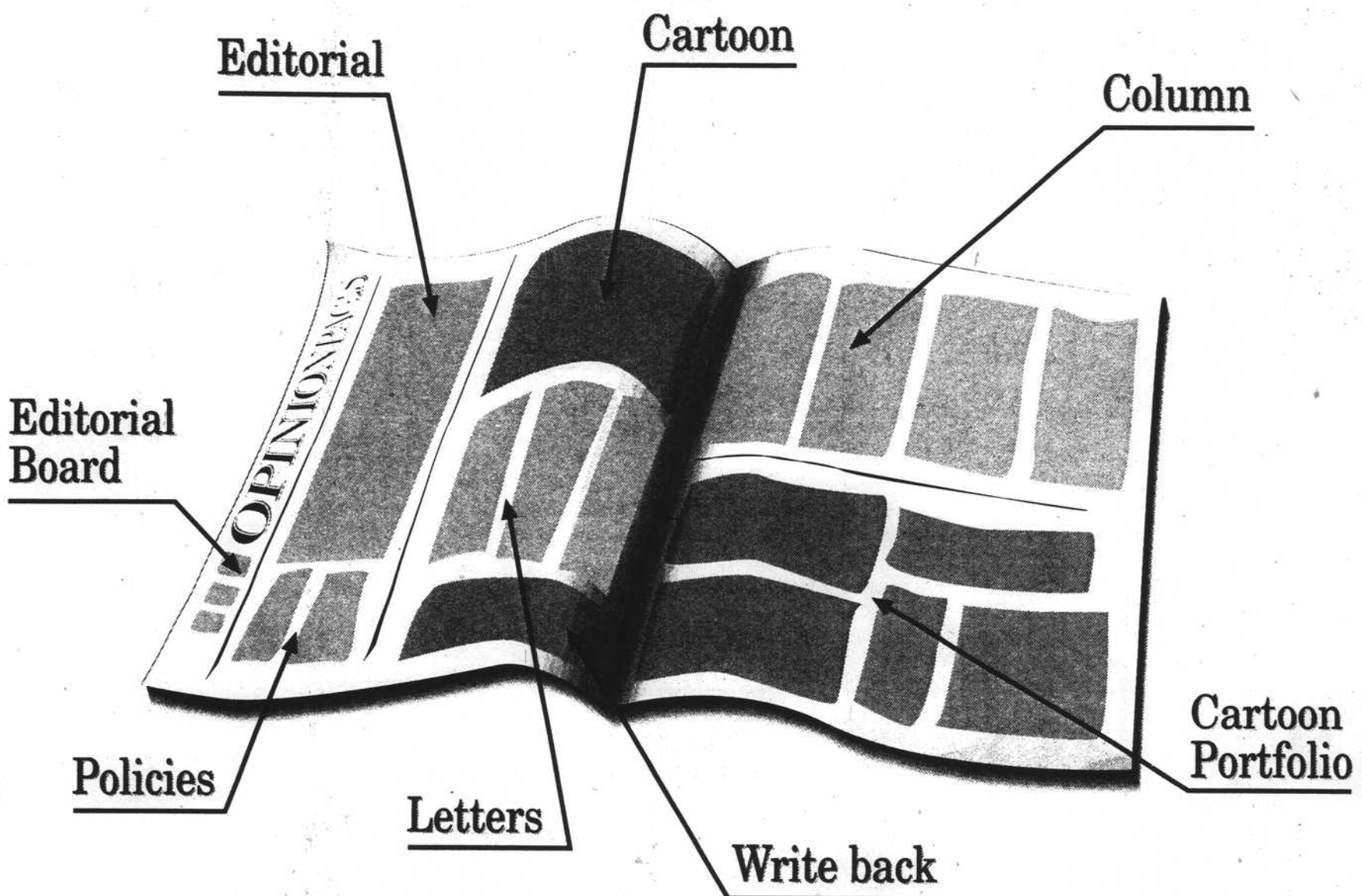


A Guided Tour



More than a new look: A new attitude

So what do you think?
It's looking new. Maybe even improved.

Most important, it's a tool. Please use it.

"We want to know what you think. About anything. About everything.

Like it or not, throughout the semester you are going to hear all about what we think. But you will have plenty of opportunities to give us a little feedback ... good, bad or ugly.

This is the opinion section, and this is what it's all about:

EDITORIAL BOARD

The first thing you should probably know about is the Editorial Board. That's our "think tank." This semester it's made up of the editor, the managing editor, the sports editor, the night editor, an associate news editor, a senior reporter and me (the opinion editor).

Our names are always listed below the page header, which runs along the left side of this section. We meet regularly to discuss editorial ideas and stances. In most cases, the consensus opinion of the board is what you will see represented in the unsigned editorials that will be published in the Daily Nebraskan this semester.

EDITORIAL

This is where you will find the analysis that you won't see in the news part of the paper. Under the label "Our View," we will talk about what is going on in the world, the

country, the state, the city, the campus — who knows? Maybe even the universe.

While the other sections of the newspaper must focus on being objective, the opinion section is all about ideas and, of course, opinions — thus the name.

The purpose of the editorial is not to get you thinking the way we think, but just to get you thinking. It is the expressed opinion of the newspaper as a whole. Individual employees, from staff reporter to editor-in-chief, may agree or disagree with the views expressed. And so can you.

CARTOON

This is a little window into the world as seen by a cartoonist — whether that be our staff cartoonist James Mehsling or a cartoonist whose work is syndicated. If a picture says a thousand words, this feature certainly saves us a lot of space.

Like any other editorial cartoonist, Mehsling draws from his reactions to current events and/or circumstances. He consults me and/or the editor before he draws his final version, but the content is generally up to him. He is a columnist of images, so to speak.

COLUMN

A column is probably the most familiar feature of an opinion section. The Daily Nebraskan has hired nine columnists this semester who will appear weekly to share their thoughts, beliefs and reactions to the things going on around them.

Columns are edited for style only. The content is completely up to the writer. Staff columnists will meet once a week to discuss each other's work and to talk about events and issues that may lead to column ideas. The Daily Nebraskan will also occasionally print syndicated columns and guest columns submitted by readers.

CARTOON PORTFOLIO

This weekly feature will be a collection of editorial cartoons that look at an issue (or several related issues) from all sorts of angles. It will draw from a number of cartoonists' syndicated works.

WRITE BACK/LETTERS

This is an invitation to all to voice opinions on current issues, any section of the Daily Nebraskan or whatever else might be of concern.

If you want to have a letter published, the best advice is to be brief, be specific and be clear. And be ready to take full credit for what you write. Nothing anonymous. We want to know more than your opinion. We want to know your name, year in school, major and/or group affiliation.

If you have a lot to say, you might consider submitting a guest column. E-mail it. Fax it. Mail it. The addresses and fax number will always appear in the "Write back" box. Heck, trot on down to room 34 in Nebraska Union and hand it to me yourself. Do whatever it takes. I can't guarantee your stuff will be printed,

"Throughout the semester, you are going to hear all about what we think. But you will have plenty of opportunities to give us a little feedback."

but I'll do what I can to help you.

POLICIES

This little box is probably the least-read part of this section, but it is important. It explains who makes what decisions and sets out the guidelines for letters to the editor. It's a good thing to keep in mind as you read the section and definitely something you should look at before sending in a letter or guest column.

Other than that, all I have to say is keep in touch.

If you have any questions, you know how to reach me.

Hjersman is a senior news-editorial and English major and the Daily Nebraskan opinion editor.



Anne
HJERSMAN