

Kasey
KERBER

Ode to idiocy

You're going to make mistakes — make 'em good

Here at the dawn of a new semester, I want you all to know and remember one inevitable fact until you're wrinkled, senile and watching pro golf on television.

So here it is: "The act of screwing up miserably is in the human genetic code." C'mon, let's face it, there's no way we can keep from making mistakes — especially in an environment most of us haven't seen for three months.

It's here at the beginning of the semester that I make my "New Year's Resolutions." Why? Well, chances are by the time January rolls around, my grades will have already sunk lower than the Titanic and not even Jacques Cousteau and his crew could help lift them.

It's also here at the beginning of the fall semester that I tell myself I'm not going to make the mistakes I made last year. Yet I, like the masses, get sucked into the same trap — I make embarrassing mistakes because I don't know any better.

One man who certainly knows my pain is Isiah Rider. The Minnesota Timberwolves' guard was ejected from a game last March for arguing with another player. But Rider refused to leave the court. He verbally challenged the call until... his mother stood up from her front-row seat and walked out onto the court. Upon seeing her, Rider immediately fled.

Yet, you don't have to be a multi-million-dollar star to mess up and make yourself look as intelligent as a sun-dried brick. Already this semester I'm sure each of us has made mistakes funny enough that even we laugh at them.

No, it's not because we had one too



"The act of screwing up miserably is in the human genetic code."

many dozen Mountain Dews. It's because we've made complete and utter fools of ourselves and we realize we could have had \$10,000 if we'd just caught it on video tape.

You know the deal — walking out of the restroom with a piece of toilet paper on your shoe, discovering that the fly to your Levi's has been down the entire day or walking out of a grocery store to see that your car has rolled backwards (in neutral) and has ripped the back bumper off a Geo Metro in the process.

Oh yes, I've been there. Who do you think had to explain to the Geo's owner that her bumper was lying in a crumpled heap somewhere beneath her car? And to make matters even worse, it happened to be an employee of the supermarket I was just in.

But hey, I, like everyone else in the world, am human. If you've driven the

wrong way down a "one-way" street in Lincoln, I guarantee you'll do it again before you (or the oncoming traffic) knows it.

The important thing is to learn from your mistakes, blunders and mishaps. And also not to let them get in your way. Too often people make mistakes and then worry about them so long that they could have just gone ahead and corrected the dang things.

If you say the wrong thing to Mr. or Ms. Oh-My-God-That-One's-Perfect, heck, try saying something else. If you threw one party that was as much fun as grave-digging, give it another shot. If you spilled beer on your best friend's rug, well, move the couch over it and blame it on the guy sleeping in the corner.

We're all bound to make a ton of mistakes we wouldn't make if we knew this campus like the backs of our hands (for example, locking yourself out of your room when all you've got on is a wet towel from your shower). But it's all part of the learning process, so take it in stride (or in the case of the towel, small strides).

Hey, it could be worse. At least none of us are Jordan Lazelle. The British 18-year-old was hospitalized after he was stung on the tongue by his pet scorpion. His explanation?

"Well, I was giving Twiggy his usual good-night kiss when he jumped in my mouth and stung me on the tongue — he had never done that before."

One would only hope that Jordan will soon learn how to eat non-solid foods.

Kerber is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

Nick
WILTGEN

Watch government; It watches you

Right now someone in America has a loaded gun with your name on it.

You say it's not true? You're not that type of person, are you? You don't associate with that crowd, right?

Wrong. You do. You paid for the gun. You've probably consented to its use against you.

You don't remember any of this? Probably not. Chances are you've never seen this gun. But it's there, waiting to be used if you decide to push its owner too far.

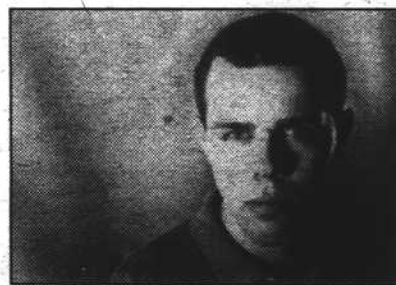
Who owns the gun you supposedly paid for? And who would want to use it against an innocent person like you?

It's your own government. Don't believe me? Try refusing to pay all of your income taxes sometime. You'll see the gun soon enough.

OK, so if you pay your taxes, there's nothing to worry about, right? Wrong again.

If you are suspected of something as petty as growing marijuana plants in your home, you have plenty to worry about. Never mind whether you've ever actually used, grown, or even seen illegal drugs in your life. On Oct. 2, 1992, a "task force" of 27 men smashed into Donald Scott's home in Malibu, Calif., and shot him to death. They claimed he was growing marijuana — on the basis of a false report from an anonymous informant.

Fact is, there is an "invisible gun" behind every other government tax and regulation too. It may not be the physical gun you might see if you don't pay your taxes or if you're the victim of a baseless drug raid, but the threat of physical force hangs over you every day. Just try resisting any law long enough — whether the law's just or not — and eventually the government will have



to use some sort of violent force to ensure your compliance.

Sickeningly, both the Democrat and Republican parties endorse this type of government behavior as a means of engineering society to their whims. They, along with their liberal, moderate, and conservative supporters, want to use government force (also known as "regulation" or "legislative reform") to make you a pawn in their quest for power and control.

The liberals are armed robbers. They point their gun at you, take as much money as they can, and proceed to distribute it "fairly." Then they tell you how compassionate they are. They've paid for TV and radio programs that are "above" seeking voluntary financial support. They've funded their favorite forms of art and "culture" with your money. They've created a destitute underclass and made them so dependent on government welfare checks that only a strong few can survive on their own effort.

The conservatives are also armed robbers. They point their gun at you, take as much money as they can, and proceed to distribute it "fairly." Then they tell you how good they are at cutting big government. They subsidize any industry that carries their favor. They coddle their constituents with unnecessary pet projects. They waste billions of dollars arresting and imprisoning

people for victimless crimes to perpetuate the superficial, unwinnable "War on Drugs."

The moderates are the accomplices. They try to reach some awkward "compromise" on how much money either side can take from you, and they give a consenting nod to any regulations either side may propose.

Whatever money or happiness you still have after this double robbery is stretched to the limit because of the costs imposed by government regulation.

Almost every aspect of business is now regulated by a government agency. The government credo is: you are not responsible enough to make informed decisions; you are not intelligent enough to make cost-benefit analyses. So they take your money and do it for you based on their whims and preferences.

Whether you are single or married, childless or not, you will have to pay extra for your next television purchase, because the government has ordered TV manufacturers to put the "V-chip" in every set. Are you so incompetent that you can't decide whether you want a V-chip in your TV set? No, but our elected officials think they need to make that decision for you.

Alan Greenspan once said, "At the bottom of the endless pile of paperwork which characterizes all regulation lies a gun." A gun with your name on it. Are you a better person for having a government gun pointed at you? Or would you be better left alone by government and free to make decisions based on your values, your preferences, your judgment?

Wiltgen is a junior broadcasting and meteorology major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

<http://www.unl.edu/DailyNeb/>



Ernie's IN CERESCO **BACK TO COLLEGE Sale**

- Twin Mattresses • Desks • VCR's • Dorm Size Refrigerators • Economy Bookcases • Shelf Stereos • Chests Of Drawers • Portable TV's

Why rent? You can own it and pay no more!



Microwave ovens used one term in Lincoln Public Schools Home Ec program. While 30 last.

FULL WARRANTY \$70 OFF Reg. price

DORM SIZE, MANY COLORS, U-HAUL CARPET REMNANTS

13 MONEY-SAVING MILES NO. OF LINCOLN ON HWY 77

Accepting Our Bodies** Accepting Our Selves

Eating Disorders Education Group

Group discussions/presentations offered each week!

Topics include nutrition, exercise, and the psychological and emotional aspects of eating disorders. *Open to students, family or friends!*

UHC Counseling & Psychological Services, 472-7450.

Two Sessions Offered!

Session 1: Sept. 10-Oct. 8

Session 2: Oct. 15-Nov. 12

Tuesdays, 3:30-4:45 p.m.

UHC Rm. D, \$25 for students

\$50 for others, Register at the UHC Business Office!

Ann's Electrolysis Center



Ann Cheek
Licensed Electrologist

Permanent Hair Removal

A Permanent Solution to a Bothersome Problem

Private Entrance • Offstreet Parking • Men & Women
Medically Approved
13 Years Experience

Free Consultation **935 Plum Street**
477-3364

Blue's

Closest Bike Shop to Campus

All Bikes & Many Accessories on Sale
'96 Closeout Prices
Buy Any Bike Worth \$500 or More,
Get the 2nd at 1/2 Price (in stock only)
Free Lifetime Tune-ups on All New Bikes

BIKE & FITNESS CENTER
27 South 13th • 332-1111
488-2101