

# OPINION/PAGES

## OUR VIEW

### Cold

#### New stadium policy leaves smokers out

It was a good compromise. Was.

When the University of Nebraska Athletic Department decided that Husker fans who smoke shouldn't be allowed to light up in their Memorial Stadium seats, no more than a muted whimper was heard from anyone. Even smokers.

The smokers were moved to designated smoking areas in the lower level of the stadium. They were moved away from the people in the stands, away from those who wanted to breathe only the air of Husker victory.

That's the way it was, and except for a few complaints of people lighting up in their seats, the deal worked.

But on Saturday, at the Huskers' season opener, fans who smoke were greeted with a new policy: No smoking inside the stadium — at all.

Smokers must now go outside to light up.

The move can be described only as cosmetic — perhaps a bow to a political climate stacked against tobacco.

Fans were not put out by the designated smoking areas. Some smokers complained, but most went to the designated areas to light up.

Regardless, enforcement was lax, at best. Rarely did ushers bother to remind those smoking in the stands of the policy.

When the weather is nice, as it was this weekend, going outside to smoke probably isn't any greater hassle than going to a designated area.

But come November, when Nebraska plays Colorado, it could be. Nebraska Novembers aren't warm. Gamedays have a nasty habit of being bitter cold.

The thought of going outside for a smoke in a stiff 10-below wind chill will not appeal to most. At least not as much as a designated area out of the wind.

And if enforcement doesn't get better, the temptation to light up in the stands will continue to grow, anyway.

Sure, smoking is unhealthy. It's a bad habit. And fans in the stands shouldn't have to breathe secondhand smoke.

But the old stadium policy accounted for that. The new one goes too far. Fans who smoke are still fans, and they shouldn't be left in the cold.

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## MEHSLING'S VIEW



## LETTERS

### CRITIQUE DIDN'T FLY

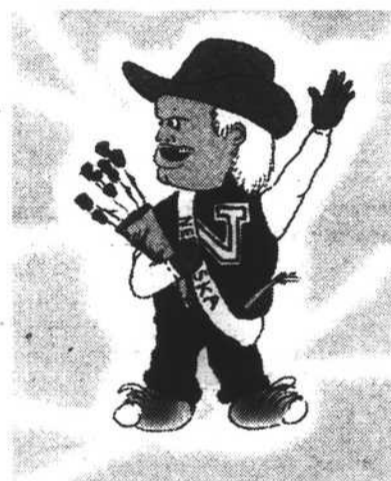
To the Seifikars, thank you very much for your guest column defining the criteria that make things beautiful or make things art. Gosh, if it weren't for your enlightening piece I would still be stumbling in a dark wilderness — waking up in a cold sweat every night, asking myself: What is beauty? What is art?

You said you hadn't heard "Torn Notebook" referred to as beautiful by anyone. Well, now you have. I think it's beautiful. I love it. Beauty, by the way, is in the eye of the beholder. There's another sculpture on campus called "Prismatic Flake." Now, I don't happen to think it's particularly beautiful, and I don't even know if I would call it art. But it is art to someone, so I'm glad it's here. "Torn Notebook doesn't fly as art?" That's your opinion. If you had your way maybe you'd rid the campus of everything you don't categorize as art. If I had my way, I would have rather read something more interesting on the opinion page than your ridiculous "guest view."

Jean DeShazer  
publications specialist  
Publications & Photography

### HERBIE NEEDS HELP

I couldn't agree more with the DN's comment about the new mascot. I shuddered when I saw Herbie, wondering what the national TV audience thought about Nebraskans when they saw him. Somebody do something quick! And while



Russ Johnson/DN

you're at it, think about the fact that Herbie Husker and Lil' Red are both male — rather inappropriate for a modern (?) university with equal numbers of male and female sports programs. How about coming up with something neutral? Since we're stuck with the name Cornhuskers, maybe something as simple as a partially husked ear of corn with a big smile. You wouldn't even have to worry about what clothes to put on it — it has its own!

Also, I have held season football tickets for over two decades in the south, north, and now east stadium, and I'm tired of feeling like a second-class fan when it comes to the marching band. I understand why the band favors the west stadium with its press boxes, honored guests and rich patrons, but I see no reason why the band should play exclusively to that side as it did Saturday. We in the

other stadiums are supposed to feel honored when one song during the season is played to each of the other three sides. I think we deserve better than that. I suggest either using formations that allow the entire stadium to hear parts of all songs as the band moves around, or at the very least play one song to the non-west seats each game.

Pam Murray  
coordinator  
Center for Grassland Studies  
and Center for Sustainable  
Agricultural

### NO ACCIDENT

I must agree with the notion that Herbie's new "look" is part of Bill Byrne's evil plot to ditch Herbie. A design so ugly could not have been an accident.

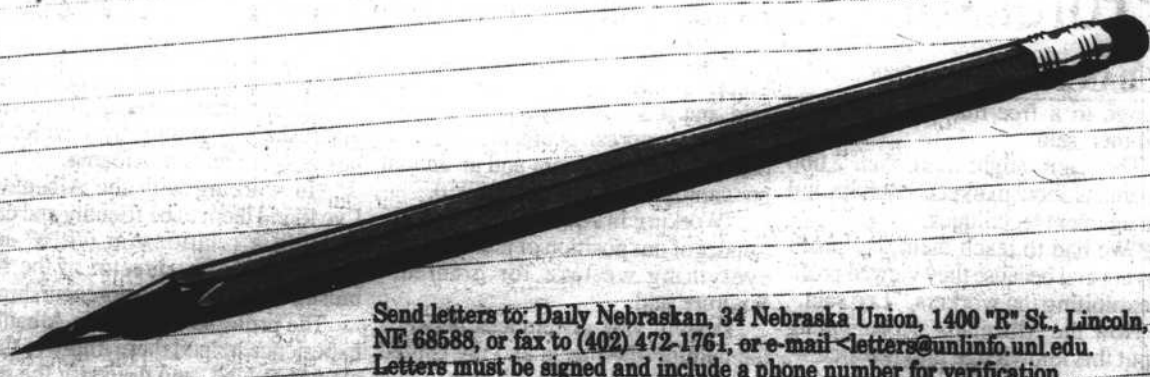
Anita Jackson  
agronomy

### JUST STUPID

You hit the nail right on the head!! My first impression was that if they couldn't get rid of Herbie, they were going to make him look so stupid that no one would support him. Why else would they give him big clown feet, and a padded gut and butt? I was one of the many who supported Herbie last year, but this is just stupid.

Rick Porter  
Columbus

## P.S. Write Back



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