

# OPINION PACKAGES

## GUEST VIEW

### What luck Lottery millionaire was better off poor

From The Sacramento Bee, Sacramento, Calif.

Lottery millionaire Buddy Post has a winner's story that's a sobering cautionary tale to those who dream of winning the lottery and living the dream: Be careful what you wish for.

In 1988, the ex-carnival worker and cook won \$16.2 million in the Pennsylvania Lottery. But as the Associated Press recounts it, that was when his troubles began.

Even before the first check arrived, Post's landlady sued, claiming she owned part of the winning ticket. The courts awarded her one-third of the proceeds.

Meanwhile, Post and various relatives opened a bar, a used-car lot and other businesses, using the promise of lottery proceeds to come as capital. All the businesses failed and by now Post is deeply in debt to lawyers and creditors.

It gets worse. In 1993, his brother was convicted of attempting to kill Buddy and his wife in hopes of inheriting the lottery money.

Then Buddy was convicted of assault and sentenced to prison. He's free pending appeal and claims he only fired a gun into the air to scare off his stepdaughter's boyfriend, who was pestering him about a failed business venture.

Post's sixth wife left him and filed for divorce, and Buddy has been ordered to pay her \$40,000 a year in support.

He's \$500,000 in debt and has filed for bankruptcy. The gas has been shut off at the mansion he bought with lottery winnings.

Now he hopes to auction off 17 future lottery payments worth \$5 million. But Pennsylvania Lottery officials are threatening to block the auction, claiming that future payments can't be sold.

Buddy Post may or may not have learned by now that money can't buy love, happiness, friends, business acumen and a lot of other desirable things.

Surely, though, he's learned that it can buy a lot of trouble.

Be careful what you wish for.

“

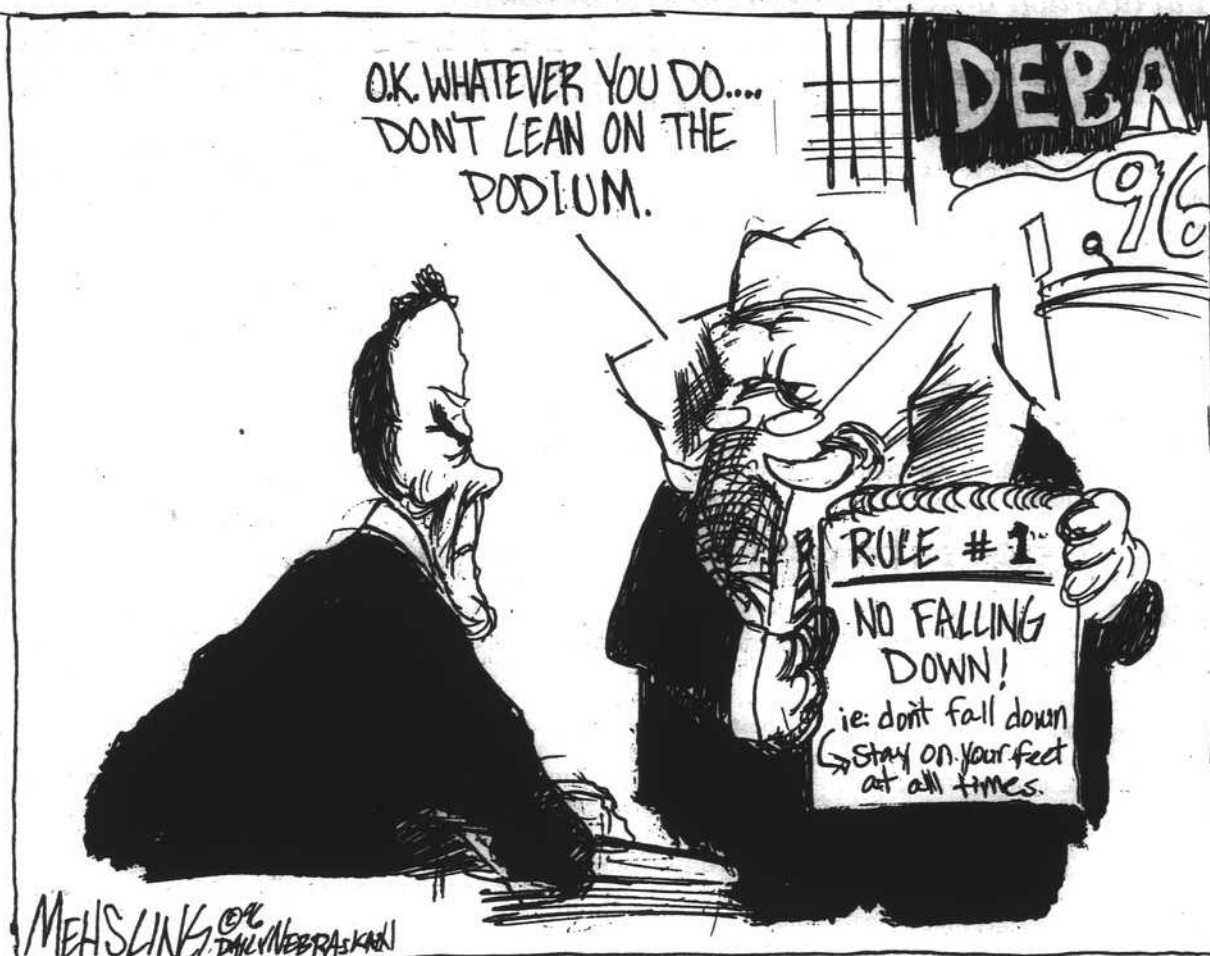
*Buddy Post may or may not have learned by now that money can't buy love, happiness, friends, business acumen and lots of other desirable things.”*

EDITOR  
Doug Kouma

OPINION  
EDITOR  
Anne Hjermsman

EDITORIAL  
BOARD  
Doug Peters  
Matt Waite  
Paula Lavigne  
Mitch Sherman  
Anthony Nguyen

## MEHSLING'S VIEW



## LETTERS

### Give me a break

Dear Cliff Hicks,  
I appreciate your desire to be proud of your German heritage, your maleness and the fact that you have a couple of black friends who will fight for you if someone calls you a racist. I appreciate your willingness to open yourself up to the possible scrutiny of your readers by expressing your views and feelings so candidly. And finally, I appreciate the fact that you wrote it all down for me to respond to. That's where the appreciation ends.

Mr. Hicks, I pray that before I die, white people will stop riding the soapbox of disclaimers. Who in the world has time to blame you for anything? You have no understanding about racism at all. Racism is about power and privilege. And because of the power of folks who looked like you, African-Americans like myself and those of other racial groups, have the privilege of hearing you whine about being thought of as a racist. In a phrase, "Give me a break!"

You wanted to avoid this, but you put yourself out there. Understand this if you can. As an African-American man.... No, as a Christian African-American man.... No, let me start again, as a Christian African-American man from St. Louis.... Hold it, as a Christian African-American man from St. Louis who is a college graduate, husband, father and university administrator, I have to sit back and have uninformed people like you try to validate themselves, while I have had to prove that I am worthy, qualified, patriotic and tolerable. I have had to hold my tongue, humble myself, and work in uncomfortable environments, and smile, smile, smile, just to survive. I did not say thrive; I said survive. And you want me to feel empathy for you. I say again, "Give me a break."

I would imagine that if I got to know you, I would find that you are probably an intelligent young man

with goals and dreams like many others who matriculate here.

But you must understand, this land we call the "good old U.S.A." belonged to the Native Americans. White men came, lied to some, killed others and took it. And had the nerve to put their faces in the hills overlooking previously sacred ground.

They moved out the Mexicans, brought over Africans and imprisoned Asians. You obviously have no idea about the European immigrants — who came of their own free will, by the way — who were told to lose their language, folkways and everything else and become, as you say, "American."

"Give me a break."

Mr. Hicks, be proud of who you are and I will be thrilled that you are. Understand that no one is blaming you personally for racism, discrimination or oppression. That makes no sense. Also, understand that white people are, and have been for a long time, the direct beneficiaries of racism in America — like it or not. Finally, understand that for us to move beyond these debates, the truths about America must be told and the reality of these truths acknowledged.

All I have said does not take away from the fact that this is a great country. But, think how much greater it would be if not for the racism, discrimination and oppression of people who look like you. Be proud of that if you can!

John L. Harris  
special assistant  
Office of the Vice Chancellor for  
Student Affairs

### The art of mooching

In Nick Wiltgen's "A sign of government control: Forced funding for public programs is unfair," (DN,

Oct. 1) he states: "We need only recognized that each person must be free to earn his or her own living, must merit his or her own popularity, and must buy his or her own things." In the world of art, what merits popularity — in other words, what the mass public wants — is usually trash, of little or no redeeming value, except as mindless entertainment (which, granted, is of some value).

If you doubt this, check out a bestseller list from a hundred or so years ago and see how many names you recognized. The John Grishams and Danielle Steeles of their day have not lasted; on the other hand, Herman Melville's "Moby Dick" — frequently called "The Great American Novel" — was considered a failure.

If this country had only to offer what the marketplace bears, God help us as a culture.

I won't even bother trying to defend the importance of art in society, or how reading great literature might improve one's quality of thought. No, I'll stick to the only thing Wiltgen understands: money.

What Wiltgen doesn't understand is that funding for the NEA ultimately stimulates the economy. In many ways, government funding of the NEA isn't so different from government funding for a small business.

Wiltgen is affronted by the idea of his tax dollars paying for something that he doesn't like. He condemns the "legalization of mooching, extorting, or stealing." Ironically, he is attending a state-funded university. If he's so concerned with people "buying his or her own things," I suggest he transfer to a private university. After all, if not for my tax dollars, Wiltgen wouldn't have had the forum of the Daily Nebraskan to vent his frustrations about such "free-loaders" as himself.

John McNally  
graduate student  
English

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Unsigned editorials are the opinions of the Fall 1996 Daily Nebraskan. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, its employees, its student body or the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. A column is solely the opinion of its author. The Board of Regents serves as publisher of the Daily Nebraskan; policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. The UNL Publications Board, established by the regents, supervises the production of the newspaper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student employees.

### LETTER POLICY

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor and guest columns, but does not guarantee their publication. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Submitted material becomes the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Those who submit letters must identify themselves by name, year in school, major and/or group affiliation, if any. Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. E-mail: letters@unlinfo.unl.edu.

### 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.