

OPINION PAGES

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I said, 'Bleep all these people in the stands. Bleep the Diamond Vision screens. Bleep the cheerleaders. Bleep everything that you all see as distractions and go out there and play bleeping football.'"

— Colorado middle linebacker Matt Russell, on his pre-game pep talk to the Buffaloes

"To sack me, they're going to have to catch me."

— Texas quarterback James Brown, predicting a three-touchdown win over Nebraska in the Big 12 championship game

"Athletes tend to take their identity, their self-esteem and the way they feel about themselves from the way they play."

— NU Volleyball Coach Terry Pettit, on middle blocker Stacie Maser's attitude after suffering a devastating knee injury

"There's not a lot of proven stallions on this team."

— NU Wrestling Coach Tim Neumann, on his uncertainty following the Mat Town Invitational, at which the team finished fifth

"You'd think if anybody could figure it out, it'd be us and the student union, and we both got busted."

— Nebraska Bookstore Manager Jim Cornell, after police ticketed clerks at 21 stores for selling tobacco to minors

"Pull all these out — I look like a Christmas tree."

— Mother Teresa, after heart surgery, telling doctors she was ready to go back to work

"We don't want violence. Words are our only weapon."

— Students in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, demonstrating against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic

"It's going to be a hard-fought, four-quarter type of game. There won't be any quit on either side."

— Texas Football Coach John Mackovic, on the Big 12 championship face-off between the Longhorns and the Huskers

"It seems like people look at you differently if you can try to speak their language."

— Schuyler police officer Aaron Pierce, on completing an intensive Spanish language course to help him in his police work

"Everybody loves Elmo."

— Becki Reining, a manager at Kay-Bee Toys, on the Christmas-shopper frenzy over the "Tickle Me" Elmo doll

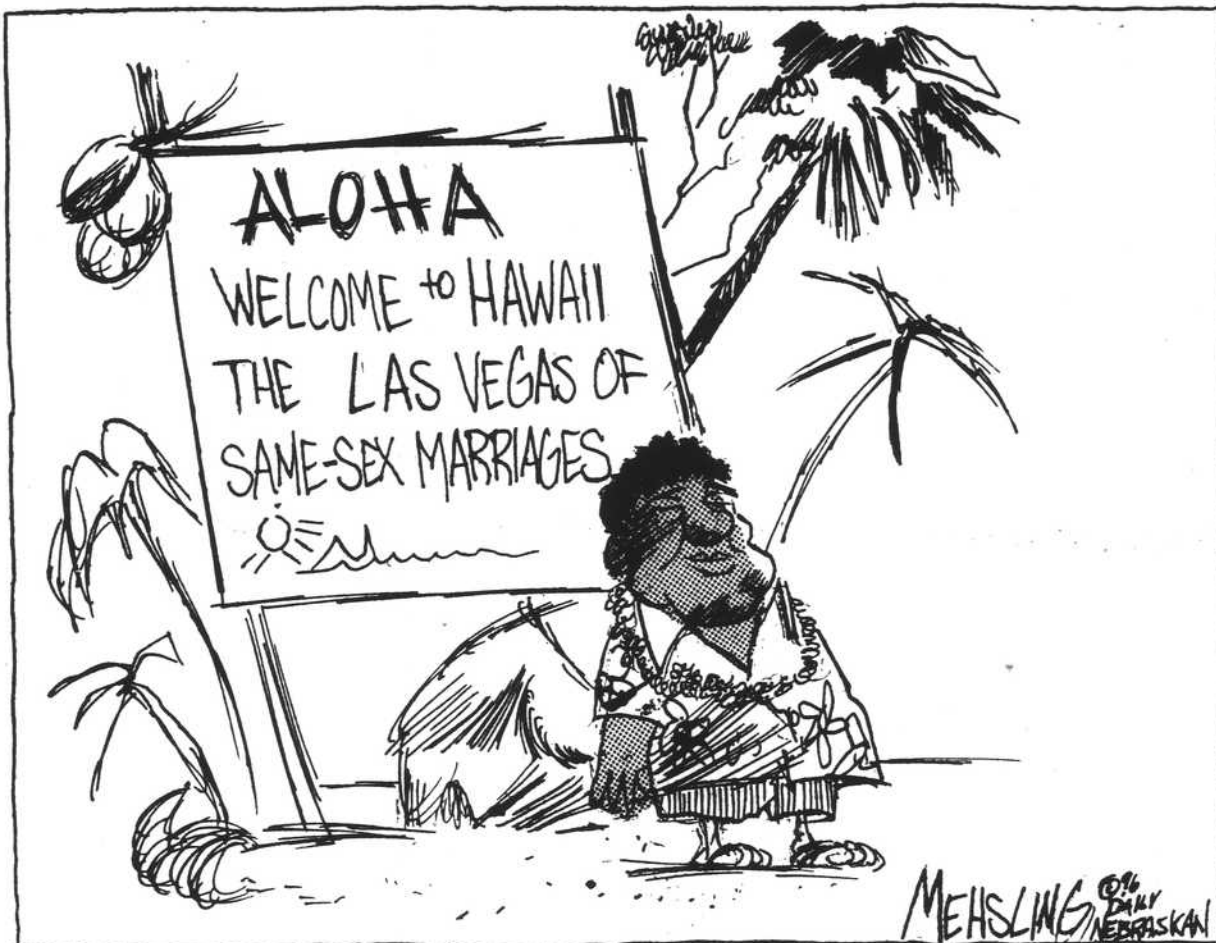
"The regents are a very interesting bunch."

— Student Regent Eric Marintzer, on the NU Board of Regents

"Teaching is the same thing as comedy, but teachers have to do six shows a day, and don't get paid as well."

— Comedian Kevin Mattran, on his decision to give up teaching high school to go on the road

MEHSLING'S VIEW



Steve
WILLEY

Alive with Dead Week excuses

As everyone here at UNL knows, next week is the all-important Dead Week. Traditionally, Dead Week is a time for students and faculty to prepare for upcoming exams and occasionally let off a little steam by randomly shooting an AK-47 from the top of Memorial Stadium.

If you use Dead Week properly, you can dominate your tests like never before. The only problem with "dominating your tests like never before" is that usually your professor accuses you of being a "cheating horse" during a UNL Judiciary hearing.

But there's a lot more to being successful on your finals than simply studying during Dead Week. There are many tips students should utilize to better prepare for upcoming exams.

Since I have taken many finals during my 34 years at UNL, I feel I have an obligation to share a few tips that have helped me throughout the decades.

When I took the Chemistry 109 final my freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years, my biggest hurdle was overcoming the enormous amounts of anxiety I felt before each test. I tried everything from eating pounds of Rogaine to dancing the Charleston in the middle of my exam. None of them worked, though ingesting that much Rogaine did cause me to believe I could fly by flapping my ears really fast.

Then I hypothesized that if I went into the chem final fully expecting to fail miserably, I wouldn't be so nervous. When I take my exam this year, I'll let you know how it works.

Other people argue, however, that the best way to combat stress is with a strong sense of confidence. This means you should NOT bring a pillow or hangman's noose to your exam. Rather, you should strut (the Vinnie Barbarino "Over-21 Walk" is the strut of choice) into the room and flop yourself across the desk completely relaxed. (Fat Author's note: You may need to enlist the aid of



several hundred shots of novocaine to create this effect.)

When the test arrives, shift matter-of-factly through the pages and let off a confident "HMMPPFF." Then take out your pen and, using the answers from the person seated next to you, confidently complete your test.

Now that you know a couple of stress-relievers, you need to conquer the actual test. Obviously, if you're going to do well on a test, the most important thing to do is to study. However, studying for tests is extremely difficult for some people because it's hard for them to concentrate for more than a minute.

Many of us, after a few milliseconds of reviewing calculus equations, will lose our concentration and begin seriously thinking about licking the Scotch Tape dispenser on our desk.

Fortunately, if you lack concentration, you have a few options. One option would be to locate a previous exam from your class and memorize the questions word for word. But be careful. Many times professors will try to confuse you by deleting words or rephrasing questions. For example, last year's question that read, "True or False, The Earth Revolves around the Moon," could now read, "Revolving the True, Earth Moons Around." You mustn't fall victim to this trickery.

The only other option to avoid studying is to pretend you are a stalk of celery during the exam. This ploy seldom works, however, because, unlike you, professors won't believe

that you're REALLY a stalk of celery.

Even after following these tips, some folks will still be unable to produce acceptable results on a final. For you people, I have devised some plans — which I have personally tested — designed to get you out of taking final exams.

PLAN I. Before the final begins, "accidentally" drop your pencil a few feet down the aisle. As you bend down to retrieve it, "accidentally" kick it a few more feet. At this point, examine the room with an embarrassed look on your face, and then proceed to continue kicking your pencil until you are outside of the building.

If you have the type of professor who is likely to go after you, you may want to kick your pencil until you arrive at a rest stop in Iowa. When you get there, it is customary to crouch in a bathroom stall and wish you were someone else.

PLAN II. Halfway through the exam, begin twitching uncontrollably and sweat randomly at the air. When your professor arrives to comfort you, stare through him with a blank look and rub his face as if you were blind. Then tell him that your roommate insisted on eating the stuffing INSIDE the turkey this year and that you feel more like Salvador Dali than yourself.

Your professor will undoubtedly excuse you — although it wouldn't hurt if at some point you hit someone with a croquet mallet and accused them of stealing your sardines.

Remember these tips aren't meant to be sure-fire ways to pass an exam. This column should be used solely as a tool that, if read aloud during a barmitzvah, could get you arrested.

Now that I think of it, getting arrested would be another way to get out of a final.

Damn I'm good.

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