

OPINION PACKAGES

DN Quotes OF THE WEEK

"I've made a deliberate effort not to get involved with computers."

— State Sen. Roger Wehrbein of Plattsmouth on the recent purchase of laptop computers for the Legislature

"At times, this almost felt like a non-game in terms of intensity and in terms of interest. I'm sorry for that."

— NU Coach Tom Osborne on the lack of interest at the Orange Bowl

"If you check your gut, something says, 'Hey, it's time.' I think the campus will benefit from a new infusion of leadership."

— University of Nebraska at Omaha Chancellor Del Weber on his decision to retire

"It's the best for the taxpayers. It's a business decision, not a legal decision."

— Lincoln City Council Chairwoman Cindy Johnson on the Francisco Renteria civil-suit settlement

"With my heart, I always wanted to come back."

— NU rush end Grant Wistrom on his decision to stay for his senior year

"We must talk openly about race relations in this country and try to leave the angry rhetoric behind."

— Attorney General Janet Reno in a speech observing the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"In the garage-rock cult world, we sound overproduced. We're low-fi junkie — we get dissed from zines because we don't sound crappy enough."

— Doug Roberson, lead guitarist, Bent Scepters

"If we were in any other city in the league, the fans would've been booing us off the ice. It's kind of nice to not be struggling and come into your own barn with the fans behind you."

— Marc Suderman, starting center Lincoln Stars, on fan support

"I'll miss it like crazy. But everything happens for a reason. I guess God just has another plan for me."

— Stacie Maser, a middle blocker for the Nebraska volleyball team, after her career ended with a chronic knee injury

"Right now, chemistry-wise, we're still working on it. Believe it or not, even though we're 11-1, I can't say we have played our best basketball yet."

— Husker Coach Angela Beck

"Hit him! Stab him with your hockey cleat!"

— Fan at Stars game

"The Tickle Me Elmo people are scrambling to get new versions of their giggling Muppet on the market, because the Cabbage Patch Snack Time Kid debacle took a bite (Ouch! now that's a bad pun) out of their post-holiday orders."

— Daily Nebraskan columnist Brent Pope

Mehsling's VIEW

MEHSLING'S VIEW
DAILY NEBRASKAN



ABSOLUT TAX BREAK

J.J.
HARDER

Stay between the lines

Proceed with caution; don't let safety take back seat

When I was looking at colleges, it did not seem too hard to become a UNL student. I encountered a fairly flat, relatively compact campus, a major city with family values and friendly people all nestled cozily in the heartland of America. Awwwww. Don't you just have that squishy feeling inside?

Before you get out your lighters and start singing "Kumbayah" — take a look around. After you finally master the one-way streets and get past the massive construction sites, you are hit with a rash arctic chill that turns the campus into a veritable frozen tundra.

Realistically though, these things all take a back seat to one of the biggest problems at the university: Traffic! The constant war that pits automobile against pedestrian. Half of the campus might be closed to cars, but the other half has more than its fair share.

Every day, students coming from and going to the dorms and parking lots are forced to deftly maneuver through impatient drivers, semi-truck deliveries and monstrous buses just to receive their daily serving of academia. That's not to say students are all following the state's pedestrian regulations to a T, but something has to change.

In the first half of 1996 alone, there were nine traffic accidents on campus that were recorded with the University Police and the Lincoln Police Department. That doesn't include the infinite number of close encounters and whatever goes on in the wonderful farming community of East Campus.

The statistics from the latter half of the year have yet to be compiled,



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The driving around here is worse than the acting on 'Saved By the Bell!'"

but I am sure some of us might remember two instances during fall semester that brought about a broken windshield and a few thrown bodies.

In the absence of abolishing vehicles inside the city limits or the unveiling of an expansive campus walkway system, everyone needs to do his or her own little part to cut down on the existing conditions and future massive head wounds. These simple guidelines might be of some assistance:

1. WHEN THE SIGN READS DON'T WALK — DON'T WALK! I know you are all in a hurry and can see that the cross traffic has a red light, but if you wait a minute, the other cars can turn right and will not get backed up to I-80.

2. RED MEANS STOP! I am also well-aware that this one is not as easy

to follow because the instructions are not actually written out for you, but unless you are colorblind there should not be a problem. (And even then the red one is usually on top.)

3. USE THE CROSSWALKS! People are supposed to walk through the designated crossing areas, hence the name, not just anywhere they feel like. There is no doubt in my mind that some of you do have world-renowned cat-like speed and reflexes, but my bet is on the two-ton piece of metal.

4. HAVE COMMON COURTESY! The nicest people in the world live here, but when a few of them get into their cars, a priest needs to be called to exorcise some demons! And if it is not just plain viciousness that inhabits the local drivers, it is the absence of driving ability.

The driving around here is worse than the acting on "Saved By the Bell!" So just try to be nice and let cars and students alike get where they need to go as quickly as they can without dismembering any people or disfiguring any small imports.

There are enough things to fear in this world besides getting run over walking to class, so take some Vivarin to keep alert, a little — insert item of choice — to keep your temper down and some good old-fashioned Nebraska friendliness with you, and let's hope everyone can keep his or her windshields, limbs and minds intact.

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P.S. Write Back



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