

OPINION PAGES

Our VIEW

Melting stew *Learn about the history of all peoples*

Black History Month is almost over. While this month provides an impetus to read up on those in America's storied past

— the triumphs achieved and obstacles overcome — one shouldn't forget that after February has gone into the sweet night, there's still a year until the next Black History Month. But that doesn't mean the learning has to be — or should be — put on hold for 11 months.

It doesn't take much to go and read up on the history of prominent blacks in American history. It doesn't take a specially designated month to justify desires to learn about an integral part of American culture. Learning about black history, or any history for that matter, is not limited to a month — it's a lifelong process.

Who hasn't heard of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.? Or of Malcom X?

Black History Month isn't just about the famous. It's also about the less well-known — the Civil War soldiers who fought for what was right, doctors who struggled to prove old myths wrong, philanthropists who left lasting impressions on society and the defenders of liberty.

Black History Month should be a cue to people of all races to take the time to learn the history of all the ethnic peoples who make up the American experience.

Of course, there can't be a month, week or day for everybody. That would detract from the importance of Black History Month and demean the intention of its founders.

This is not to say that Polish, American Indian, Egyptian, Hispanic, Asian — for that matter any ethnicity or nationality — peoples are not deserving of recognition for their heritage.

Black History Month is almost over. Take the time to learn something about this part of American history.

And while you're at it, instead of learning about only one ingredient in our melting "stew," crack open the pot and take a taste of all the goodies.

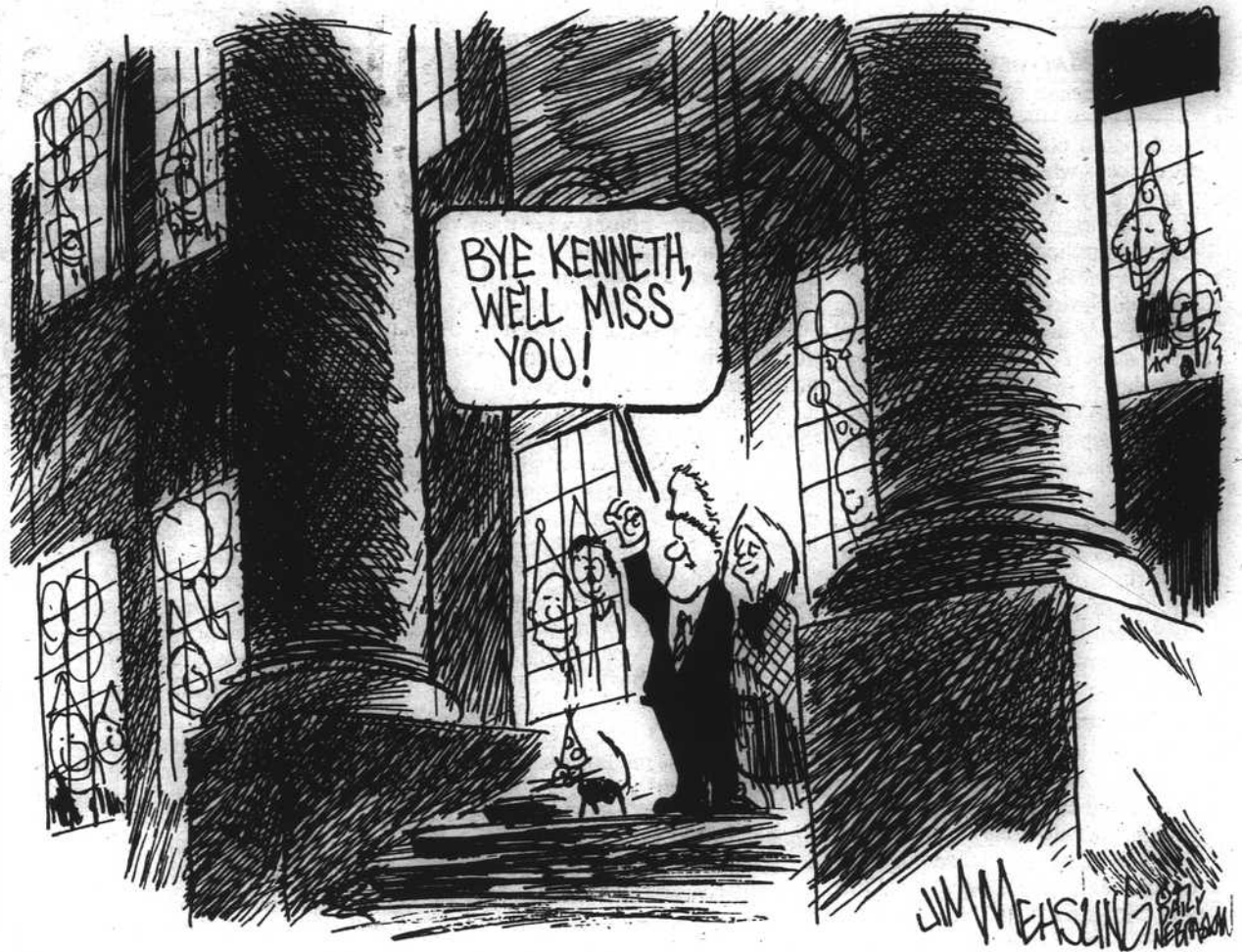
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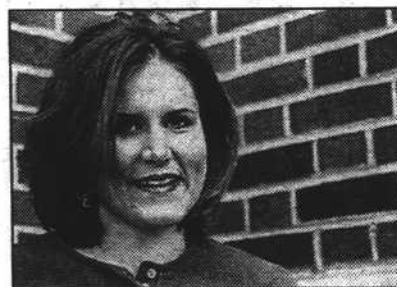
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Mehsling's VIEW



Anne
HJERSMAN

The doctor is in *Procrastinator offers advice for other addicts*



Procrastination. It's the greatest and most addictive drug ever to hit college campuses.

Procrastination is specially formulated to provide fast, maximum-strength relief of pain and congestion due to inflamed responsibilities. It coats the stomach. It glazes the eyes. It numbs the brain.

Procrastination induces the expectation of excuses to soothe nagging headaches, professors and bosses.

Easy to swallow, isn't it?

Procrastination — better known by its street name "cras" — is something I've dabbled in for as long as I can remember, but it was not until recently that it began to suck my will to live.

I have heard it said that the first step to recovery is admitting that you have a problem.

So I admit. I have a problem.

I am addicted to procrastination, and though my actual state of being alive has not been threatened by this dependence, my life is most definitely in danger.

I have already begun to display all the telltale signs: altered personality, edginess, sleeplessness, slovenly unshowered appearance, inability to concentrate on any single task for a prolonged period, uncontrollable flinching at the sound of my name being called, excessive ducking of responsibility ...

“
I am addicted to procrastination, and though my actual state of being alive has not been threatened by this dependence, my life is most definitely in danger.”

I know. I'm a saint.

As much as I hated to do it, I forced myself to put off writing my column until there was not a chance that I could finish it before Thursday's issue of the Daily Nebraskan went to print. I pushed my addiction to a level I had not known before.

I'm sure you missed me. I missed me.

Believe me, it hurt me more than it hurt you. I sacrificed \$15, all for the sake of research.

I know. I'm a saint.

But for you, my readers, I'd do anything. No pain is too great.

And now that I have reached the depths of absolute irresponsibility, I am ready to start the trek back to normalcy — or at least efficiency.

As I begin the long haul down the road to recovery, I offer to those of you who feel you too may be at risk of falling prey to this evil escapism we call procrastination, some advice:

Do not exceed the recommended dosage.

If symptoms persist, do not improve within seven days, or are accompanied by high anxiety, or if new symptoms occur, consult your transcript before continuing use.

Do not take this product if you have any hopes of graduating, having a career or accomplishing anything in your lifetime, except under the supervision of your conscience.

Do not take this product for more than 10 days.

May cause drowsiness: alcohol, sedatives, tranquilizers and deadlines may increase the drowsiness effect.

Avoid alcoholic beverages, driving a motor vehicle, operating machinery and everything else in your life while taking this product.

KEEP THIS AND ALL DRUGS OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN.

In case of accidental overdose, seek professional help immediately. I know I'm going to.

Hjersman is a senior news-editorial and English major and the night editor and a columnist for the Daily Nebraskan.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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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.