

# OPINION PAGES

## DN Quotes OF THE WEEK

"The window to Heaven will not open again until another civilization is planted and has reached sufficient maturity (according to the judgment of the next level.)"  
— Posting on www.heavensgate.com web site

"Last year we were riding the wave of winning two national titles. I think we automatically thought we were going to be playing for a third and that didn't happen. When someone takes something from you, you want it back."  
— Defensive tackle Jason Peter

"I have that wonderful knowledge that I know where he is and I will get to see him again. That's how I can get through this."  
— Jan Berringer, mother of former Husker quarterback Brook Berringer

"What's next? I'm like Tommy Boy, 'No idea.' I don't really like pro football, but I'd do it."  
— NU wrestler Tolly Thompson on his plans after college

"It's not because the north side is a bad area. It's just where these guys happened to live."  
— Rick Wallace, the president of the Lincoln branch of the NAACP, on the recent troubles in the Clinton neighborhood

"Something inside me said that no child should ever live — be born, live and die — without a family."  
— AIDS foster mother

"I love Nebraska."  
— NU Coach Danny Nee, prior to not receiving the head coaching job at Rutgers University

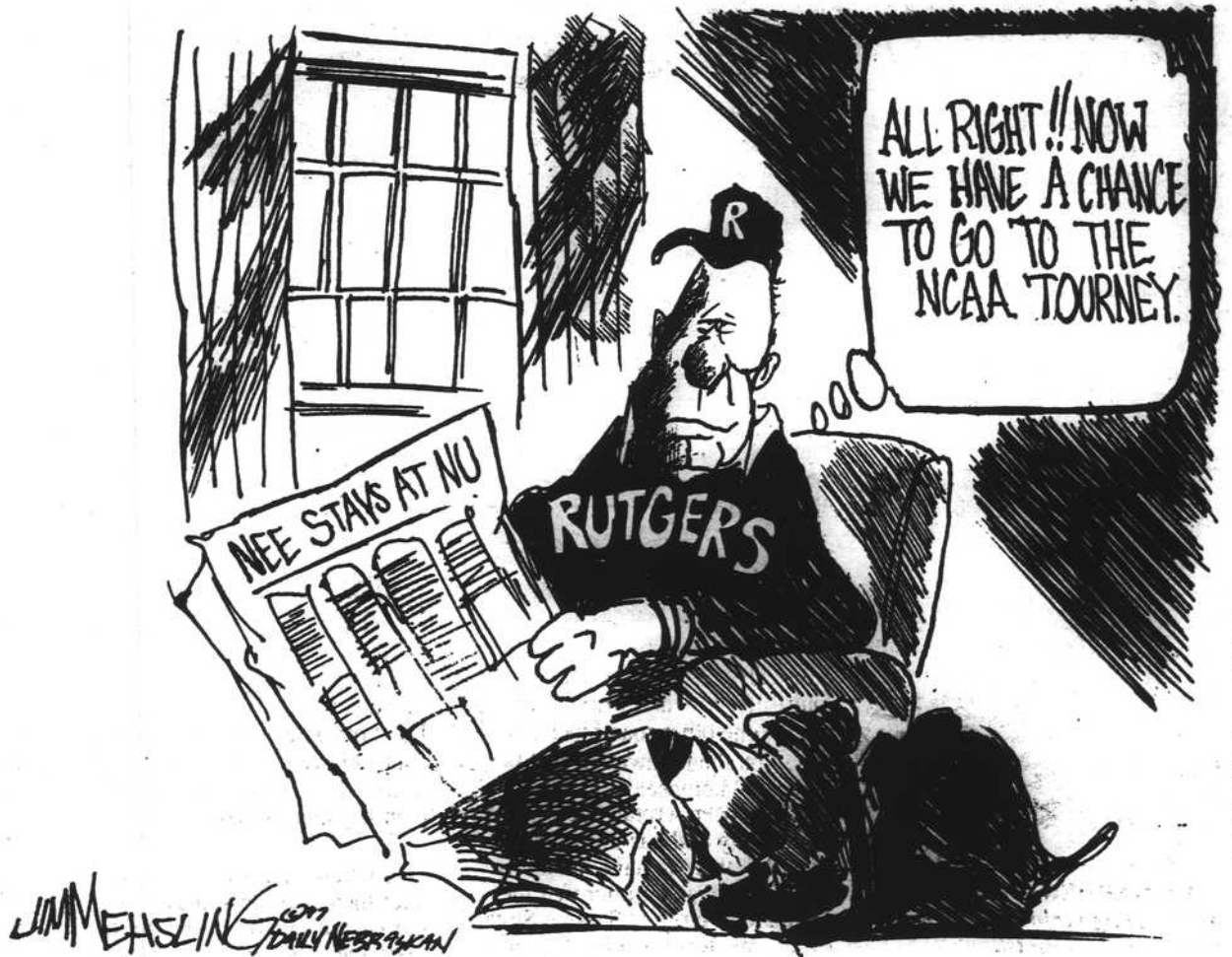
"I had a nice conversation with him and he's excited about getting out, of course."  
— St. Louis Rams Coach Dick Vermeil on the release of former NU running back Lawrence Phillips from jail

"People make mistakes. This by no means justifies this. I am not trying to justify this."  
— Former ASUN President Eric Marintzer on facing DWI charges

"I hope now that students will find me a good listener, and at meetings with administration, I will think before I speak."  
— New ASUN President Curt Ruwe

"If you're looking for a cheap date, this is a great way to do it."  
— Dan Ladely, director of the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, on the 24th Student Academy Awards

## Mehsling's VIEW



## DN LETTERS

### Love Is Love

On March 19, the Nebraska Legislature gave 39-3 approval to a ban on recognizing same-sex marriages in the state. But no one has a substantive argument against gay marriage. If we think that one of the functions of marriage is to celebrate stable relationships and to prohibit promiscuous sexual relationships, then it seems that gay marriages are a good idea.

Families are not what they once were, but it is the heterosexuals who have done the damage to the institution of marriage. We are not in a position to point to homosexuals and say that you are the problem. A ban on gay marriage is a misguided attempt to protect marriage.

Marriage and the family began their transformation long before the gay civil rights movement. By 1975, only six years after the Stonewall rebellion that marked the first widespread public emergence of lesbians and gays, half of all marriages ended in divorce.

I think if two people are in a permanent relationship, then their commitment should certainly be recognized. Loving and loyal same-sex relationships do exist and gay folks should enjoy the same rights as other human beings. They must have equal rights.

Homosexuals in same-sex unions should have the same financial, legal and social benefits that married heterosexuals have. Unless someone can show us how gay marriages would harm our community and the society as a whole or how they would undermine the values upon which traditional marriage rests, we must be morally guided by tolerance and equal rights.

Mohammad Seifkar  
Lincoln

### Hush-hush

I was surprised to learn of ASUN



MATT HANEY/DN

President Eric Marintzer's ticket for DWI. I was appalled to find out it happened over four months ago. When Terrell Farley, Christian Peter and Jon Vedral found themselves in similar positions, their pictures and stories made headlines within a few days of the incidents.

As a result of their embarrassment to the university, they were suspended from their positions of representing UNL. Why was Marintzer given the opportunity to continue to serve in his elected position without letting the student body know of his "mistake?"

I wonder what else he has done during his presidency that was illegal, but never detected by the Lincoln Police Department? If he was so willing to accept responsibility, why are he and his attorney trying to shift some of the blame to the officer? Is this what we can expect in his Code of Ethics, a document that reduces individual culpability by faulting others?

This should not be viewed only as a personal attack on the former ASUN president, everybody does make mistakes, but this is also an attack on a system that would let an injustice like this occur.

I support the decisions to suspend the football players, it was the right thing to do, but why was Marintzer

given preferential treatment for the exact same offense? My advice to all football players, if you see Eric downtown and you're both drunk, make sure he drives home — at least he has connections with the university administrators.

Jon Braaten  
senior  
criminal justice

### A tiny mistake?

I am writing in response to Thursday's article on Eric Marintzer's DWI charge. First of all, I think it was in very poor judgment that the article was written. I wasn't aware that the Daily Nebraskan, no matter how hard they try, is not a paper of facts and news about the university, but merely a tabloid for high-profile students' problems.

I do not believe that Eric deserved a front-page report on one mistake that he is already paying dearly for. Eric is one of the finest persons I have ever met, and I do not believe anyone will find a student, administrator or faculty member that knows Eric who would not agree.

I feel that Eric should not be looked down upon for his mistake because he was an elected official, and his job is to represent students. Little did the students know, Eric was representing the population of drinkers on campus, a group that most everyone I know is a member. I was fortunate enough to never have any run-ins with the law, but I have one question: How clean are the writers and editors of the DN?

Just because they sit on the publication side of the paper, does that mean they are lily white, while we readers are subject to un-objective scrutiny? I would like to hear what some of the DN staff have gotten busted for, and compare that to Eric's one mistake. It might not be news, but at least it would be fair.

Jason Bynum  
'96-'97 ASUN 1st vice president  
chemistry  
senior

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