

Sonia
HOLLIMON-STOVALL

Ant-icipating the end

Never too late to start investing for the future

Although it's traditionally a wintertime story, I think it's appropriate to tell now, since the end of the academic year is approaching.

This is the story of the grasshopper and the ant. How the busy little ant works hard all summer, storing and saving, while Mr. Grasshopper just whittles away his hours — chirping underneath my window all night



long driving me nuts.

Anyway, come cold weather, Mr. Ant is chillin' underground, popping whatever it is ants eat into his mouth, not giving a second thought to Mr. Grasshopper's untimely demise.

Whenever my mom told me this story, it always seemed to be in conjunction with me watching TV or her putting away food in the freezer. As a result, I have a guilt complex about too much TV but I feel incredibly productive with a Gladlock bag in my hand.

What I've come to realize about that story is that it isn't so much about wasting time as it is about investing it.

There are lots of people like the grasshopper. They invest all their time and energy into their image

and how things look to other people — I can't imagine how exhausting that must be. Even those chicks on "Melrose Place" take their makeup off at night.

Then there are the geeks — those who put their time into saving the planet or the resurgence of tie-dye and hemp clothing. We admire their dedication but we think they're a little strange anyway.

Then there are the Mr. Ants among us — people who seem to spend all their time (gag!) on other people, like — teachers. What on earth are they thinking, we ask ourselves. My mother teaches, and at Boys Town no less — as if public school kids aren't enough of a challenge. After seeing her pay stubs, I have to wonder what exactly it is that keeps her doing it — she claims it's the three months of summer vacation, but I find that hard to believe.

What I do believe is that it's the people like Mr. Ant who reap all the rewards, although all the time they spent could have been on themselves, and not just in a monetary fashion. Well, Mom does clean up at Christmastime in the gift department.

Over the years people have come up to me and asked if I knew Sandy Stovall. (Mom and I kind of look a lot alike.) Former students and co-workers all tell me how great a



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teacher she was or how much fun she was to work with.

I used to think that my mom had a certain amount of "niceness" she could use in a day and that she must have used it all at school, because the woman they were talking about and the woman who came home at 5 were not the same person.

Now I understand just what the ant is up to — he's not just busting his behind for his own future, but for those around him as well because that's what it takes to keep the

anthill going.

I am a firm believer in a good, solid investment. In fact, when most of my friends were buying CD players, I got an IRA. If you've never considered it, look into a good retirement fund or some aggressive stock if you can afford it, but don't forget — the really smart money is on the people around you.

Hollimon-Stovall is a senior broadcasting major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

Kasey
KERBER

Freedom to be

Thankful that voices at UNL are not squashed

It happened about a week ago.

I was sitting in a packed room, jotting down every detail of an ASUN inauguration ceremony, when one of the parting ASUN officers

used his final speech to lash out at the DN.

He decided not to let the issue go until he had called the Daily Nebraskan a "so-called seeker of truth" and labeled our

staff as the "enlightened writers and editors of the DN."

And it was at this moment that I remembered a distinct quote: "Never pick a fight with a guy who buys ink by the barrel."

But I wasn't in journalism to get the "last word" or stoop to mud-slinging.

I was reminded after the meeting by Professor Paul Kelter, Outstanding Educator of the Year for the second straight year, that the officer in question was displaying a freedom other students across the country might not have — to speak their mind and get away with it.

Kelter's point was that in many private schools and institutions, the student paper or the student government can be dissolved if they say something the university opposes.

And Kelter's point is a valid one.

From our side, there are a lot of people who don't like the Daily Nebraskan; some people in the

administrative office probably like us as much as scrubbing with a Brillo pad.

Yet we're never shut down — even if our articles sometimes paint the university in a less than favorable light.

But some small school papers are literally censored to the point that they submit their paper to the administrative office before publication. They are told what to keep, what to change and also what should not appear under any circumstances.

And the same applies to ASUN. When our student government passes resolutions against university policy or university actions, the administration never brings down its weight to dissolve ASUN.

But with student governments of some colleges, there is the matter of power. Unlike ASUN, there is no strong voice for these governments. There's no deciding where student fees go or bills to pass to say that the administration was wrong.

The students' voice, instead, becomes a mere whisper.

And don't get me wrong — I'm not just talking about high-priced private institutions or community colleges. There are schools far larger than us that don't enjoy the same freedoms.

Take the University of Florida, for example. With 35,000 students, it has a significantly larger population than UNL. It is also perceived as one of the most liberal schools in the nation.

But don't bother trying to find a student paper on campus — because there isn't one. The only paper they do have is called The Independent Florida Alligator and it gets no



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university support whatsoever.

It has little money. It can't afford to pay its writers. And because its writers aren't paid — no one wants to work there.

Which spells out a crappy paper that no one reads, cares about or even fights with.

Just think about that when the DN angers you. Think of the alternative — a paper that has one page for sports, one page for arts and entertainment, little color (if any) and papers that aren't available in every building on campus.

Let's be frank — this university's paper and student government enjoy a liberty hundreds of others don't.

And do we abuse it? Maybe. But I don't believe we ever try to. We

simply make mistakes and learn as we go along.

And whether the learning process entails writing an article on something better left untouched or using your final student government speech to insult a reporter who doesn't give a damn — we'll all learn in time.

And until then, we should remember the unique freedom we have and respect it.

Otherwise there could be a day when we'll lose it.

And that would be a loss for us, the students we write for or the students we represent.

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