

# OPINION/PAGES

## Our VIEW

### Super Sendoff Don't bog down event with needless politics

Freshmen arriving at the university each fall are greeted by grand galas sponsored by various living units and student organizations.

There's no reason seniors shouldn't leave on the same note.

For the last few years, the Student Alumni Association (SAA) and the Nebraska Alumni Association (NAA) have co-sponsored a big bash for outgoing seniors.

Traditionally, Senior Sendoff has been a semi-formal wine and cheese party.

As senioritis and the weather heats up, who wants to be wearing pantyhose and a tie?

So this year SAA and NAA pulled in college alumni groups to sponsor a free outdoor party for seniors graduating in May, August and December.

Tonight is that party.

There will be free barbecue, door prizes and music by Lincoln Star's announcer Craig Estudillo.

Yes, even free beer.

Quiet rumblings have been heard from within the administration building about alcohol being served to students on campus.

But before anyone passes judgment, keep these facts in mind:

- Alcohol has been served at Senior Sendoff in years past.

- Students must show identification.

- There will be two security guards on duty.

- To receive the free beer, students must use their two drink tickets.

- And finally, whether the administration wants to admit it or not, there is alcohol on campus, in both the greek houses and the residence halls.

Apparently the publicity for Senior Sendoff also raised some concerns by administrators.

Sure, students and fliers shouldn't have emphasized the free beer aspect of the party but, let's face it — the students are going for the free beer. Just look at the RSVPs. They're up more than 400 percent from last year's Senior Sendoff.

In the end, this is a nice way for the university to congratulate seniors on the completion of their collegiate careers and the beginning of the rest of their lives.

Senior Sendoff is an event that shouldn't get bogged down in the mire of university politics.

UNL's administrators should trust that SAA and NAA have taken and will take appropriate precautions to ensure that the party is a success in terms of safety and fun.

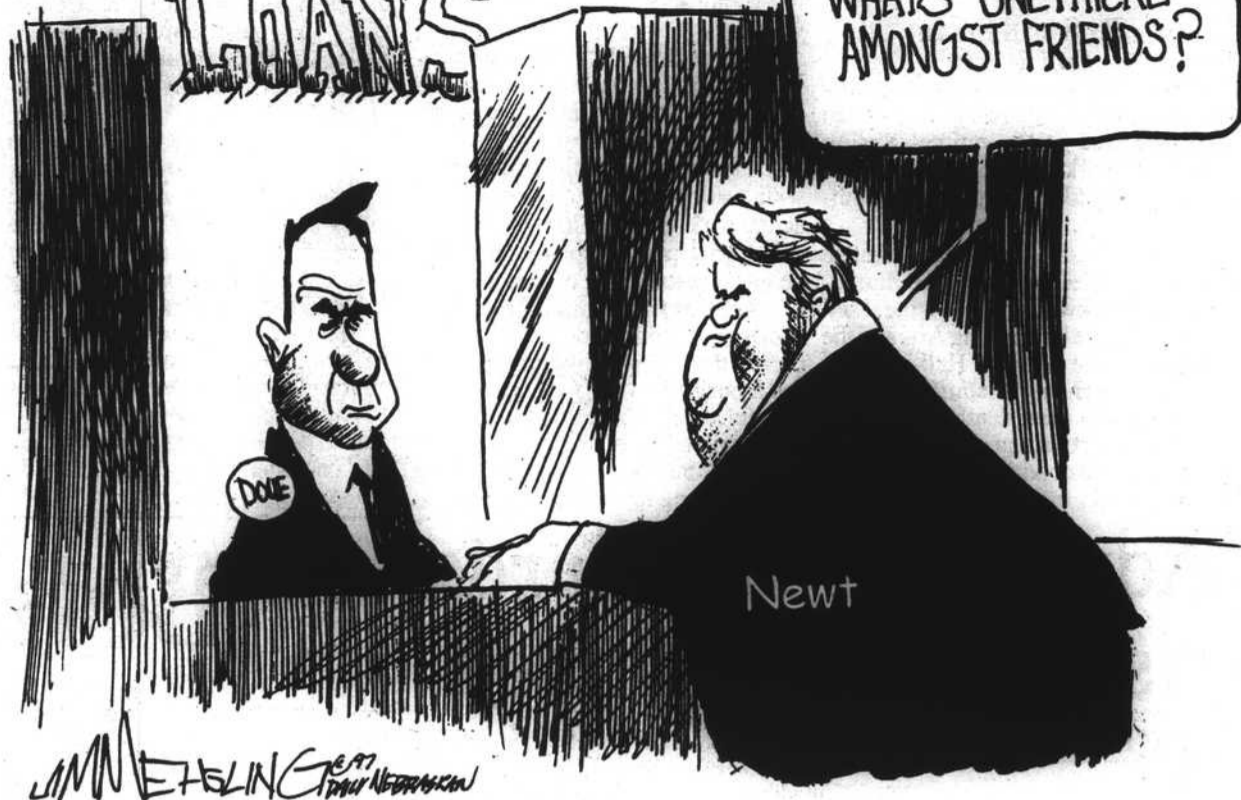
As for the seniors: Have a good time and enjoy yourselves. Take the opportunity to mingle with your friends and eat free food.

But first and foremost, be responsible.

Senior Sendoff is a gift, don't spoil it for the seniors to come.

## Mehsling's VIEW

### BOB'S FAST CASH LOANS



## Guest VIEW

### One Earth

#### Embrace 'tree-hugger' activism for future generations

AUSTIN, Texas (U-WIRE) — Last Saturday, an Austin American-Statesman editorial discussed the significance of Earth Day. The Statesman suggested celebrators shift the holiday's focus from controversial environmental issues to more scientifically-minded ones. Rather than sparking more debate or raising children's fears about our planet's future, the holiday would help reignite young people's interest in natural science.

Earth Day without environmentalism? Somehow, hostility about environmentalism has grown out of control.

Environmentalists are now "tree-huggers." Bumper stickers read, "Unemployed and hungry? Eat an environmentalist."

More and more people seem to think a proponent of recycling and car-pooling secretly yearns to destroy capitalism, democracy and the American family. When did ecological concerns become so taboo?

True, Earth-friendly folks and business-friendly folks have clashed in the past over issues like air pollution and endangered species. But extremist confrontations like these are the exception. Environmentalists have created some booming industries of their own and they've helped improve our quality of life.

You personally have probably

saved a few bucks on electric bills and gasoline over the years thanks to tips from a conservation-minded person.

You also may be breathing cleaner air, drinking fresher water and consuming fewer chemicals because environmentalists fought to preserve some basic standards. Yet you may agree with all the backlash.

Among the most disturbing trends in the anti-environmentalist movement is the way it's surging among young conservatives. Fiscally conservative students reason that pro-Earth policies are anti-economy, and conservative Christians now call yesterday's stewards of the Earth "eco-cultists."

But people once considered our age-group the Environmentalist generation. The first Earth Day took place just before most of us entered preschool. At an impressionable age, we saw thousands of birds killed in the Exxon oil-spill and watched children near Chernobyl grow sick from radiation. In 1989, when many of us were forming our ideological identities, 50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth became a best-seller.

We pestered our parents into recycling newspapers and begged them not to buy tuna when dolphins were being killed. We lectured our younger siblings on the importance of turning off the faucet while they brushed their teeth.



MATT HANEY/DN

Now many young people have abandoned their earlier idealism. This Earth Day should provide a chance to get back in touch with childhood's respect for nature. Take the opportunity to renew your commitment to the simple things you can do to make a difference.

Haul those beer bottles to the recycling center.

Cut beef out of your diet for a week. Adopt a manatee or an acre of rain forest.

Better yet, drop a grudge against environmentalism. Your kids and grandkids might thank you.

— Christine Shirley  
The Daily Texan

EDITOR  
Doug Kouma

OPINION EDITOR  
Anthony Nguyen

EDITORIAL BOARD  
Paula Lavigne  
Joshua Gillin  
Jessica Kennedy  
Jeff Randall  
Erin Gibson

#### EDITORIAL POLICY

Unsigned editorials are the opinions of the Spring 1997 Daily Nebraskan. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, its employees, its student body or the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. A column is solely the opinion of its author. The Board of Regents serves as publisher of the Daily Nebraskan; policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. The UNL Publications Board, established by the regents, supervises the production of the paper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student employees.

#### LETTER POLICY

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor and guest columns, but does not guarantee their publication. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Submitted material becomes the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Those who submit letters must identify themselves by name, year in school, major and/or group affiliation, if any. Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. E-mail: letters@unlinfo.unl.edu.

### 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.