

OPINION PACKAGES

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Our
VIEW

Stand down

Standing on concrete not so bad, after all

OK, students, it's time to stand down.

The Athletic Department and the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska have spoken, and they've told us one simple thing — get off the bleachers.

Theirs is not an unreasonable request: Quit standing on the seats. Not quit standing. Not quit cheering. Not quit supporting your team.

Just stand down.

Every year, complaints rain from high up in the stands to sit down. Grumbles ripple like the wave in the fourth quarter when the score's 82-7 and everyone's feet ache from the heat or cold.

It's just a simple request; stand in the footwells and not on the bleacher seats.

Otherwise, students will be moved even farther away from the action on the field. Students will lose part of the one tiny piece of the end zone we now occupy in South Stadium.

And that would suck.

School spirit is important. Cheering for our classmates is important.

Standing on the stadium seats is not important. Period.

Let's face it, the Athletic Department could have done worse. It could have issued a lofty edict banning students to the oxygen-depriving heights in the end zones.

But that didn't happen. And we're very, very lucky.

So, this fall when you head to the game with all your friends, your sisters and brothers, be good.

Don't mess things up for the years to come by being stupid and stubborn.

It really is no different to stand in the footwells than to stand on the seats. (Shhh...don't tell the Athletic Department). Actually, if everyone stands down, like we're politely being asked, it won't be difficult to see the field at all.

In fact, standing on the concrete makes some sense. No one should miss standing on the shaky, off-balance, rickety wood seats.

Go pick up your tickets if you haven't, read the attached note signed by Athletic Director Bill Byrne and student body president Curt Ruwe and help every student ticket holder for years to come.

This season, stand down.

(But do the wave if you feel the need for a little rebellion.)

Cartoonist's
VIEW



Carpe diem

Reading brings questions, not answers



STEVE CULLEN is a junior advertising major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

Hot as hell and humid as a bayou. Women are still wearing less, and the leaves are still green.

Must be time for school. The droves return to University Nebraska-Lincoln, ready for fine malted hops and the major league headaches of studies. First timers, know this: This year will be etched in your neophyte melons for the rest of your life — so make it count. For the rest of you, this is a new inning in an old ball game. Another chance to take the swings you pulled last year. Maybe rush the mound instead of taking it on the chin.

I usually am pretty juiced this time of year. A little upset too, leaving the summer behind and all. But every year makes us something new, and I'm interested to see how I'll turn out. Others have said, "Things are gonna happen this year." I've got a wild hair up my ass to push the limits. I hope I can suck you right along with me.

New day. New gig. A new chance. Now it's upon us: the time to plan and dream again.

I have written for many years now, but this is the first time I'll take my thoughts to the masses. Nervous and ready is Steve. I do not know if the things I write will be the things the campus wants to hear. The chance to open intellectual doors and scramble up the traditional, sheepherded views is too great a chance to pass up. Like Wayne said, "You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take." So I'm pullin' the trigger.

My target is your mind. The way we think is all we are. I want to challenge thoughts and explore the work-

"We need to suck the marrow from life and it starts by how we approach it. First with the head and then with the heart."

ings of people. I believe in adventure, exploration and risk taking. I believe in boldness and going against the grain. I want to fire you up and stir you upside down. I want you to think hard and get so riled up you can feel your heart jump around like a f—kin' bobcat. I've got a hot pot of Colombian coffee and a half-dozen PowerBars, and I'll pound at the keys until I find an angle to get you out of your seat.

Complacency, be afraid. Be very afraid.

That's why I'm writing — to be a bit of a philosophical rebel, but mainly out of interest in humans and life. Some of the topics that will be explored might be personal. Some will be general, some communal. Others will be lighthearted, aiming for an easy laugh, but all are made to take a look at something in a new way. I know I can't write something for everybody every time. But I hope the words I smith out will be looked at.

Take the time to look at the column every week. I bet I'll get your gears turning. I just hope to spark interest or a new perspective for someone, somewhere, each week.

I also encourage people to disagree with me. Challenge is good for thinking and writing and I'm a major believer in butting heads over opinions. I encourage people to stop me between classes or on campus to discuss topics, wrestle issues or suggest new ideas. Even to say I suck — as long as you've got a well-thought-out reason.

I write the things I do, not because I think my perspectives are flawless or correct. Rather, I write them because I believe in them. Actually, I believe in what they can do. I write because maybe someone else was trying to figure out something and I helped swing his or her angle that cracks the combo on the lock of life. I write because I hope

someone responds and opens my eyes too. Don't hesitate to share your thinking. In fact, it's what I want most.

And so I ask you all to read. Read the column because you only have one shot to learn everything you can before the big blackout, and to waste that chance is to waste life. Read because life is not handed to you, it is what you make of it. Read because life will swallow you whole if you let it; because it's a dog-eat-dog world and milkbone underwear comes in Hanes 3-packs. Read because it's a huge place and infinitely complex and all by ourselves we are unable to figure it out — perhaps we can grab a small piece of it through this column.

We need to suck the marrow from life and it starts by how we approach it. First with the head and then with the heart.

And so I ask you all to read. Read because so many people drift through life never understanding anything or truly living at all, always settling for mediocrity. Read because apathy disgusts you.

Thought is the power behind all things, good and bad. If we wish to make our lives incredible; if we wish to not go gently into that good night, then we must think and explore and question. These things all lead to the smiles, the triumphs, the inspired moments that make the world a better place for us all.

I ask you to read not because I feel I am brilliant. Read because I feel you are — and that you need food for thought. I ask you not to read because I have an adventurous spirit. Read because you have that spirit — and just need the freedom of inspiration.

I ask you not to read for answers, but for questions; not for solutions, but for issues; not for satisfaction but for hunger and desire.

And so I ask you to read — because you are alive.

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