

# OPINION PAGES

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*Our*  
**VIEW**

## Healing our habitat *UNL landscape requires restoration*

As the snow tore limbs from the trees on our campus, so went our heartstrings, ripped from us like the power lines in the blizzard of 1997.

It wasn't all that many years ago that one could look around our campus and think of what a less-than-beautiful site it was.

But starting four years ago, a real, well-funded and concerted effort was undertaken to improve the look of our campus. The landscaping department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln won a national award two years ago for its efforts in making our campus beautiful. For as much as people complained about losing parking spaces in place of grass, the look of the campus was greatly improved.

But Mother Nature is not to be trifled with. And neither is love.

The labor of love that was making our campus beautiful was dealt a serious blow Saturday night and Sunday morning.

A heartbreaking loss.

In just over 12 hours, years of work and decades of growth were ruined. Groundskeepers have said it will be years before they finish repairing all the tree damage done by this bout with the blizzard.

But it doesn't have to be a painful recovery.

The two Lincoln campuses are places in which we all take pride. From showing off for parents, friends, visiting professors and prospective students, we all want to look around and say, "Yeah, this is where I go to school."

For alumni, it is the same. They want to point to where they went to school with pride and show it off from time to time.

And the Athletic Department is the same. In the fall, they open some of our campus to 76,000 folks and show it off (albeit most of them aren't much interested in the state of the academic buildings or the landscaping).

But it's these people that should be looking inward now.

Our campus needs us.

What we are proposing is a fund, maintained by the vice chancellor for business and finance (who oversees the landscaping department) created for the sole purpose of buying new trees to replace the old ones and funding landscape improvements.

Specifically, those who are able in our campus community should open their wallets. Trees aren't cheap, but they are a serious investment in the future look of this campus.

Our alumni talk of building a solid campus for the future. Trees should be part of that future. At a time when need is there, our alumni should be there as well.

Our Athletic Department has been generous in the past with other campus organs in need, such as the library. With another successful football season well under way, the folks in Memorial Stadium should think long and hard about what this campus will look like next season.

But this fund should have money from us all, faculty, staff and students alike. We all work, play and live on this campus. Until this weekend, most of us never gave a second thought to the trees lining the sidewalks.

Let's plant the seeds for our future.

*Guest*  
**VIEW**



*DN*  
**LETTERS**

**Get it right**

I would like to set some facts straight in regards to Barb Churchill's column about Microsoft (DN, Monday).

First of all, IBM is much larger than Microsoft. The figures reported for profit on both companies are incorrect. IBM's profit for the last quarter of this year was \$1.4 billion dollars on revenue of \$18.6 billion dollars. This is for one three-month period. During the same period, Microsoft had revenue of \$3.13 billion and profit of \$663 million. IBM is by far the larger company. None of the figures reported for the sizes of the other companies is accurate either.

Second, the core issue of the dispute between Microsoft and the Justice Department is whether or not Microsoft can make companies take Internet Explorer as a condition of licensing Windows 95. Also at issue is whether Microsoft has deliberately tried to hold up the DOJ investigation by threatening computer manufacturers with the termination of their license agreements.

A great site for the information on the Microsoft vs. DOJ dispute is <http://www.news.com>. Before writing your columns, please check your facts.

**Jon Frohlich**  
junior  
computer engineering

**Thank you**

I'd just like to say thanks again to the members of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, on the corner of



Idylwild and Holdrege, for their generous help on Sunday.

The storm Saturday night wreaked havoc on the big trees on Idylwild and these kind individuals, after cleaning up their own debris, helped my neighbors and I clear the branches off of our yards and driveways.

I want the several guys who took

part to know that their help was very much appreciated. I know that I wouldn't have been able to get the job done by myself because the branches blocking my driveway were quite large and extra heavy with the snow covering.

So, thanks again guys. We need more people like you!

**Ryan Ahlman**  
senior  
business administration

**Broken record**

I question the statement in (Erin) Gibson's and (Josh) Funk's story headlined "Bad conditions cancel classes for second day," in Tuesday's Daily Nebraskan.

They wrote, "For the first time on record, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will cancel classes for the second day in a row today because of dangerous conditions on campus."

Check the record for Feb. 21-28, 1971, or thereabouts. I recall the university closed for at least two days because of a snow storm, during my fraternity initiation week. That provided the upperclassmen with a nice opportunity to attend to us pledges without the distraction of classes.

If your files show the closure was for only a day, it seemed like it was for days!

**Michael P. Carlson**  
UNL Veterinary Diagnostic  
Center

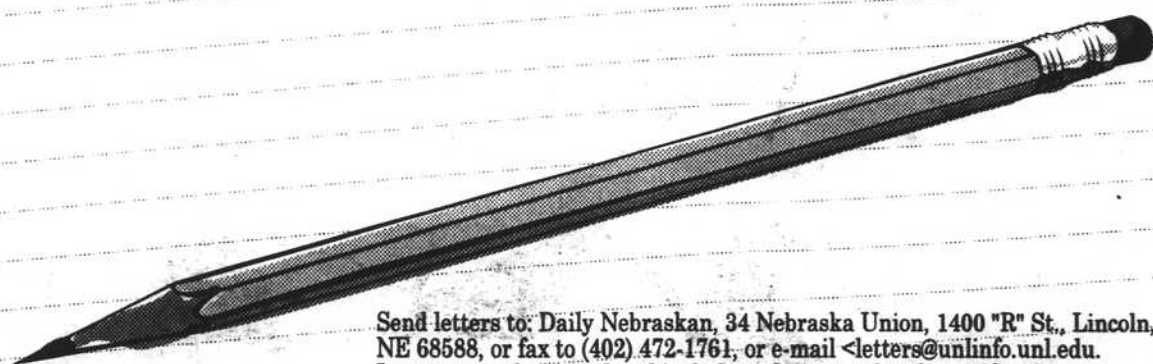
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