

# OPINION PACES

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## Our VIEW

# Thank you

## Students who stay deserve respect

If you are reading this, you should be commended.

It's Tuesday, the last day before Thanksgiving break. Three days plus a weekend of no classes, no worries, gluttony and home cooking.

Shangri-La, we have come.

But the urge to binge on the cozy confines of parental confections has pulled some of our fellow boys and girls a little too hard. Some of the little Pilgrims around campus have pulled away from Plymouth Rock, destined to head their Mayflowers back to the homeland for a brief visit.

But here you are, in class, around campus, in the union, at the library. In other words, you went to class. You stayed for Tuesday.

Bravo. You are a better person for it. You are stronger willed than some of your fellow students.

Look to your left. Now look to your right. How many people are in your classes today?

Fewer than Thursday, we're willing to bet. Fewer than any day, we reckon.

Momma's call is strong, and while we can fully understand the overriding sense of guilt that comes with an e-mail message or answering machine plea from the parents saying, "We hardly see you anymore. Come home early," we must remain true to our calling.

In this time of giving thanks, we thank you hardy students who came to campus today and slumped into class to hear the last lecture before slinking out of town.

We thank you for being farsighted enough to see that a short day on campus is more valuable than, well, a whole day of vacation.

It ain't glamorous. It ain't sexy. It isn't any fun to say, "Yeah, I went to class" instead of, "Yeah, I went home, sat on the couch, ate Cap'n Crunch and watched 'Montel' until Mom came home."

At a time in our history when the old-timers of the world are crying that our generation has no discipline, here you are.

You could have left. Without a test or quiz to hold you here, why did you show? Discipline. It's refreshing to see.

And we realize this is shouting into an empty room, but shame on all of you who aren't here to absorb the waves of wisdom bestowed upon you by your instructors.

But if you are out there to read this, thanks. Thanks for showing up today. Thanks for showing that work ethic and discipline still exist. Thanks for showing that instant gratification can take a back seat in this time of now, now, now.

We just wish there were more of you to read this.

May your travels be safe, and your holiday warm. Happy Thanksgiving.

## Haney's VIEW



# ... and stay out!

## Government shouldn't have easy access to data



**CLIFF HICKS is a news-editorial and English major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.**

If you thought the days of wiretaps, constant surveillance and the FBI poking its nose into every aspect of your life were over, think twice.

The FBI wants the 'Net - now. Not only it, but the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency and the Drug Enforcement Agency, as well as anyone else who thinks your life is a matter of national security.

Sure, Sen. McCarthy may be long dead and the Red Scare a thing of the past, but the government doesn't seem to learn from its mistakes like the rest of us.

Let me explain. Chances are, most of you have never purchased something over the Internet, fearing as to whether or not it is safe. If you do, most people will tell you you're taking your life into your own hands. It really isn't that bad.

See, almost every one of those transactions is encrypted.

Unfamiliar with encryption? When you encrypt something, you use a specific mathematical formula, which is nearly unbreakable, to scramble the data and make it unreadable to anyone without the key.

The government isn't happy about this.

On the Internet, it's hard to tell the difference between a 9-year-old looking at the Disney home page and 37 armed terrorists looking for the ideal location to place bombs near government buildings. On the 'Net, everybody's just little ones and zeros.

What the government has been trying to do is halt the sale of encryption technologies by American companies to overseas companies, thus protecting national security.

This plan is called the Commerce Online in the Digital Era (Pro-CODE) Act of 1997.

Another plan dealing with simi-

lar issues is called the Secure Public Networks Act, supported by our own Sen. Bob Kerrey.

Hello, McFly?

As if this weren't bad enough, here comes the really bad news: The government wants each encryption company to design a "key" to each encryption they design, which will enable the keyholder to unencrypt anything using that encryption. Then the government wants those keys. This too, it tells us, is for national security.

Uh, what? So, you're thinking, "Let me get this straight: Not only does the government want to restrict free trade of technology on the grounds of 'national security,' it also wants an easy way to read every encrypted document, view every encrypted file and listen in on every encrypted chat taking place through the Internet?"

Yeah, that's about the size of it. I don't know about you, but me personally, I think it's none of the government's damn business what I'm sending through my e-mail. We have this handy thing called the right to privacy. It says that we as private individuals are not to have our life gone through at the government's whim without proof of some kind.

The government, no matter how much it might suspect you're peddling crack from your back door step, isn't supposed to be able to go in and search the house without probable cause.

Those words are important, so let me repeat them: "probable cause." Probable cause won't be an issue if we turn keys over to the government. It will be able to use and abuse the power at its leisure. We won't know every time someone opens e-mail - which brings me back to the Red Scare.

I'm certainly not old enough to remember it personally, but it fascinates and disgusts me.

Send a copy of my column to Sen. Kerrey, along with this note, and make a difference.

Sen. Bob Kerrey,  
294 Federal Building  
100 Centennial Mall North  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Stay out of my private life! I, as a voter of the state of Nebraska, reject the Secure Public Networks Act as the restrictive and dangerous piece of legislation that it is and want my voice on record as being against it. I do not want the government involved in my private e-mail, or restricting commerce on the Internet.

Sincerely,