

# OPINIONPAGES

## Our VIEW

### Honor a holiday

*Find activities to celebrate King Day*

Months of heated debate will come to a test today when university students, staff, faculty and administrators will celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

While there is no official university holiday canceling classes, campus organizations have come together to offer almost six hours of events from morning until dawn.

Unless you've rigged your class schedule free of Monday classes, you're probably going to be sitting in a lecture hall somewhere from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

When you have the free time, there is an event to attend. But if there is a presentation that begs your attendance, by all means, go.

Go because you really want to experience cultures other than your own - or to find others who share your culture.

Take advantage of this opportunity to see the university's complex face of identities and beliefs.

See the benefits of what happened when discussion healed the wounds caused by debate.

In doing this, you also can show the university two things.

Show the administrators that whether there is an official holiday or not, nothing will prevent you from exercising your right to celebrate King's honor.

And, most importantly, show the university you would respect such a holiday by skipping class only if you attend a presentation associated with the day.

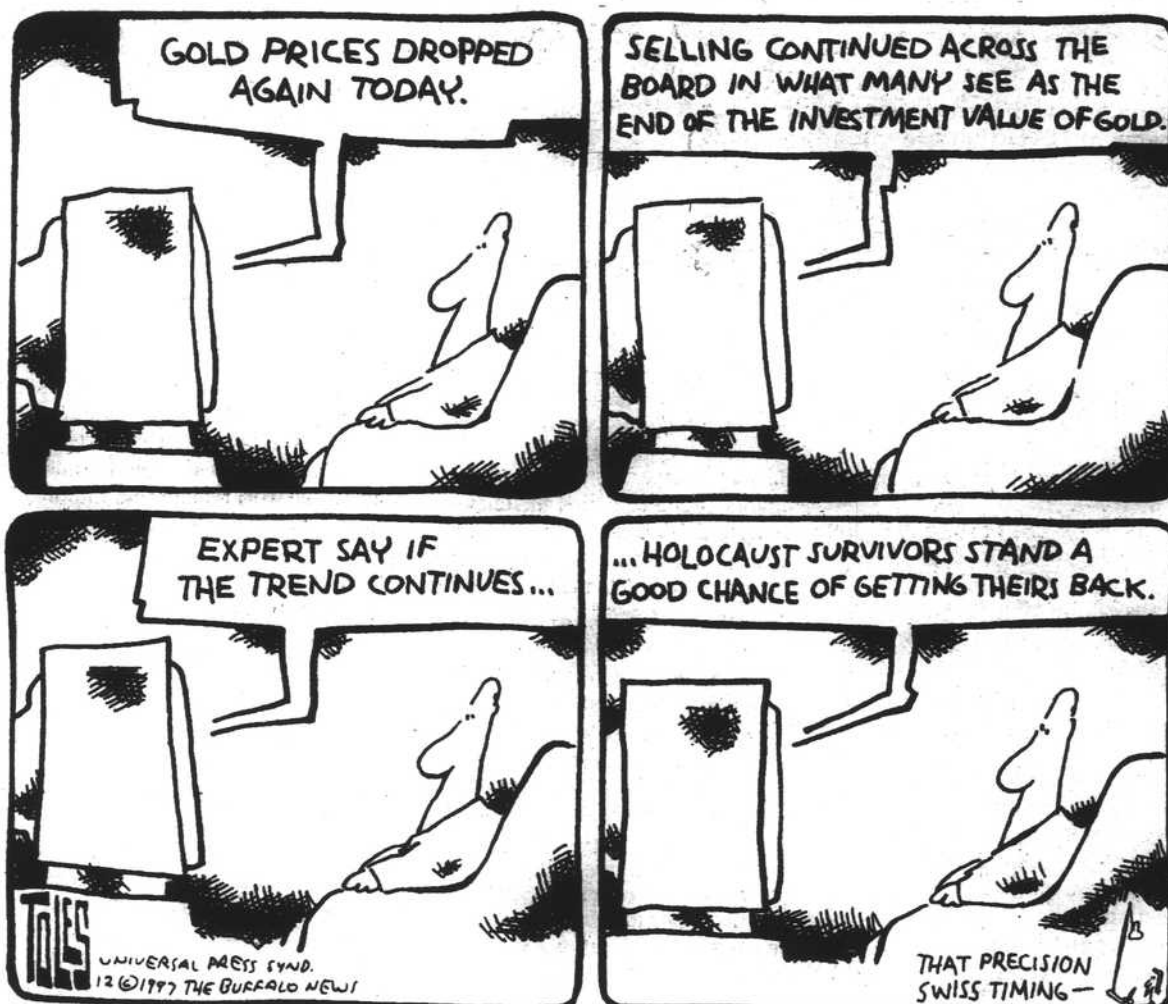
Skip because you have an option, not because it is an option.

Try to attend presentations that aren't scheduled during your classes. If you feel you must attend a presentation that conflicts with your class, make your intention clear to your professor as soon as possible.

The professor's response will be the litmus test as to whether or not a true university holiday would work in the future. Administrators speculate that 2001 would be the time, but maybe a positive attendance and reaction could bump that date up even sooner.

Some professors have made it acceptable, while some have stayed mute. Those who have offered this option to their students should be commended for their voluntary civil obedience to the desire of students to honor a man's sacred pride.

## Cartoonist's VIEW



## DN LETTERS

### Read on, MacDuff

Unless your professors are prescribing a heck of a lot more interesting reading material than when I was in college, I was amazed to see your obvious reference to Lindsey Davis' delightful series in your A&E promo for "Amadeus" on the cover of your January 15, 1997, edition. I thought I was the only person in Lincoln who read her books - or am I missing something, and that reference to "Falco" means something else entirely?

Keep up the good work, your newspaper is great!

Anne Erwin  
Lincoln

### I don't want your sex

Barb Churchill tells us that "sex education should include more of a rational approach to human behavior." (DN, Friday) Let's apply her approach:

■ Tell a kid that sex is OK, and the kid will have sex.

■ Tell a kid that sex is not OK, but then slip him or her some condoms, and the kid will have sex.

■ Tell the kid some values and hope the problem will go away, and the kid will have sex.

■ TEACH the kid some values, including a healthy respect for the gift of sexuality, and you're on your way to decreasing some scary statis-

tics.

I know it's difficult for a section of society (including Ann Landers) to understand that this beautiful gift of love and life is more than a weekend diversion. It's hard to tell your kids to say "no" when you don't do the same. But maybe it's time to take a vested interest in our children's lives, rather than give them some contraceptives and tell them to "go play nicely."

Contraceptives promote their own brand of ignorance. They tell our kids that everything will be OK if you have sex. Nothing can go wrong, because we, your loving adults, wouldn't let you do something if it could hurt you. And if you get pregnant or sick, too bad. You must have done something wrong.

Tell THAT to a pregnant 15-year-old.

Karen M. Benes  
senior  
secondary education - English

### The truth is out there

I would first like to applaud the federal and state government in their recent decision to fund abstinence-only sex education. Finally they are upholding their duty to maintain the highest possible moral standards in regard to sex education.

Churchill criticizes the notion that "Just say no" is not morally right or humanly possible. Why is it that we

can ask our children to "Just say no" to drugs and not to premarital sex? Does involvement in drugs have higher risks than involvement in sexual relations? In our day of STDs and HIV, I THINK NOT!! Don't we ask our children to overcome their human desire of curiosity when saying no to drugs? Why can't we expect the same when it comes to saying no to sex?

We aren't animals, Ms. Churchill; we can control our sexual desires. The only thing I can agree with Ms. Churchill about is the need to educate students about contraception and STDs. How about telling students about how small the HIV virus is and its ability to fit through pores of condoms? How about telling students about the truth about birth control pills and their link to cervical and breast cancer and possibly infertility later in life? Let's not forget to mention that these same pills act as possible abortifacients (sic) and they are killing millions of babies before they are even two weeks of age!! Tell them they can be murderers! Let's continue by telling them about sexually transmitted diseases. It's only logical to believe that they will act in a preventative way by "just saying no." I agree with you Ms. Churchill, let's educate our children.

But let's tell them the truth!!

Amy Clark  
UNL alumna

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