

OPINIONPACKETS

Our
VIEW

Calm amid the storm

Middle East tension doesn't faze Olympics

During the past two weeks, it has been hard to ignore them both.

At times, headlines about the looming conflict in Iraq stood beside the spectacular flash and glory of Winter Olympics coverage.

Coverage of the two events provided an ironic international balance, and many nations' citizens were rooting for their countries' representatives — athletes or ambassadors.

Victories and defeats textured the progress of each:

“*Most importantly, current international tensions again failed to taint the competitive spirit of the Olympics.*”

U.S. women win gold in hockey and figure skating; Saudi Arabia denies full military support.

Britain pledges strong support of U.S. military action; United States fails to win a medal in all slalom skiing events (except women's super giant).

But most importantly, current international tensions again

failed to taint the competitive spirit of the Olympics.

Though other nations have argued with the United States and each other over the appropriate action in the Middle East, the Olympics lent some harmony to foreign relations.

No teams boycotted the games because of political pressure, and no acts of terrorism, such as the 1996 Summer Olympics bombing in Atlanta, marred the events.

The only major disturbance was vandalism to athletes' rooms in the Olympic village by members of the U.S. men's hockey team after its loss to the Czech Republic.

Even Asia's shattered economy could not dilute the enthusiasm of the Japanese hosts — they were some of the most vocal and dedicated fans.

Some of Nagano's civic leaders predicted the financial frenzy the games typically stir up may give Japan a necessary boost to saddle its wild currency devaluation.

Something as short and exclusive as two weeks of sporting events can't cure the world's problems. But it helps a little.

Though the Winter Olympics don't bring quite as grand a fanfare and celebration as the Summer Games, it's at least reassuring that competition can help soothe the seriousness of a potential crisis, or take attention off international anger and fear.

Haney's
VIEW



DN
LETTERS

A lesson we could ALL learn

I learned a lesson a while ago I'd like to share with you. It's been said many times, many ways, first and foremost as the golden rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

This was demonstrated to me a few weeks ago, when we awoke to freezing rain followed by three inches of snow. I had to cross City Campus to get to the bookstore to buy my books. Because I wear a leg brace, it was quite difficult to stay upright as I inched across the slick surface. I had difficulty getting up after falling a few times. I prayed I would see someone I knew to ask for assistance.

My prayers went unanswered only briefly, when a student I don't know stopped and asked, "Could I lend an arm?" It was music to my ears. Chivalry lives! This student, who I learned is in the Air Force, had nothing to gain. In fact, I could have slowed him down, caused him to fall or kept him out in the cold longer. When we got there, I offered to buy him lunch, but he would not hear of it. Thank you for your kindness, friend.

We should all, men and women, help those in need of help, even if it appears we have nothing to gain. What goes around comes around. There may come a time when you need help when alone or surrounded by strangers. You'd probably feel better about yourself and may make a friend. We could make this a better world by breaking through the walls of indifference and leading others through by setting good examples. The world is too large to change all at once, so let's start in our corner at UNL.

Barbara Burbach
graduate student



MELANIE FALK/DN

enrolled in that particular composition class was because he was the teacher. I was even more disturbed the head of the English department would give us no reason why we were to have a new professor halfway through the semester.

This is just another injustice imposed on the good Dr. Hibler. At least I can say I have learned a valuable life lesson in his class, and that is to never voice an opinion you know will be opposed, or bad things will happen to you.

I will not, by the way, be attending that English class again — sort of my own little protest to the decisions that have been made lately by this university.

Derrick Sheldon
freshman
English and political science

... gimme the news

Mr. Anderson, there is no need to get so defensive about Mr. Long's comments ("You're just plain wrong," Monday). He said \$40 when it was really \$34.50. Big deal. What students really want to know is WHY there is an increase in price. Show us where the money is going and EXPLAIN why we need more. If it is for a good reason, you will find the students will support you rather than criticize you.

Additionally, it would seem the Athletic Department is doing us a BIG favor LETTING us stay in our seats. Remember, this is a university because there are students here. Without students, we wouldn't have any athletic teams. So let us go to our own games and have decent seats. They are our seats, after all.

James T. Bayer
junior
mathematics

The wars continue

This is in response to Shawn Meysenburg's column "Boot camp blues" in Thursday's DN. Shawn, you made yourself very clear that you wasted our tax dollars by enlisting in the Navy. Boot camp is supposed to be a challenge. It prepares our nation's women and men both mentally and physically for the rigors of war. It's not supposed to be a walk in the park.

Rather than paying so much attention to the "physical attractiveness" of your company commanders, maybe you should have applied yourself more in learning the valuable skills and training the rest of us paid for.

Sgt. Fenn A. Ratcliffe
United States Marine Corps
Reserve
Lincoln

Doctor, doctor ...

I have to say I was very disappointed to go to class and find our teacher, Dr. David Hibler, had been suspended and would no longer be teaching the class. The only reason I

P.S. Write Back

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