

# OPINION PAGE

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**VIEW**

## False record Sales

*Allowing record harms integrity of athletics*

The California Aggie  
University of California-Davis

Davis, Calif. (U-Wire) – When University of Connecticut senior Nykesha Sales stepped onto the court and into the record books Feb. 24, there was an unexpected din of controversy surrounding the big event.

There were the usual cheers and sounds heard in celebration of a record broken, a milestone reached. But there was also the sound of grumbling – complaints about the legitimacy of her accomplishment and the means by which she achieved it.

The incident raised questions about the integrity of sports, an ideal which seems to have been trampled amid the quest for personal glory.

With professional and collegiate athletes scrambling to land a shoe contract or have their name spit out on “ESPN SportsCenter,” the joy of playing sports and the beauty in watching a game unfold has disappeared.

Athletes now wait for their 15 seconds of fame, their fleeting moment of immortality.

In a desperate lunge to grasp that immortality, Sales fell to earth with a crash and a ruptured Achilles tendon in a game Feb. 21 and faced the prospect of ending her career just one point short of the school’s all-time career scoring record.

Instead of finishing her college basketball career satisfied with all of her accomplishments, Sales accepted an intriguing plan concocted by UConn Head Coach Geno Auriemma and agreed upon by the Big East commissioner and coaches. She would camp under the Wildcats’ basket at the tipoff, guaranteed an uncontested layup. To even the score, Villanova also was awarded a free layup as well.

This display of selfishness not only sparks concern over the attitude athletes take to the game, but also cheapens the efforts of those who have played hurt, through the pain, without the coddling of their coaches.

Injuries are a part of sports. Games cannot be postponed or replayed because the star player called in sick.

More importantly, the impact an injury can make on a game – whether it cripples a team or inspires it to soar higher – is crucial to what is at the heart of organized athletics.

It was nice to acknowledge and pay tribute to Sales’ four-year All-America career. But nobody “deserves” to break a record, no matter how long she has played or how much she has contributed to a program. And the thrill of such an accomplishment should have been saved for someone who holds more respect for records and the integrity of the game.

*Haney's*  
**VIEW**



**DN LETTERS**

**Drink it up**

I was very disheartened to read the responses ASUN candidates provided when questioned about binge drinking on campus. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Abel Hall debate, but both COMMIT and VISION candidates seemed to sidestep the issue as reported in Friday’s DN.

They agreed that there are different definitions for binge drinking; however, every piece of information I have seen defines binge drinking as five or more drinks in one sitting (in some instances four or more for women).

It seems a bit counter-effective for the university to be applying for a \$700,000 grant to combat binge drinking when our student leaders cannot define the term. According to a recent national study, nearly 50 percent of all men and 37 percent of all women on college campuses are binge drinkers, and nearly 70 percent of all violent behavior on campuses can be attributed to alcohol abuse.

Binge drinking is a problem at UNL, and ASUN candidates should be looking for solutions to these problems, not blankets from which to hide behind.

**Andrew Kafka**  
senior  
finance major

**Tangled Web**

I have been reading the exchanges in the DN about the



MATT HANEY/DN

importance of ASUN in a student’s life, etc., and how essential it is to communicate effectively with the general student populace. I looked into the ASUN Web site and surprise, surprise the president is Eric Marintzer, and Curt (spelt Kurt in the Web site!) Ruwe is still the speaker! The Web site was last updated in November 1996!!

Maybe we can have a debate for all outgoing office bearers to find out how important they really think communication is, or if they are only paying it lip service. It will be an interesting change from having to listen to candidates who

want to get elected!

**Giri Chenji**  
graduate student  
chemical engineering

**Greek leak**

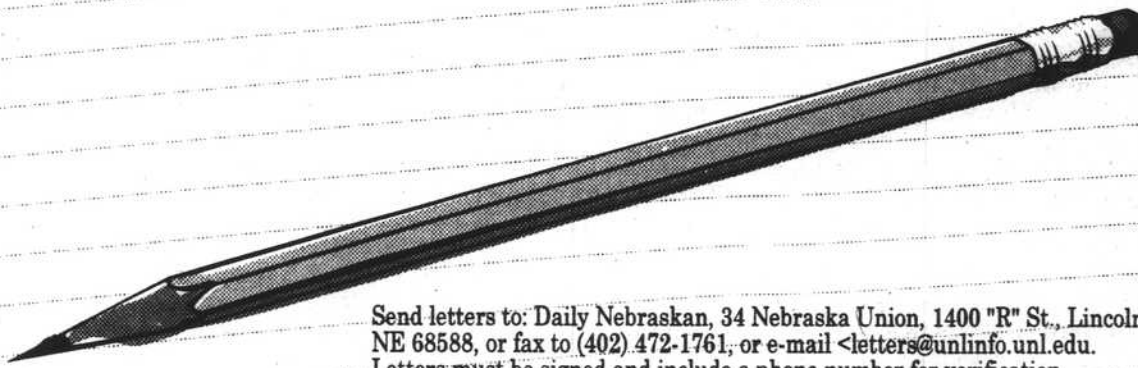
With ASUN elections nearing, we are hearing the same things that we hear every year about them. They are just a way for greeks to “pad their resume” or to run the university. The sad thing is, no matter how long we continue to say such things, nothing will change until someone OTHER THAN a greek enters the election. So, until that happens, we should concentrate on what the candidates have to say, not where they happen to live.

Though I am a nongreek student, I will still have my say in the election by voting. Sara Russell, presidential candidate for COMMIT, was right in her statement printed Friday. Not only do I know her as a great person, I respect the idea that she can take the time out of her busy college life to care for the university as a whole.

That says more to me than her “need” to pad her resume. It’s too bad there aren’t more people like her on this campus (or in the world) to do whatever they can to help their fellow people be heard.

**Leigh Ramert**  
junior  
mechanical engineering

## P.S. Write Back



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