

# OPINION PAGES

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## Editorial Policy

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The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor and guest columns, but does not guarantee their publication. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Submitted material becomes property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Those who submit letters must identify themselves by name, year in school, major and/or group affiliation, if any. Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. Lincoln, NE. 68588-0448. E-mail: letters@unlinfo.unl.edu.

## Our VIEW

# Equal protection

*Insurance should cover contraceptives*

It was hard to escape last year's media frenzy surrounding the wonder drug Viagra. The drug essentially cures male impotence, renewing the sex lives of thousands of red-blooded American males.

And insurance companies were quick to offer financial assistance to Viagra users. Almost half of the men who use the drug, which costs about \$10 per pill and has been linked to heart attacks, are reimbursed by their insurance companies.

By contrast, most women who use prescription contraceptives, which cost between \$20 and \$30 per month, get no assistance because insurance companies and employers who pay premiums do not feel birth control is a medical necessity for women, and they don't want to push up premium prices for their other customers.

So, in other words, insurance companies have no problem paying for a pill that enables men to have sex; however, enabling women to have sex isn't considered a priority.

Talk about your double standards.

Or better yet, talk to your state senators about them.

A hearing is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. today in the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee in the Legislature to discuss LB845.

The bill would force insurance companies to cover prescription contraceptives exactly the same way they cover other prescriptions. IUDs, diaphragms and injections would be included in this coverage.

Insurance companies may complain that the Legislature has no right to pass laws requiring them to offer certain benefits because the costs for these benefits must be paid by raising premiums for all insurance customers.

And they say they do not factor in the costs of pregnancy and childbirth when considering whether or not to cover contraceptives.

However, included in this group will be the many women who, in addition to paying insurance premiums for other health care needs, must also find a way to pay for their birth control.

Insurance companies can say the Legislature has no right telling them what to cover, but they haven't exactly rushed to women's aid over the years.

Most insurance companies would not pay for prenatal care until a federal law was passed in the 1970s, and they had no other choice. Mammograms did not have to be covered in Nebraska until a state law was passed.

The insurance companies can say they are only worried about the money, but their discriminatory policies suggest something more.

## Duffy's VIEW

# IRS BUREAU FACTS

IT TAKES ABOUT 4 MONTHS TO EARN ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FEDERAL TAXES—THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME IT TAKES TO FILL OUT THE FORMS.



## DN LETTERS

### Feminists, schmeminists

How often do students of this campus get the opportunity to hear a nationally known conservative woman speaker?

Never.

Most of the time, when women do lecture on this campus, they do so at the invitation and administrative support of some leftist-leaning organization (i.e. the Women's Center), and they tend to be radically liberal, pro-abortion, pro-lesbian, anti-male and anti-family — dare we say, feminazis.

This Wednesday, Feb. 24, which coincidentally happens to mark the 20th anniversary of Women's Week, the College Republicans wish to offer students an alternative to these radical womynists by co-sponsoring the visit of Ms. Angela "Bay" Buchanan. Ms. Buchanan, whose political credentials include serving as U.S.

Treasurer during the Reagan administration, managing both of her brother Pat Buchanan's presidential campaigns, and co-hosting CNBC's "Equal Time," will lecture on the "Failures of Feminism."

So if you've grown tired of the washed-up rhetoric of the radical feminist types the women's center plans to offer during the week, we suggest you come and see Ms. Buchanan Wednesday night at 8 in the Nebraska Union. Come and listen to a successful and powerful woman expose the numerous shortcomings and failures of modern feminism.

It's about time we get a little diversity on this campus.

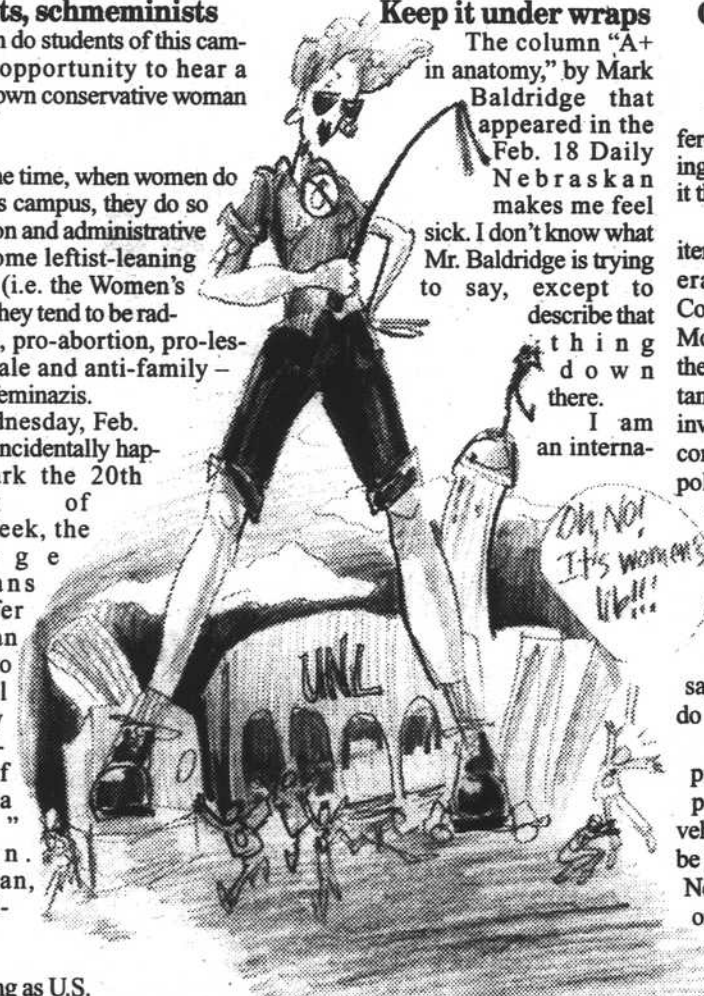
**Rick Parsons**  
junior  
accounting  
College Republicans chairman

**Josh Moening**  
junior  
advertising and political science  
College Republicans secretary

### Keep it under wraps

The column "A+ in anatomy," by Mark Baldrige that appeared in the Feb. 18 Daily Nebraskan makes me feel sick. I don't know what Mr. Baldrige is trying to say, except to describe that thing down there.

I am an interna-



MELANIE FALK/DN

tional student from China. My English level of writing is not comparable to that of that columnist, especially when talking about such a topic as that in his article. I am not poor at English; I got 690 on the verbal part of the GRE. Still I can't figure out what he is trying to let us know. More than this, his language makes me sick. I don't know whether such a depiction of his penis is appropriate, according to your rules of editing.

It's rare in my country that such writing can ever appear in the media, for it's explicitly offensive to a majority of readers. Perhaps there are different criteria here toward this; I don't know.

I don't know what others will feel upon reading it, but I should let you know that my feeling is very, very bad. I think all that I can do is to bypass everything this Mark Baldrige writes in the Daily Nebraskan.

**Baowei Wei**  
graduate student  
engineering mechanics

### Once, twice, three times a writer...

I have three takes:

First, I see there is a women's conference next week. I was just wondering — when is the men's conference? Is it this June or next June?

Second, I see there was one small item left out of almost everyone's coverage of the Congressional Ag Committee hearing in Grand Island on Monday. All the committee members there were Republicans. This is important, because all the Democrats were invited, too, but they knew what was coming — farmers sick and tired of bad policies. With THEIR president crowing about how great the economy is, how could any Democrat face the reality that the economy is NOT in such great shape because of the enormous impact agriculture has on it? Chickens. Politics. One message is clear; Democrats apparently do not care about farmers.

Third, I see Tom Casady, a fine public servant deserving of much praise, talking about unregistered vehicles, and that's great, we should all be good people and pay our fees. But if Nebraska didn't have such high taxes on everything and didn't bleed its citizenry to death with overblown registration fees, when compared to other states, perhaps people wouldn't be shirking their responsibilities so much.

Property tax. Sales tax. Wheel tax. Income tax. Nebraska wins the prize.

**Jason Fredregill**  
Film/video producer, director  
and writer  
agricultural communications

### Photo-rific!

I just wanted to extend kudos to the Daily Nebraskan photography staff. Almost every day I'm impressed by the photos I see in your publication. Some are truly memorable.

They say a good photo is worth a thousand words. I couldn't agree more. Keep up the great work. You're providing a tremendous service to your readers.

**Tom O'Connor**  
senior associate coordinator of  
public affairs  
UNMC