

# OPINION PAGES

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## Quotes OF THE WEEK

"He was a good farmer who worked all day on civic projects and all night on the tractor."

*Sen. Speaker Doug Kristensen, remembering the late Sen. Stan Schellpeper*

"Life is not about the rush to meet deadlines. It is about the moments of love and friendship between women, between women and men or between friends."

*Maria Hinojosa, CNN correspondent, on what's important to her*

"They're not looking pretty tonight, but they're getting the job done."

*Assistant Coach Rob Drass, on the women's gymnastics team earning a shot to compete for the national championship*

"We extend our apologies and we would like to thank everyone again. It is almost finished."

*Daryl Swanson, Nebraska Unions director, on the union construction*

"Family agriculture has been the backbone of the country for 200 years."

*Roger Wehrbein, Plattsmouth senator, on why LB630, a bill to give retiring farmers a 5 percent income tax credit, is necessary*

"You get so involved with (sculpting), you forget. You smash your fingers. You scrape your fingers."

*Colleen Flores, senior art major, on her passion for sculpting*

"There were a few of us who had been around for a long time who kind of missed the clutter and the disorganization of the other offices. But we didn't miss them enough to stay."

*Paula Lavigne Sullivan, former Daily Nebraskan editor, on the DN's move into its new offices*

"I've said, 'This sucks,' many times. But I've never said, 'I don't know if I'll be able to come back.' I tell myself, 'When I come back, I'm going to be 10 times more aggressive and more motivated.'"

*Bobby Newcombe, NU quarterback, on his determination to get back in the game*

"I could hear the yelling and screaming and pounding a block away. It was wild."

*Duane Hutchinson, storyteller, reminiscing about how he used to tell stories at a YMCA camp in the mid-'70s with 50 white children, 50 black children and very high racial tension*

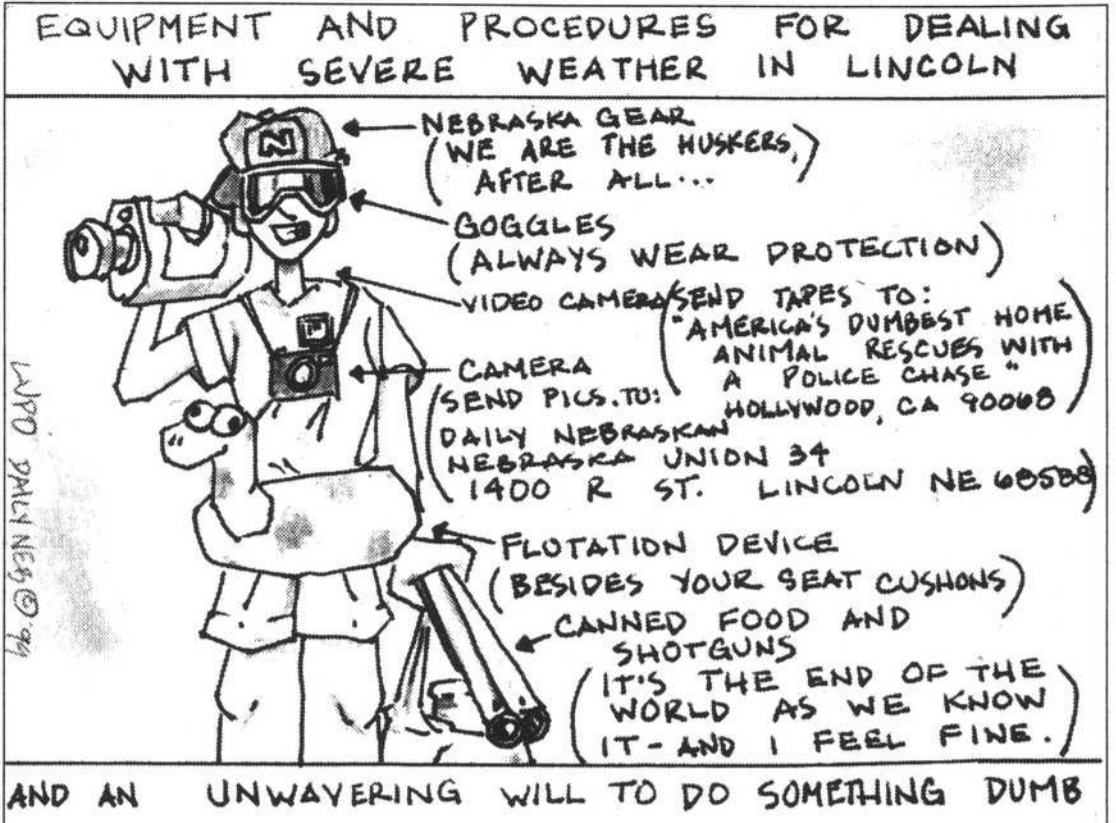
"I had to practice saying the words 'penis' and 'vagina' in the mirror."

*Janet Tucker, Lincoln educator, on teaching sex education*

"They are telling the story in a moving way, and Americans are always sympathetic to the underdog."

*CNN correspondent Peter Arnett, on the situation in Kosovo*

## Lupo's VIEW



## DN LETTERS

### Smoke story

LB505 was written to curb teen smoking. The bill attempts to accomplish this goal by placing a proposed \$.33 tax on tobacco products.

Any economist would confess that if a tax were placed on a good, and individuals decided that the new price exceeded their available disposable income, demand would drop. However, the authors of LB505 fail to understand the group they are attempting to help. For the most part, 100 percent of a teen-ager's income is disposable.

Considering that teens today are willing to spend money on fashion magazines, expensive clothes and jewelry, how could anyone believe that a \$.33 tax on tobacco products would affect anyone other than legal smokers?

Instead, why not actually enforce the laws that are already on the books and send teens home to mom and dad with a ticket? If the goal were to reduce disposable income, issuing tickets to those who break the law should work perfectly.

**Thor Schrock**  
business administration  
junior

### Come together

Jessica Flanagan ("The good fight," 4/15): Your equation of plurality in American culture with the perversion of the "Truth" is unjustified.

This whole century has been about lots of people getting together and realizing that we aren't all the same, after all, and a lot of us don't want to be the same, either. This, in my opinion, is a recognition of the truth, of the reality, not a perversion.

My only problem with the Christian agenda is that it wants to stop thinking in terms of plurality.

It wants to go back to a white-bread understanding of morals by passing laws that decide for all citizens what is right and what is wrong. It wants to think of the country as fundamentally Christian, as sharing common beliefs.

But we can't regress now to that point. We know too much about ourselves. We know about all the religions of the world, all the cultures and all the people and fights and moralities.

There's no way to go back to a simplistic, Christian vs. Evil mindset, because the world just isn't that simple.

People tend towards this mind-set because it's easy, it doesn't take much thought. But we must challenge ourselves to move forward, to open our minds to an infinite number of utopias that could lie before us, and not behind.

I think that Christianity is a part of this moving forward, but it can't be the only part.

We must come together and realize that we are autonomous human beings first, and then together elect to move in a direction where the liberty of every last citizen is upheld, and every generation is challenged to reach a level of awareness that supersedes the previous generations'.

We must think as individuals, not as liberal organizations or as conservative coalitions.

Please, we've made some progress this century. Let's not bunk it up by entrenching ourselves in outdated thinking. Let's think originally.

**Jake Glazeski**  
music/math major  
junior

### Bread bombardiers

My wife and I were at Pioneers Park one afternoon, enjoying the beautiful weather. We chose a spot near the pond where families often feed geese

and ducks. I spread out our blue plaid blanket and pulled out my pad to do some "serious" writing, while my wife grabbed her new book. We sat for a while enjoying the lovely weather, attempting to read and write, but we were drawn to watch the local wild life. That is, two middle-aged women and a girl of around five.

They walked past us, one of them hauling a large plastic grocery bag. The trio progressed to the water's edge and revealed the contents of the bag. Bread. By my estimate, at least six loaves (farmer's loaves, I believe, two for a buck) were produced from the white bag.

They then began to throw entire loaves of bread, slice by slice, at the geese and ducks in the pond. They seemed to have no concept of "feeding the ducks." Instead, a virtual bread storm occurred before our eyes. Slices flew like frisbees, all while my wife and I sat attempting to enjoy the day, barely holding back our laughter.

Meanwhile, the ducks and geese were being attacked from above by another barrage of air-to-duck grain missiles. (I think those are Russian.) The larger ones pushed the smaller aside to avoid losing their entire population in the battle.

Finally, after throwing the contents of the fourth, yes fourth, bag of bread into the lake, this time in the style of an Olympic discus thrower, the shelling subsided, and the attackers began to pack up their ammo and head toward another battle.

I heard the oldest woman say to the little girl while walking away, "Now we'll go see the buffalo and deer." I can only imagine what they might throw at those poor beasts.

**Timothy G. Hoff**  
senior  
news-editorial

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