



LORI SIMPSON/DN
The 1998-99
Daily
Nebraskan
staff

It was a very good year

UNL experience teaches that work is needed to make university, students the best they can be



ERIN GIBSON is a senior news-editorial major and Daily Nebraskan editor.

I read an opinion column in the Chronicle of Higher Education this spring in which a professor said his best students were academic activists: They questioned, debated and sometimes complained.

They were the students who were never satisfied with the status quo, he said. They were the students who cared to improve their classes, departments, university and community.

They were the students who knew their voice could make a difference, and they were willing to raise it — even if speaking out was at the expense of their own popularity.

I've been blessed this year to lead a staff full of student activists — smart students driven to make the Daily Nebraskan the best-ever center of campus news, discussion and debate. Most of my senior staff members worked 40 or more hours a week in the DN basement and carried full course loads. They impressed me at every turn and

were rewarded professionally with internships and job offers on both coasts and many states between.

At the same time this year, the editorship has allowed me to come into contact with outside students, staff and faculty members and administrators who shared the same mindset. They were hell-bent on making this university better, even if they had to pour countless hours after 5 p.m. into their research, classes, meetings or special projects and had to fight hard through some drag-out discussions on the university's future.

I want to thank those individuals, especially Chuck Van Rossum, John Harris, Barbara DiBernard, Moira Ferguson, James Griesen, Bill Avery, James Moeser, Marilyn Bugenhagen, Andy Schuerman, Kara Slaughter, Kerk Fong Kee, Paul Schreier, LaShara Bunting, Adair Shanks, Alison Knudson, Chuck Hassebrook and the late Jim Van Horn.

I also want to thank those professors whose courses were so outstanding. I looked forward to each class. Special thanks to Hilda Raz in English, George Tuck and Alfred "Bud" Pagel in news-editorial, Sidnie White Crawford in classics and Dane Kennedy and Ken Winkle in history.

The people I've mentioned would be disgusted with the words "average," "third tier" and "status quo." So I call them activists even if they wouldn't admit to the term.

As for you folks who get annoyed

and ridicule those of us who push harder each day, question the system and debate the future — I like to think you'll work for us someday.

Until then, I have to leave you with a few last comments on improving my favorite Big Red U.

1. Students should graduate from here thinking, "If I get rich, NU gets rich."

They should leave with a loyalty that's second to none. They should be walking advertisements for Nebraska.

But I'm not sure that's possible when seniors get phone calls a week prior to graduation saying, by the way, they can't graduate, because the university just reanalyzed their records and realized they were a couple of credit hours short.

It's happened to two good friends in the past year and a half. One got the call Friday. My fingers are still crossed that I don't get such a call this week.

A billion tiny requirements make this university doggone difficult to graduate from. So when students get their senior checks, they should be able to count on them. When they get the signed note saying they're set to graduate, that note should be a contract — signed and sealed.

Long-planned family graduation parties shouldn't get canceled in the last week. That tends to hack off several generations of potential donors at once — and especially the graduate.

2. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln should be treated as the only

flagship Research I campus in the system.

Since I arrived at UNL, I've seen an expansion of programs and services on Kearney and Omaha campuses. I fully understand that those campuses help the University of Nebraska better serve Nebraskans with bachelor's programs.

But part of serving Nebraskans must be allowing the best and brightest graduate students and professors to compete on a national level at a top-ranked, Research I university. That means concentrating the rather slim resources that a state with only 1.5 million people can provide.

In other words, spreading thin resources for sustaining top-quality, research-heavy Ph.D. programs among three campuses is a recipe for disaster.

Take this year, for instance. When budgets tighten, UNL is forced to cut or shrink some academic and research programs. Departments can't afford to hire the folks they want to hire or keep the folks they want to keep. Thus, the flagship institution's programs lose quality at the same time NU continues to build new distance education programs and programs in Omaha.

We can have one outstanding campus and two adjunct campuses that feed off its renowned research programs, or we can have three average campuses — not one of them in the second tier. Such choices are tough, but the payoffs of an all-around top-notch research and learning university in Nebraska would be real — both in the increased retention

of intellectuals and in the all-important corporate research partnerships.

The university system needs to refocus and reanalyze its mission. Serving Nebraskans doesn't mean making it possible for anyone to conduct Ph.D.-level research within an hour of their homes.

3. The university must increase its diversity.

What I wouldn't give to have a significantly diverse journalism school from which to recruit new staff members. A diverse staff is the one thing we lack at the Daily Nebraskan, and it hurts us. But it's not just us — lagging diversity hurts every organization and department at the university. Different outlooks and ideas challenge us to think and to grow in new directions. They're essential to a good education.

Of course, improving the university's commitment to diversity also means fully recognizing gay rights with partners' insurance benefits. It's a tough cookie for many Midwesterners to swallow, but it's right.

In fact, a big part of increasing and respecting diversity is just plain ol' doing the right thing.

In the end, I wish all good things to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and to the people who sustain it. I've had an inspirational and active few years, here, in class and on the Daily Nebraskan staff.

Thanks to the readers that made it possible, and, as always, Go Big Red.

200s For sale



205 Bicycles For Sale

Are you ready for summer? '98 Trek 820 21-speed mountain bike, our most popular model, regularly \$325, now \$249 with lifetime adjustments. Cycle Works 27th and Vine 475-2453.

Full suspension demo bikes on sale! Full warranties apply. Specialized FSR Extreme, regularly \$1599, now \$999. Klein Mantra regularly \$1399, now \$899. Cycle Works 27th and Vine, 475-2453.

216 Computers For Sale

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Wanted: 2-4 tickets to June 12 Dave Matthews at Sandstone. Call 474-4368.

290 Vehicles For Sale

'87 Mustang GT, street or strip, too many performance parts to list. Call 476-7511, leave message.

'90 Civic. 4 DR, LX. Auto, full power, 92K, excellent throughout, \$3650. Baers Auto, 1647 S. 3rd, 477-6442.

290 Vehicles For Sale

FOR SALE: Good School Car; most important feature- Virgin Mary Medalion on dash! Okay folks, now you're wondering- why does this car have as its "most important feature" a medallion of Our Holy Lady? Well, I was driving along one day and spotted this little black 1987 Ford Tempo, 4 door, boppin' along with 4 nuns in it and a "for sale" sign in the window. Well, my girlfriend needed a car, so we called the number. As luck would have it, the nuns were Mexico-The Daughters of the Holy Spirit, to be exact. That worked well for us, because my girlfriend is from Costa Rica and Spanish is her native tongue. Anyway, one thing led to another and we bought the car. Sister Margarita Turbide, as a part of the deal, left the Holy Mother medallion on the dash and said a blessing over the car before I drove away with the Holy Mary watching over me. So why do I want to sell it? Well, my girlfriend has never learned how to drive it- it's a manual. She's driving my car and I want it back. So we need to sell this one and buy her an automatic. This car really is a good car. It doesn't use any oil and gets about 26mi around town. I need \$1,300 for it. If you're in the market for a good school car and want one that has a divine force watching over it, then call Tim Sullivan at 465-0026. You'll be blessed.

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400 Roommates

1-2 M/F roommates needed to share 3 bedroom house in country. Rent \$190-280. Call Michelle 798-0328 or 580-0575. Email: shello@gowebway.com.

1-3 nonsmoking females to share 3BR house; walk-in closets; large kitchen, living and dining rooms; sun room, wood floors, french doors, fireplace, C/A, partially furnished. \$265 per person, utilities included. 499-3089 or ps35101@navix.net.

Graduate student needs 1 roommate to share new, large 3BR, 2 1/2 bath, W/D, DW, garage, duplex in South Lincoln, 420-2052.

Male roommate to share large house near campus. \$160/month + \$150 deposit + 1/4 utilities. 423-7953, call after 5 p.m.

Need roommate to share 2BR house. Has W/D, garage space and fenced-in backyard for pets. If interested call 438-8449, ask for Dustin.

Need roommate to share 4BR house. Needed May through August. House has W/D, dishwasher, central air, and parking space. If interested, call 435-1051.

400 Roommates

Responsible N/S roommate needed to share nice 3 bedroom duplex, close to capital, \$285. 476-4577.

Two or three male/female roommates needed for large house one block north of city campus. \$150-\$200/month plus utilities. Like to have fun? Move in ASAP. 477-1429

430 Houses For Rent

2 bedroom, fenced yard, garage, affordable and nice. 2275 Orchard, \$475+ deposit. 483-5445.

4 BR, 2 bath, near UNL. Range, central air, refrigerator, washer/dryer, rec room, off-street parking, \$800. 489-9294.

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1143 Charleston. 3BR, \$630+ deposit Call 890-8909.

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4200 Baldwin, 6 bedrooms, 2 bath, C/A, W/D, \$900. 440-8046, 440-2248.

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