

# OPINION PAGES

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## Our VIEW

### Needed feedback

*Midterm evaluations aid students, professors*

OK, teachers. It's your chance to help both yourselves and your students.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska Academic Committee members are urging you to hand out midterm evaluations.

You know, those fill-in-the-circle scan sheets students grudgingly fill out at the end of every semester, for every class?

Well, now students may get to do that again – but about a month early.

But only if you take advantage of the situation.

We hope you do.

You see, these evaluations, which aren't required, will give you the feedback you don't usually get until the end of the semester.

By then, it's too late for your students to benefit from any changes you may make as a result of the evaluations.

Sure, your next semester's students will benefit. But why not help your current students out.

Give the students a forum to speak out, and they will.

In fact, they may even spend more time on the evaluations simply because they know it could be to their advantage to do so.

Don't worry about making drastic changes in your teaching styles halfway through the semester.

It doesn't have to be that dramatic.

Maybe a student's complaint is as small as not being able to read your handwriting on the board or overhead.

Or maybe you talk too quickly – or quietly.

Those problems are easy to fix but once fixed could drastically change the attention you get from your students and the amount of information they remember.

Students might have wanted to spend more time on a particular chapter. Or they want more comments on the papers they write.

Maybe they don't understand how you grade their tests, but they are too scared to tell you in person.

Midterm evaluations are to everyone's benefit.

Your students do better in the class, and you feel better about your teaching.

And future students are bound to benefit, as well, from the changes you put into practice.

Besides, mending the problems in the middle of the semester may result in better evaluations at the end of the year, in turn leading to better teaching overall at the university.

Everybody wants that.

## Obermeyer's VIEW



## DN LETTERS

### Ain't over 'till it's over

I commend the Daily Nebraskan editorial staff's efforts (DN, Sep. 27) regarding the AIDS problem in Africa, as the situation there is profoundly troubling. AIDS is a disease that threatens to bring down entire nations.

However, I feel your editorial of Sept. 27 should also have addressed what continues to be denial much closer to home.

After many years of being "inundated" with prevention messages, an estimated 40,000 Americans become infected with HIV every year.

Today, while new life-prolonging drugs have ended the automatic death sentence of an HIV diagnosis, the decline in the death rate due to the disease has contributed to a sense that the epidemic is somehow over, or that the problem is now only in other countries.

There is no doubt that HIV prevention efforts have saved many lives; the infection rate has slowed from more than 150,000 per year in the late 1980s.

However, AIDS is quickly becoming a crisis of American youth: half of the new infections occur among people under 25.

Not only Africa needs to come clean. Reinvigorating our own national HIV prevention is also a moral and political imperative.

**Charles Housman**  
Public Education Coordinator  
HIV Prevention  
Nebraska Health and Human  
Services System

### Don't fence me in

A group of friends and I arrived at the last home game, Oct. 9, about 45 minutes early in order to ensure a fairly decent seat.

About 10 minutes before the game, a small group of fans, many of whom were wearing T-shirts bearing the Greek letters for Sigma Phi Epsilon and Kappa Alpha Theta, informed us that their houses had the surrounding seats reserved.

To avoid conflict, our group split up, filling up any empty seat nearby. Apparently, our efforts weren't good enough.

For some reason this entire group decided to stand on the bleachers, even though no one in front of them was standing on the seats, and they could have seen perfectly fine standing on the concrete.

Through the entire first quarter, more and more people pushed past us unapologetically. As more people moved in, the group spread out so that the bench-standers were now directly in front of us, completely obstructing our view of the field.

We politely asked them to move down but were met with lame excuses or complete ignorance.

When I bought my tickets for the game, I was aware the seat number was a mere formality and that seating was actually on the first come-first serve system. The only way to "reserve" seats is to come early and sit down.

If you plan on arriving halfway through the first quarter, then show early-comers, such as my friends and me, a little respect by finding seats that don't obstruct our view or crowd us in.

**Lucas Johannes**  
freshman  
pre-architecture

### Hymn to Reason

I would like to thank the DN and Mark Baldridge for their active role in the attempt to discredit the creature formally known as "God" (DN, Friday).

In appreciation of their work I have provided the following litany to our new (18th century) god, Reason, may it bless me from on high (perhaps Oldfather Hall, even).

Thank you, O wise Reason, for Bureaucracies, the IRS, the ATF and all of your wise and Holy men who you have seen fit to control our lives.

Thank you, O just Reason, for two World Wars, for Korea and Vietnam

and for brainwashing those who sacrificed their lives so that we can feel comfortable.

Thank you, O almighty Reason, for the Atomic, Hydrogen and Neutron Bombs and for the wisdom to know who to blow away.

Thank you, O gracious Reason, for solving all of our sexual woes and for making perversion and rape a reality that we can all enjoy.

Thank you, O most pleasurable Reason, for the intelligence to make Meth-Amphetamine, refined Cocaine and Heroin, with these we have kept the undesirables down.

Thank you, O most tasty Reason, for processed foods, MSG and dietary supplements, Without these how would we know we were healthy?

Most of all, thank you, O most righteous Reason, for killing the Christian devil, Jesus, and for quelling his devilish plot to have everyone "treat each other as they would be treated."

I couldn't have done without you, Reason, for you are all-knowing and all-powerful and all my thoughts bend to you lest I be lost in the wilderness of spirituality and believe that my "spirit" be taken to a better place after death and not know that I am only chemicals and to chemicals I shall return.

Thank you, Reason, thank you.

Remember, Mr. Baldridge, not to be to certain of the direction you are going in, or you may begin to walk in circles.

**Joe Fraas**  
sophomore  
English



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