

OPINION PAGES

Our VIEW

A giver of peace

Olson's efforts will live past her years

Lincoln has lost a true original and the world, a champion of peace.

The woman who united cat lovers, anti-nuke activism, calendars and tireless work died early Friday morning.

Betty Olson was a driving force behind Nebraskans for Peace. Current members credit Olson for keeping the group together in its early years.

Now the group, soon to mark its 30th year, is the oldest peace and justice organization in the country.

Cancer killed Olson, 70, before she could celebrate that anniversary, but her work for peace will long outlive her.

In addition to fighting against wars and foreign occupation, Nebraskans for Peace, under her leadership, came to champion the poor and disadvantaged and has become an outspoken critic of the death penalty.

In the late 1970s, Olson organized opposition to the Indonesian occupation of East Timor. Before her death, she was to see the Indonesian government recognize the small island country's independence.

Olson always let her voice be heard whenever there was injustice. She will be remembered as an early local supporter of the NAACP.

And for the past 16 years, Olson put together the "Cat Lovers Against the Bomb" calendar on her home computer.

Urging people to "combine their love of cats with a social conscience in the crusade against nuclear weapons," the calendar brought in about \$10,000 each year to support work for peace.

We extend our condolences to Olson's husband, Paul, an English professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and their three children, Andrew, Lars and Ingrid.

Betty Olson should be remembered in death as she was known in life: for her activism, her accomplishments and her drive.

She did not want flowers, asking, instead, that any remembrance in her honor should be spent in support of the goals she cherished.

Memorials may be sent to the Nebraska Peace Foundation or Bread for the World.

If we live, tomorrow, in a better world, it will be because of the work and love, the noble lives and courageous deaths of people like Betty Olson.

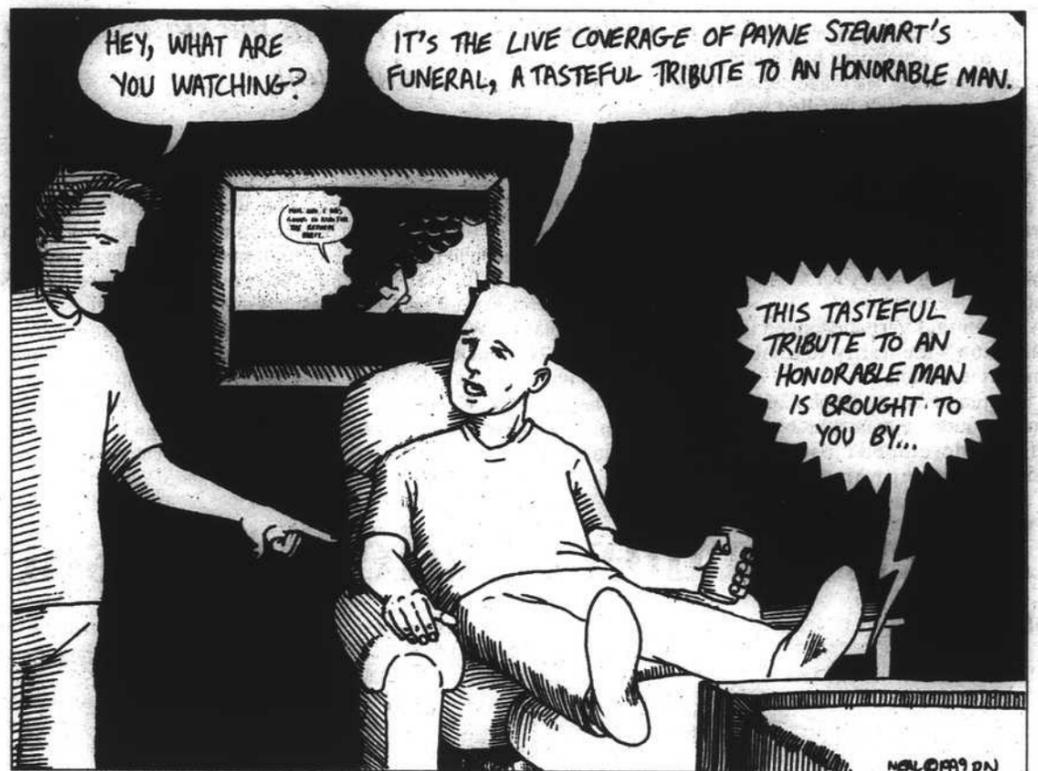
Rest in peace.

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Obermeyer's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Emu in the News

I am writing in response to the emu shooting that occurred last Monday.

I happened to be driving into town and saw the frightened bird along the side of the road. At the time I saw the bird, there was a sheriff onsite, and the livestock that were apparently "panicking" were nowhere in sight.

I understand the need for Mr. Homolka to protect his livestock, as I would want to protect mine because they are an investment. But please remember, this emu that was shot was someone else's livestock!

Was it not possible to simply shoot the emu with some sort of a tranquilizing dart and transfer the bird back to its rightful owner?

Heather Stewart
graduate student
distance education

Emu E-mail

Quoting the Thursday Daily Nebraskan, page 6: "But the [emu] were unpredictable and difficult to corner, Bjelland said, making killing loose birds a wise option."

If it is difficult or inconvenient, just kill it. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? No, there's nothing (or nobody) "wise" in this article at all.

Tom Eads
Information Services

Sore Loser

Coach Solich ... quit whining about the officials down in Texas ... I was taught many years ago that an official's call won't win or lose the game for you unless you, yourself, have played a perfect game.

And NU certainly didn't do that. Look to the two fumbles inside the 10-yard line, which would have given us a minimum of six or a maximum of 14 points. We needed five to win.

Bob Horstman
UNL 1948-49

First-Name Basis

Until last Wednesday, I held some respect for you, Mr. Obermeyer, as both a journalist and a person. I found the majority of your "views" somewhat entertaining.

Every ounce of that respect is gone.

In case it hasn't registered in that diseased, demented brain of yours, I'm

referring to your attempt to twist the Payne Stewart tragedy into humorous content for your cartoon.

As I sit here watching the memorial service for Payne on ESPN and see the huge gathering of people who knew and loved him, it amazes me that it could enter into anyone's mind to "poke fun" at this terrible tragedy.

How would you explain your actions to the Stewart family? What would you say if confronted by 10-year-old Aaron, 13-year-old Chelsea and Payne's widow, Tracey?

Todd Carstens
graduate student
journalism

Ubermeyer

In regards to Obermeyer's View (DN, Wednesday), I found no humor or political satire in that ill attempt to make a joke out of someone's death.

Payne Stewart was an honorable man who gave countless amounts of money to charities.

He was respected and valued by his family and peers.

I think Obermeyer should just stick to making fun of the greek system (which raises thousands of dollars a year for local charities) and the football team (which has earned respect from across the nation), since it's what he does best.

Jayson Schmolke
senior
advertising

Drink Drank Drunk

As the social chair for Phi Mu Sorority, I would like to respond to the Oct. 21 article, "Drinking accord sparks discord."

According to the Alcohol Policies for Student Events, student organizations — when having an event where alcohol is present — should have the event at a licensed liquor establishment with a third party vendor.

Attendance at these events must be primarily people over the age of 21.

The agreement signed on Sept. 28, 1999, by all of the sorority presidents and social chairs simply reinforces these rules. Furthermore, UNL is a dry campus. Having a dry campus means students will not consume or possess alcohol on university property. No exceptions are made for greek houses.

Finally, according to federal law, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to consume alcohol.

By signing the alcohol agreement,

we agreed that we would follow these rules.

No new rules have been created. Old rules have only been reinforced.

When you join a sorority, you pledge to uphold the ideals of that sorority. These ideals include leadership, community service, and, yes, an active social life.

However, the "animal house" image of the greek system is a thing of the past.

Shannon Snow
junior
political science

Waiting for Columbus

I am writing in response to the letters of both Nicole Walden and Steve Hunt, Oct. 25.

The problem isn't that you or anyone else happens to be of European descent. The problem arises when you take a murderer, hold him up as a hero and declare a holiday in his name.

By doing this, the federal government takes a knife and reopens a wound in the hearts of the Native American people every year.

And what happened between the Europeans and the Native Americans wasn't war; it was slaughter.

As Americans, we should all wonder why a person who committed such horrific acts is held up as a national hero.

Rebecca Bustamante
junior
speech-language pathology

Columbus Re-Discovered

First of all, I want to welcome Nicole Walden to the beautiful world of "racism," where everything your parents told you about America being the land of the free and equal opportunity is not entirely true.

I do agree with your words of wisdom by quoting Gandhi. But didn't that get Martin Luther King shot?

In response to Steve Hunt's letter: how in God's name can you say slavery was an accepted trade in any time period? Oh, I forgot. It must be the "white" man's opinion.

Open your eyes. You have a degree in history. It took hundreds of years to abolish slavery, and it is still a problem today in regards to racism and discrimination.

Shaun Ilahi
second year undergraduate
CBA

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