# Opinion

Friday, February 25, 2000 Page 4 Editor: J.J. Harder (402) 472-1768

#### Quotes OF THE WEEK

#### "Hate put me in prison, but love busted me out."

Wrongly imprisoned boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, speaking to a crowd of 2,200 at the Lied Center on Monday.

#### "Now they've had a chance to see each of us react to victory and each of us react to defeat."

Presidential candidate George W. Bush, before losing to Sen. John McCain in two Republican primaries on Tuesday.

#### "He knew exactly what plays they were doing and what gum their coaches were chewing."

Oklahoma State basketball player Brian Montonati on ex-Husker coach Jimmy Williams' knowledge of NU's game plan. The Cowboys defeated Nebraska on Saturday, 94-55.

#### "My personal values and beliefs may be inline with the older generation in my district, but I also have the ability to reach out to my generation and their issues."

Senior agriculture major Phil Erdman on his qualifications for a seat in the Nebraska Legislature.

#### "It took longer than I would have liked, but I'm a person who looks forward rather than backward."

Former Gov. Ben Nelson on his delayed decision to run for the Senate.

#### "I have nothing to be positive about."

NU senior Larry Florence, after Kansas handed the Huskers an 83-68 loss at home.

#### "It was a stupid thing to do."

Freshman Benjamin Braiggs, referring to his prank of leaving human excrement in the Abel Hall elevator. Braiggs denied any connection to feces found in the showers.

#### "I have no desire to back off the appropriate regulation of this activity."

City Councilman Jerry Shoecraft on postponing the vote on an ordinance that would ban public nudity.

#### "I acted like we had won the national championship."

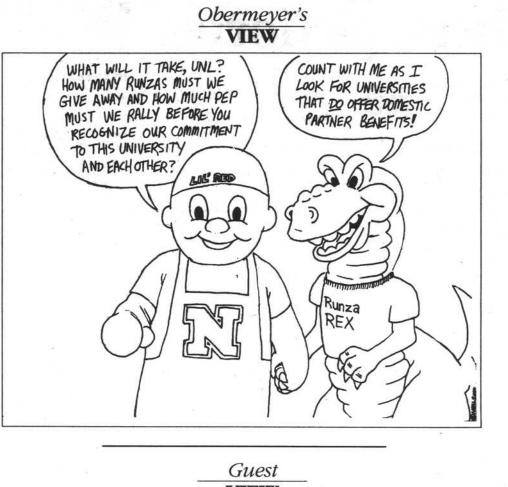
NU senior guard Brooke Schwartz on her overtime play in the Huskers' close win over OSU.

"I thought it was probably the most unifying thing in the Lincoln music scene I've seen in the last 10 years."

Local musician Charles Lieurance on Knickerbockers "X vs. Y" series, in which local bands play covers.

#### **Editorial Board**

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VIEW

# **Culture Shock**

## American student in Berlin faces wild boars

I miss many things about Nebraska. I miss my girlfriend, my family and my friends. I miss cheap telephone service and laundry and public fountains. You know what I didn't expect to miss?

Campus wildlife. Squirrels and rabbits and other cute animals. Yeah, really.

Before I decided to study for a semester in Berlin, I did my research. Berlin is an enormous city of nearly 3.5 million people and covers an area

of more than 900 square kilometers. While bet-

ter known for its automobiles, heavy industry and chemical production, Berlin also is a great cultural center with innumerable

theaters

home.

She mentioned in passing that "wildschweine," or wild boars, still lived in the trees. I didn't think anything of it.

Later that night, I met Maurizio, a student from Switzerland also staying with my host family. One of the first things he told me was to be careful when coming home at night. Not that there was any danger of muggers, gangs or other big-Americancity-type violence. Nope, it was nothing

Eventually, our conversation turned to the topic of the wild boar.

"It's so funny," I said. "They are terrified!"

I mentioned that I had carried a big rock the first few times I had walked home, just in case. But I still hadn't seen any tracks.

By 12:30 that night, I was at my bus stop. A soft dusting of snow slowly covered everything as I began to walk home. The only sounds were my muffled footsteps and those of a man walking about 10 meters behind

me. I was just about to cross the last street before I arrived home, and there it was. A wild boar.

Massive and black, its back as high as my warst, perhaps 200 kg of bloodthirsty, porcine power. Wisps of breath curled through the saber-like teeth in its halfopen mouth.

By the look in its eyes, I could see it. Somehow it knew I had scoffed at it and others like it. For a few seconds, the boar and I stared at each other. Then,

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### find here was a wild pig.

When my plane touched down a few weeks ago, my host-mom was waiting for me at the airport. I loaded my suitcases in her car, and we drove to the house I would call home for an entire semester. Berlin encompasses several tracts of forest, and we passed by some of these trees on our way

#### that mundane.

In this part of Berlin, people watch out for the wild boars. I laughed at this European city boy. Ha! Wild pigs! I was raised on a ranch in the Sandhills – I knew better than to fear livestock.

Last Friday night a few friends and I were kicking back at a pub.

#### beside

Scott Eastman/DN the road. I made a mad dash for home. I don't think I took a breath until I had slammed the deadbolt in place.

So appreciate the wildlife you have on your campus. Cute vegetarian rodents. I'll sure be glad to see them when I get home.

If the wild boars don't get me first.

Derek Lackaff is a sopbomore international studies and political science major and a Daily Nebraskan guest columnist.