

Under the influence

Journalists help public see truth about politicians

Money loses. Good journalism wins.

On April 9, the Omaha World-Herald published a scathing article about the past of Senate hopeful George Grogan. It detailed a life unbeknown to the public. This life included four wives, children he had never met before the last few months and not one positive comment from a business partner or employee. In a few inches of newsprint, a couple of writers from Omaha brought down the 58 Million Dollar Man.

And good for them.

This is what solid journalism is all about — a relevant issue, hours of research, tough questions and tough answers. It isn't what some have thought was a targeted

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manhunt. The writers weren't trying to bring down Grogan; they were simply looking for the real story, behind the fluff that is oft printed in a race for office.

And that's a tough thing for many Nebraskans to take.

Grogan was gaining ground on Stenberg and looking to make a late push like Johanns in the '98 governor's race. His expensive commercials, campaign Suburbans and high-paid staff did what they were

supposed to: get him airtime and attention.

Some Republicans were eager for a candidate just the opposite of Stenberg, and that's what Grogan is. Nebraskans can easily identify with his shiny head and portly figure.

They like the way he appeared on his commercials: as a regular guy in a vest at the gas pump. Grogan was on the verge of taking on Nelson.

And then the truth came out.

During the interview for the story Grogan dropped out of the race. Then he called the writers back and told them he was back in. Then he reaped the ugly fruit from the article and officially left the race.

We should breathe a collective sigh of relief. He hid marriages and children and bad business practices all over the country.

Without this good journalism, who knows what he would have hidden in the Senate.

Editorial Board

Josh Funk (editor) • J.J. Harder • Cliff Hicks • Samuel McKewon • Dane Stickney • Kimberly Sweet • Lindsay Young

Letter Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor and guest columns, but does not guarantee their publication. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject any submissions. Submitted material becomes property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous material will not be published. Those who submit letters must identify themselves by name, year in school, major and/or group affiliation, if any.

Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448 or e-mail to: letters@unl.edu

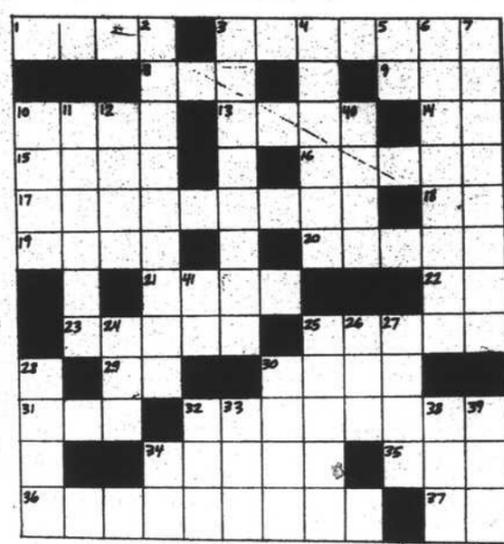
Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials are the opinions of the spring 2000 Daily Nebraskan. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, its employees, its student body or the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. A column is solely the opinion of its author. The Board of Regents acts as publisher of the Daily Nebraskan; policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. The UNL Publications Board, established by the regents, supervises the publication of the paper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student employees. The Daily Nebraskan strives to print fair and accurate coverage; any corrections or clarifications will be printed on page three.

Obermeyer's VIEW

For those of you who feel slighted from being denied a crossword puzzle yesterday (and were consequently forced to read the paper in class instead), here's a bonus crossword for you all about yesterday's news (and some other random words to fill space)

- ACROSS:**
1. what which explodes
3. who gets free beer on campus (not a Greek week question)
4. Great Grape
9. flying metal thing
10. Foster's pacifier
13. used to be Ray
14. chemical symbol for Cerium
15. license plate design #1
16. non-white on Greek row
17. "let me be the one that shines with you and we can"
18. Danish male first name (not Ab)
19. Security house greeting (or chant of the dwarves)
20. what is a move?
21. Julia didn't "Lovett"
22. emergency room
23. asun 1st VP
25. it's their week and they're backwards
29. title for divorced woman
30. Ferris
31. wax on, wax
32. a good gig (for Jimmy Fallon that is)
34. you will not find your bike in the basement here
35. what you do with things
36. difference between scientists and monkeys
37. SE
- DOWN:**
2. where city council members do research
3. how city council members don't want to be touched
4. what you say to someone with a nest ab: "Hey, _____"
5. Nordberg
6. Bobby Newcombe or a radio
7. "Donny" to John DeCamp
10. awful grunge band or presidential candidate
11. license plate design #2
12. "hill" spelled backwards
24. what to protest if you're young and hip
25. how you would spell kazoo if we used i's instead of z's
26. All Hallow's
27. Enlightened Egyptian Youth University (abbr)
28. Reinhard had one
30. Soviet Socialist Meat Inspectors (abbr)
32. Wilfrid Laurier University (abbr)
33. what you do to someone's brain to gain their wiadom
38. beast of burden (see 39 down)
39. former basketball coach (see 38 down)
40. Ma's first name
41. how Jesus would say "you"



Letters to the EDITOR

Punished deed

It's easy to complain about a situation. It's much harder to take action. The Mayor's Concert and Entertainment Task Force is taking action to try to improve entertainment opportunities in the Capital City. The effort was undertaken mainly for the benefit of Lincoln's young people. For the campus newspaper to object to the effort (4/10 DN Editorial) reminds one of the old saying "no good deed goes unpunished."

The Daily Nebraskan's main criticism is the makeup of the task force. The fact is that this is one of the largest task forces the mayor has ever appointed. No one has been intentionally excluded.

We have had several people who are not officially on the task force attend nearly every meeting, and guests are always welcome to participate. We plan to circulate the draft of the final report outside the task force for comment.

It's also important to note that student representation was not limited

to the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska. The task force includes two University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, a Wesleyan student and two high school representatives.

The Daily Nebraskan did send a reporter to our first meeting in January. One wonders why these objections were not brought up earlier. One also can ask why the DN did not continue to cover meetings of a task force that was certainly of interest to its readers. And why did the Daily Nebraskan refuse to run a concert survey as a service to the students?

Your editorial did a disservice to the task force and others who are giving their time and expertise to work together to address long-standing complaints about the lack of entertainment in Lincoln.

Jim Ritzman
chairman of the Mayor's
Concert and Entertainment
Task Force

Exception to the rule

In response to Neal Obermeyer's cartoon of Greek Week being a celebration of "Rich White Kids:" Neal, you wouldn't



Lane Hickenbottom/DN

have to look farther than your old high school for a greek student who proves your remark wrong.

Justin Fulton: hardly rich, hardly white, but greek and damn proud.

Justin Fulton
freshman
accounting
Alpha Tau Omega

Where's the puzzle?

If there is one thing that I really like about the DN, it's the daily crossword puzzle. It's one of those things that seems to carry me through the morning, keeping me awake in all those classes. So obviously, I'm very grateful it's there.

On that note, I'd just like to commend you on today's (April 18) puzzle. It was fantastic. I especially like how you made it look just like an advertisement for University Housing jobs. Keep up the good work!

Chris Botruff
freshman
mechanical engineering

Hawley of a good time

The Hawley Area (Neighborhood) Association, in the Malone Area, was able to improve McWilliams Park at 25th and T streets last week due to the volunteer efforts of University of Nebraska-Lincoln students Sophia Yelkin, Jenni Bogenreif, Brigitte Hertlein, Ben Knauss, Stacey Duncan, Cheryl Heineman, Abby Sapp, Molly Penney and Jennie Shamblin.

They worked hard digging and planting flowers in the park. We appreciate their help and want to publicly thank them. It is good for the neighborhood to have these positive experiences with the students and the university.

Peggy Struwe
vice president
Hawley Area
(Neighborhood)
Association