

Quotes of the WEEK

"You can't be too careful with this Columbine thing and all."

A Lincoln High School teacher to two Daily Nebraskan reporters, after they had walked around the school for nearly ten minutes without being detected.

"Once on stage, something inside of us clicks, and we become these crazed, rock-'n'-roll, screaming people. It's pain and joy all rolled into one."

Rose Marshack, bassist and backup vocalist for the Poster Children.

"It's clear that I had a realistic chance of winning the nomination, and I've no doubt I could defeat (likely Democratic nominee) Ben Nelson in the fall."

Former Republican candidate for Senate Elliott Rustad.

"I loved my job at Nebraska. I wish that I still had it."

Former NU Wrestling Coach Tim Neumann after his resignation.

"We can't vote on how the world works, so therefore we should teach how it does work with science."

Eugene C. Scott, executive director of the National Center for Science Education, speaking on the merits of evolution at the Nebraska Union on Monday night.

"If you're worried about oral sex and hand jobs, pass an ordinance banning oral sex and hand jobs."

John Ways, operations manager of Mataya's Babydolls, to the Lincoln City Council.

"We have campuses ending the greek community and building alternative housing. Why? Because we're not living up to what we promised."

Don Dipaolo, an instructor at the University of Michigan, speaking to hundreds of greek system members at the Lied Center on Monday night.

"Different strokes for different folks, but we don't have to change the definition of marriage."

Senate candidate John DeCamp on the possibility of granting same-sex unions.

"These little middle-schoolers know more than I do about this stuff. How embarrassing."

Junior pre-nursing major Kathleen Anthofer at Science Day 2000, a day for high school and middle school students to attend classes at UNL.

"We haven't set any limits on ourselves this year. We know what everyone wants, and it isn't a Big 12 Championship; it's a national championship."

NU center Dominic Raiola, after the annual Red-White Spring Game.

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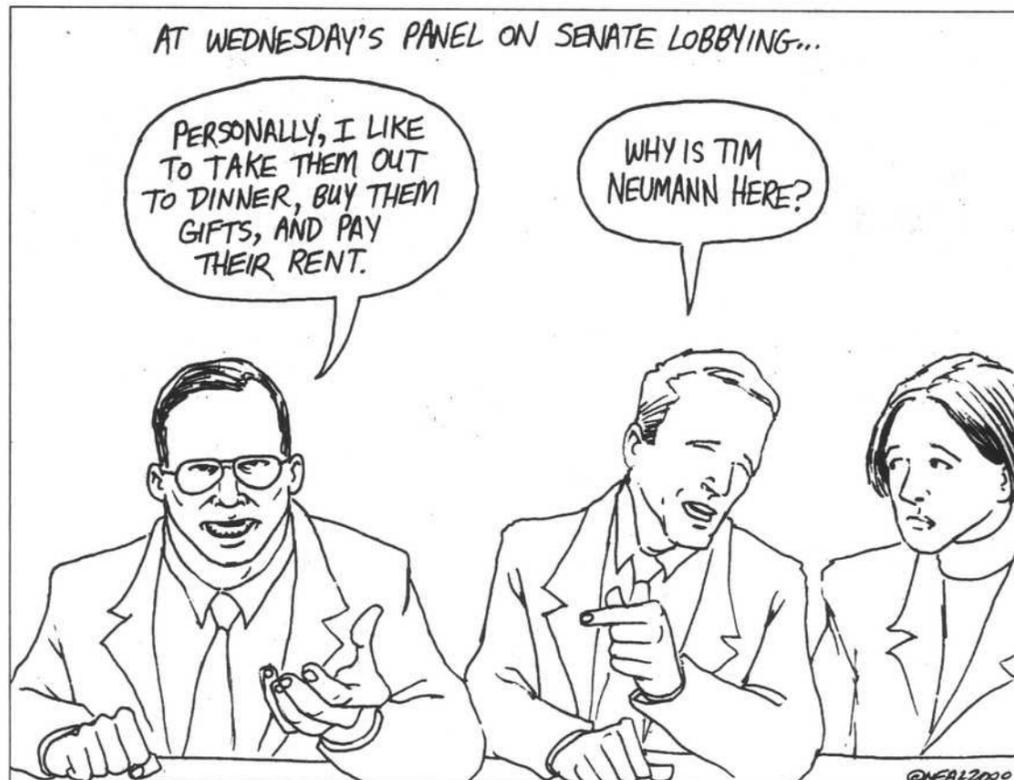
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Editorial Policy

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Obermeyer's VIEW



Change of seasons

Agricultural interests must be protected

A solid foundation should be able to support any structure and never crumble away. This same solid foundation is something that never is seen, and only the builder knows its depth and strength. When a storm comes, it provides security and a place for protection. It remains as the only evidence of a once tall standing structure blown away by a storm.

I knew things were going to change going into my third year at UNL. I was starting a new major and letting go of a big part of my life. It was apparent that the structure above my foundation was going to face a storm.

In 1917, the gun fired and my family began to run a race. Looking back, I am positive that this race was a relay. Each generation handed the baton to the next. My great-grandpa handed it to my granddad, my granddad handed it to my dad, and as I was reaching back to grab it from my dad, suddenly the race ended. The baton was not passed on. We could not jump the hurdles anymore, and it hurt too much to keep on knocking them down.

The baton in this race is our family farm; the race includes the efforts to make the operation a success.

When the race ended, an auctioneer and more than 200 bidders quietly dismantled the structure of our 83-year-old family farm. The buyers gathered the pieces of our farm to help hold their farms together.

Today, many batons are getting too heavy and being dropped. This race in agriculture is full of limitations and obstacles; fewer and fewer runners are grabbing the baton

trained and ready to run.

Foundations are cracking and crumbling as these storms move through the land across this nation.

If agriculture produces the hardest-working people in the world, then why is this nation, why is this state and why is this university taking that away?

We are covering up and preventing what makes any structure stand, its foundation.

Once a foundation is covered, it takes forever to dig it up so that it can be used again. This is what we are doing today.

This nation was first successful because of its solid foundation and convictions of our founding fathers, which created another foundation of economic success through agriculture. Nebraska is a great place to live, just as our early nation was, because of its same common foundation.

Agriculture will continue to produce the great leaders. People of agriculture understand their foundation and are confident that it will hold many structures throughout life.

Agricultural Education and Future Farmers of America are being used to help students recognize the skills that they have and strive to develop the skills they need. These students will later help the nation as leaders in whatever they do.

Right now this nation is not helping agriculture, so down the road agriculture is not going to help this nation.

But it is time to change; it is time to make some noise. It does not matter if you are on City or East campus, greek or not, on or off campus. Why do we allow divisions to devel-

op within this university when we are all on the same team?

The top position at this university is open right now. We need a chancellor and other leaders who will not divide this university. We need a team that recognizes diversity but does not overlook the benefits that agriculture provides for careers and leadership development for this state and this nation.

UNL has made some good moves this year. It seems to be on the right path in hiring people who represent the integrity and commitment to values that this state wants. People are watching their next big moves and waiting to cheer or boo.

What is it that agriculture has to offer the university? True leadership. The greatest leaders of our nation were simple farmers. And one of the greatest leaders in the Bible was David. He left his flock of sheep to kill a giant and become a great king. Nobody thought that he could do it. David recognized the skills he had and killed a giant with one stone.

To change a tire, you have to change the center bolt. When time is running out, a change in the play at the line of scrimmage is shouted out from the center of the line, from the leader of the team.

Nebraska is located in the center of this nation. To change anything, its source or center must be changed first.

It is time to change, time to make some noise, but the right change and the right amount of noise must come at the right time be successful in whatever we do. The time is now: We can make decisions that will focus the future, the vision of this university.

Jeremy Steele is a junior agricultural education major and a Daily Nebraskan guest columnist.

P.S. Write Back

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