

## Daily Nebraskan

Since 1901

Editor: Sarah Baker  
Opinion Page Editor: Jake Glazeski  
Managing Editor: Bradley Davis

### Quotes of the week

"I think they did a really good job celebrating the day and what it means: bringing everybody together, no matter what color or what religion or who they are."

Senior horticulture major **Dusti Duffy**, on the festivities commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. Day

"But somewhere along the way, there comes a day, if the baobabs are left to grow, when nothing in the world could weed them out."

Columnist **Mark Baldrige**, on the necessity of rooting out the weeds from one's soul, before they choke and overwhelm

"It's bullshit."

Duffy's Tavern owner **Reg McMeen**, on the liability of the last-attended bar for inebriated patrons taken to de-tox, regardless of whether the patron purchased alcohol from the bar

"We had a group talk before the floor event, and we focused on doing a perfect routine."

NU gymnast **Alecia Ingram**, on pulling the women's gymnastics team together for a win against Oregon State

"The people are unbelievably friendly."

**John Owens**, vice chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, on the strengths of UNL

"The point is that the government is trying to register and control our weapons - weapons that are not only guaranteed us, but they are guaranteed us specifically for use against the government."

Columnist **Jake Glazeski**, on the shady intentions and purposes behind governmental weapon controls

"People need to know that they can find beauty and interesting people in flat places. It just requires you to look a little longer."

**George Tuck**, professor of journalism, on his latest exhibit, "Flat Places and Interesting People"

"Anytime you play at home in this league, you have to think in terms of getting a 'W'."

Women's Basketball Coach **Paul Sanderford**, on his approach to the home court advantage

"We suck ... bad."

Columnist **Tony Bock**, on the university's rating on the suckiness scale

"I've been working on this music for six months without any recordings. I learned the music by trying everything out."

Faculty artist **Clark Potter**, on exploring new music without a precedent to follow

"It simply doesn't make sense for Bush to denounce affirmative action programs as 'racial preferences' and then go on to appoint a disproportionate number of minorities to his cabinet."

Daily Nebraskan editorial, on the contradictions inherent in a statistically unlikely slate of cabinet-members selected by a president opposed to affirmative action

"It is disheartening when any member of the community, especially a role model, gets picked up for DUI. It just goes to show that alcohol is a pervasive factor in drinking and driving."

**Simera Reynolds**, Mothers Against Drunk Driving executive director, on former Husker Football Coach **Charlie McBride** pleading guilty to drunken driving

### Editorial Board

Sarah Baker, Jeff Bloom, Bradley Davis, Jake Glazeski, Matthew Hansen, Samuel McKewon, Kimberly Sweet

### Letters Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes briefs, letters to the editor and guest columns, but does not guarantee their publication. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Submitted material becomes property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions 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, NE 68588-0448. E-mail: letters@unlinfo.unl.edu.

### Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials are the opinions of the Fall 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; a cartoon is solely the opinion of its artist. 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 production 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 employees.



Megan Cody/DN

## In the ear of the beholder

"For the life of me, I cannot believe we'd ever dine on 40 cents, we were merely freshmen."

-The Verve Pipe  
"The Freshmen"



Betsy Severin

If you're looking for something that's more addictive than crack and goofier than pictures of George W., that also will make everyone in the computer lab give you "Quiet down!" looks, today is your lucky day!

You see, my friends, the fact is that there are people in this world (somewhere) with lots and lots of time on their hands. By some strange force of nature, these people are compelled to create Web pages. And on some of these Web pages, I have found my own personal crack stash: mondegreens.

Mondegreens, or misheard song lyrics, got their name from Sylvia Wright, a columnist in the '50s, who wrote about the Scottish folk song "The Bonny Earl O'Morray." She wrote that she thought the lyric, "Oh, they have slain the Earl O'Morray and laid him on the green," was, "Oh, they have slain the Earl O'Morray and Lady Mondegreen." This was incredibly amusing in the '50s, and fortunately, humor has evolved.

Therefore, dozens of Internet pages have been devoted to such things as the fact that "You're a god, and I am not" (Vertical Horizon's "You're a God") has been misheard as, "You're a garden, I am not," "You're a guy, I am not," "Uren God, I am snot," "You're outside, I'm on pot," "Laura got invited, I did not" and "You're a (gol darn) nut!"

Most pages claim one of the most famous mondegreens is found in Jimi Hendrix's "Purple Haze": "Excuse me while I kiss the sky" becomes, "Excuse me while I kiss this guy." Hendrix was aware of this and would sometimes proceed to kiss a guy after singing this lyric in concert. It's a good thing people weren't hearing him sing, "Excuse me while I kiss a mountain lion!"

After spending four hours exploring Internet sites devoted to misheard lyrics, I felt fairly certain that the creators of these sites could've found a better way to spend their time. But I wasn't totally sure, so I surfed for another four hours the next day and concluded that further study would be needed.

I invite you all to join me so I won't be the only one getting dirty looks for laughing too loud in the 'puter lab. Here's a sample of some of the funnier ones I've come across:

On one site, someone thought Aerosmith was passionately singing, "You're my AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAgent (angel), come and save me tonight." Another thought Eiffel 64 was singing, "I'm blue, I'm in need of a diet," when in fact they were singing, "I'm blue ab a die die ...." which is much more coherent.

Matchbox Twenty's "Real World" may contain subliminal messages about food, as one thought the band was not singing, "I wish the real world would just stop hassling me," but, "I whisper in your ear, and you throw hash browns at me." Another thought it was, "I wish Burrito World would just stop hassling me." Don't we all?

People can even mess up lyrics that are in the title of the song itself. A person reported thinking Asia's song "Heat of the Moment" was really, "We are the Mormons," and another thought Christina Aguilera was singing "I'm a genius at Boggle," not, "I'm a genie in a bottle." One could see how this mistake could be made, after all - Aguilera gained attention and popularity among the masses because of her great mind.

A third person thought Enya's "Sail Away" was really, "Save a Whale." Actually, if you listen hard, you can actually hear whales in that song.

Many people who submitted lyrics to the sites reported that they still sing their own lyrics even after finding out the real ones, just because they're stubborn. Tony Young tells of his friend who believed the quote from "The Freshman" should be, "I cannot believe we never docked 40 cents, we were only freshmen."

"My friend and I sat in the car while I brought up this misheard lyric," he said. "I had figured out the real words by then, but before I could bring up the correction, my friend, who fancied himself a music expert, even having auditioned for the Verve Pipe, went on a long, I mean loooooonng, 10-minute speech about how 'we never docked 40 cents' meant we never paid our dues, blah blah blah, and the deep hidden meaning within. Then I finally corrected him with the right lyric, but I don't think he heard me."

By the way, the real lyrics are, "I cannot believe we never died for these sins." And I was just kidding about the whales.



Scott Eastman/DN

## Time for NU to accept its mediocrity

Everywhere I look at NU, I'm seeing one message being repeated over and over.

It's in the paper, on people's lips and etched into the sidewalks and soap bars of this great institution of higher drunkenness and mediocre education. And it's the mediocre education part which is exactly what I'm getting at here.

Apparently, UNL has, once again, been downgraded to third-tier status. Our faculty members are leaving in droves, presumably to states like Nevada, Minnesota or Germany, where prostitution is legal and carries with it a greater amount of dignity than teaching at this turd-hold university.

I must have missed some huge paradigm shift in the past year because it seems to me that UNL is still a good school. That, and I also like using the word "paradigm."

DN staffers are running around screaming mediocrity and the admissions people are frantically looking for something, anything, to list on the brochures that would be a reason for a high school grad to come here ("The best landscaping of any university in the Big 12!"). In the meantime, I, like Peter Gibbons from "Office Space," just don't care.

For me, college is simply an inconvenience and an expensive one at that.

College is a means to a job, and if you can find your calling in life without going to college, then more power to you. I have no desire to become enmeshed in the tapestry that ASUN would have us believe is college life. I don't even know what ASUN stands for, and judging by recent student voter turnout, I'm probably not alone.

I don't see anything at UNL that is any better or any worse than other schools. As far as I know, we still have a good engineering college, a top-notch journalism college and at least a respectable teacher factory - "ahem" - I mean, teacher college.

We're big, but not so big that we don't allow freshmen to have cars. We have many large, expensive buildings and a wonderful greek system of which I am almost proud to be nearly a part of.

Alpha Sigma Sigma is still, as yet, an unchartered frat, but I'm betting that with next week's horse trougher, along with our field trip to Pershing elementary school to tell kids why drinking is bad and to hand out ROTC pamphlets, that will change.

UNL has some of the best research facilities in the country for sciencey- and engineering-type things.

Why, then, even five years ago we built a huge indoor bridge in the Beadle center and tested it repeatedly just so we could have a good reason to blow it up in the end.

My point, in a roundabout sort of way, is that even though we're officially a mediocre, and not a hardcore, school, we're not really that bad. More directly, though, the only people that do care about our official standing are probably the same people who show up for the ASUN vote each spring.

And while I could let my case rest with that, I will keep going. To most of my fellow tuition-paying Servants of the Machine, our mediocrity doesn't matter. We're here because we lived in Lincoln, and everyone knows UNL is just the logical extension of high school.

We're here because it's cheap, and we want to get away from our parents and the family farm. We're here because The Man says we need some sort of degree to have a decent life. We're here because our parents said we're going and that's the end of it, and thank God for work-study programs.

We're here because of necessity or convenience - or athletic scholarships.

All the whining and complaining about UNL's overall standing is ridiculous. I wish half as much effort were put into fixing the microphone system in Avery's lecture hall or making the PowerPoint computer in Henzlik 124 go to the next slide instead of playing video game sounds.

You want mediocre? How about the food in Selleck dining hall. These things are what students may possibly care about and would give a rat's pootie if improved.

At the end of four, six or eight years, we all hope to have degrees from what was once hoped to be the Harvard of the Midwest but is now just the Southeast Community College of the downtown Lincoln area.

Or rather, it would be that good except for SCC's downtown campus.

The bottom line here is that when we graduate, we'll go on to our jobs and our wives and kids. We'll live out our lives, and it won't matter that some interim chancellors and ASUN nutcases thought we were mediocre. I plan on having fun getting there, and as long as there's paper on the roll, I'll be fine.

Whether it's first-, third- or dead-last tier, it's just a degree, and that's what I'm here for.

An education, yes, but more importantly, I just need that oft-sought after and oft-clichéd "piece of paper" that says I can teach language arts to high schoolers.



Simon Ringsmuth

Please write us and tell us what you think.

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