

Opinion

Page 4

Daily Nebraskan Friday, March 2, 2001

Daily Nebraskan

Since 1901

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

Quotes of the Week

"Most students have the idea of taking a good job to make money. We want to maybe infect some of you – give you the idea that you can create a job instead of just taking one."

Terry Sebora, director of the Nebraska Center for Entrepreneurship, on the goal of the International Business Plan Competition

"I have never met a person from Millard that is remotely close to being 'normal.' In fact, I have never met a person from Millard that was not 'severely dysfunctional.'

Columnist Tony Bock, on the weirdness that is Millard

"There is hardly anything in this state that's considered decent architecture. There's the crap that's being built across the street (the Embassy Suites). People perceive that as 'oh wow, that's great; it's a nice building,' when actually it's doing a disservice to the architecture business."

Robert Shafer, UNL architecture student, on the brand new hotel downtown

"Today is the first time ever that we played above the level of the team that is below us. When you let a team like that hang around, that is when you get beat."

NU center Kimani Ffriend, on the recent victory over Texas A&M

"I can't blaspheme you without confessing that I believe in you; but according to the Research Ministry, if I believe in you, I can't blaspheme you. What gives? I'm saved if I do, saved if I don't!"

Columnist Jeremy Patrick, on the eternal conundrum he faces as a non-believer

"A lot of scientific thinking is goal-based. What we do isn't really goal-based because there's no clear goal in mind. There isn't a paradigm for how a building should look."

Architecture professor Brian Rex, on the lateral thinking he tries to teach his students

"I want to be the kind of player no one wants to play. I just want to be someone that when they know they're playing Nebraska, they say, 'Oh no, not the Jones girl.'"

NU forward Stephanie Jones, on her on-court image and approach to play

"I've had extensive conversations with older, respectable students on campus, and they've given me a lot of insight on past ASUN decisions. I feel that the candidate I did vote for is going to make a difference, as opposed to past ASUN presidents."

Freshman Austin Van Dusen, on how he decided for whom to vote in the recent ASUN elections

"I felt like the shower victim in 'Psycho.' They just kept going down the floor, another stab, down the floor ..."

NU Coach Barry Collier, on KU's performance against the Huskers on Sunday

"This year I got my name out. Next year I am going to run again."

John Matzen, independent presidential candidate, on his (a)political aspirations

"There's guys I've lost to once in my career, and I go to bed thinking about it."

NU wrestler Brad Vering, on his infrequent losses and their effect on him

Editorial Board

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

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Megan Cody/DN

Stand by your band

"That new Pearl Jam album last summer kind of sucked, didn't it?"

The words came as something of a shock to me as my roommate Ben and I drove down O Street a few weeks ago.

I kept on driving, mildly frustrated at his obvious musical illiteracy. "No, it didn't suck. It's awesome, just like the rest of their albums." Quick and easy, wham-bam-thank you ma'am, and I had said my peace.

But Ben would not be satisfied so easily. "What do you mean, it's awesome? You're saying Pearl Jam hasn't put out any albums that weren't good?" Ben clearly didn't understand music, and he was trying to force his liberal ways upon my fragile psyche. I began to physically curl up in a ball as I crawled into my shell of close-mindedness in which I live every single day of my conservative little life.

"No," I responded, "it's not like that at all. I like Pearl Jam, and I think it's fairly arrogant of me to judge their songs by saying they are good or not good." We were at a red light, and Ben turned to look at me as my '87 Dodge Caravan hummed away in its happy idle, oblivious to our little spat. Ben is, after all, from England.

"I can't like a band and then pick and choose which songs are good," I said. "I can say which songs sound pleasing to me, but I can't be the judge of a song's degree of suckiness. Just because a song may sound bad to me doesn't mean it sucks."

The red shifted to green and we began rollin', rollin', rollin'. "So you're telling me that if Pearl Jam put out an album that was just horrible, you would still buy it simply because it's Pearl Jam?" Ben said, and he was getting a little upset. I noticed his eye twitching as his native accent flared up.

"Who am I to judge what is good and what is bad?" I asked. "Eddie, Jeff, Stone, Mike and Jack write a song that they think is good, and if I don't like it, then it's my problem." Ben was starting to get on my nerves, and I still didn't see what he was trying to get at.

"So you're not putting any thought into the music you listen to, right? You will just buy a CD if you like the band; even if the CD is really bad." Ben's arms were flailing about as he spoke, and he was obviously frustrated with my brick wall of a mindset.

"That's exactly right, dude. If I like a band, I can't just stop liking them if I don't understand why they wrote a song, or if I think a song sounds bad. Music isn't produced in a factory; it's produced by people. It's not fair to say like a band only if their songs fit your exact style. You should like a band for the music they make."

"You say you like Radiohead except for their Kid A album. Dude, the same guys who wrote Creep also wrote In Limbo, so do you like Radiohead or don't you?" It was getting harder for me to drive and concentrate on my argument, and I was forced into the foolishness of asking rhetorical questions. It all made sense to me, but it sounded awfully stupid when I tried to put my thoughts into words.

We rounded a corner and pulled into the parking lot of Kinko's, where I had to make some photocopies for work.

"It's your attitude that is exactly why music today is just a cesspool of non-talent bands," Ben said as my engine coughed and sputtered in the parking lot. "You get bands with obviously no musical ability like NSync or Limp Bizkit, and they sell millions of CDs because people like them since they're trendy, even if their music sucks. It's almost like you're worshipping the band. They can do no wrong." We got out of the car, and I grabbed the package of junk to be copied, arguing all the while and right into the store.

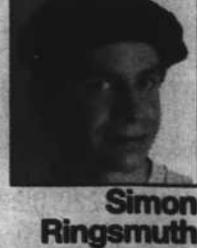
"That's not what I'm saying at all, man. People like crappy pop bands because they've got an image and they're trendy. They listen to the songs because all their friends do, not because they like them. I like Pearl Jam *the band*, not Pearl Jam *the image*."

"But the band shouldn't matter. You should listen to music that you like, regardless of what band puts it out. Hasn't Pearl Jam ever put out a song that you didn't like?"

I felt my knees go weak, remembering the song Bugs from Vitalogy. "Well, possibly..."

Right then we both noticed the hippie at the counter, and I knew it was all over for me. "Hey man," Ben said to the guy, bringing him into the thick of our little tiff. "Should you listen to music because you like the band, even if it sucks?" He would not let me get in a word edgewise as I struggled to tell my side of the story. The hippie's eyes narrowed to slits, and he glared at me as if his liberated mind would simply will my insignificant body to disappear from existence. "Dude, Pearl Jam had one good record and then they *totally* sold out."

I rolled my eyes and politely bowed out of the conversation as Ben and the hippie complained about everything wrong with people like me and our obvious musical illiteracy.



Simon Ringsmuth

Letters to the editor

Say that again, please

On Wednesday, the student body did not make an obvious decision on who should be the next ASUN president.

In my opinion, the choice for president on Wednesday was clear; throughout the past month, there has been one candidate who is completely committed to being a voice for the entire student body. He has put forth campaign issues that will benefit all students – issues that are feasible – and has proven in the debates that he will fight for the student body.

That candidate is No Bull's Andy Mixan.

Mixan has proven to me time and again that he has the passion and heart necessary to make this campus a great place.

I have worked with him on several occasions in the past two years concerning student government issues. At these times, I have seen that he has the determination and the drive necessary to accomplish his goals and fix the problems in ASUN.

For too long, ASUN has focused on issues that do not affect the student body and has ignored what the students need.

It is time for ASUN to refocus on its constitu-

cy: the students. It is time that we, as students, put someone in office that will focus on real student issues and will work to solve the problems that are facing this campus.

This is what No Bull is all about – putting to rest the political rhetoric that has faced ASUN the past two years and has completely divided the student body.

As a party, No Bull has nothing to hide – no fake smiles, no hidden agendas, No Bull. The only candidate that will work every day of his term to make the right changes to better student life at UNL is Andy Mixan.

Remember, even though it may seem small in the grand scheme of things, ASUN is very important to each and every one of us as students at UNL. I encourage you to participate in the political process by voting on Tuesday, March 6.

It is time to elect a candidate that is about working for the students; it is time to elect Andy Mixan.

Michael Butterfield
senior
civil engineering

Plea of a future salesman



Mark Zmarzly

Two questions have been on my mind lately:

Is it possible that I get better looking everyday?

What have I really done since high school graduation to become the person that I want to be?

The answer to the first question is an obvious yes.

The second question required me to take a hard look at my life and myself.

All of us are at a unique juncture in our adult lives. Presumably, we are enrolled at UNL to get the desired education and experience to begin truly living our lives to their full potential.

We go to school to become doctors, architects, mathematicians, lawyers, writers, teachers, professional football players or whatever.

But is college really just a stepping stone to a truly meaningful life or is it the four years you spend drinking and fraternizing with the opposite sex before you get a job selling insurance?

It has been almost eight years since I graduated high school. Gone are the days of making a pop can into a pot-smoking device. Now when I look at a pop can, I can only think of whether I should wash it out or not before recycling.

I decided to go back and look at my high school yearbook to try and gain some perspective on this issue.

While going through my senior yearbook, three things stood out. First, who is the fat kid with glasses who looks kind of like me? Oh wait, that's me.

Second, I realized that my crowning achievement in high school was being one of the two guys who "managed to ruin the senior class picture for everyone." My friend Sean and I decided to pretend to sell a bag of cocaine during the picture.

I didn't think much of it at the time, but looking back at the picture, I realize now that I'm pretty proud of the balls it took to ruin that picture.

The final thing I noticed was an inscription here. It didn't have the typical, "you're one of the coolest guys in school" or the "we need to get together after graduation (and I mean it); it was actually sincere.

I won't go through the inscription here, but it was very genuine and indicated that I could do anything if I just set my mind and heart to it.

But, what have I accomplished since then? I just got out of an employment interview at

UNL career services. MetLife wants me to sell insurance. Snoopy wants me to pimp myself.

I came to college trying to get a well-rounded education. I majored in English and speech communications with the intention of going on to graduate school and maybe getting a masters or doctorate. I thought that the important thing was to get good grades, and I would eventually find a calling.

I'm afraid that my calling may very well be in the insurance game.

The Sunday, Feb. 18th edition of the Lincoln Journal Star contained a very interesting article about a young strategic-design firm here in Lincoln named Archival. The interesting thing about this firm is that it was founded by two UNL alumni, Charlie Hull and Clint Runge.

Their strategic design firm looks at the way a company promotes and advertises itself on a holistic level. A company may use one advertising campaign to promote its product or organization, but this image often differs from what the company actually believes in or is about. Archival looks at things such as office set up, Web site design, business cards, etc ... and tries to find an identifiable company concept.

Why the information on Archival?

My freshman semester at UNL, Clint Runge and I had a class together, Speech Communications 109. Now, Clint and I were not the best of friends, but we had a good time in class together laughing and learning.

Now Clint has gone off and found an idea and a company that he can believe in. He has gone out and taken a step toward becoming the kind of person he wants to be. By the way, the company projects earnings of \$1.5 million this year.

The moral of this story? Don't make fun of the guy sitting next to you in Speech Communications 109 because one day you might need a favor (please Clint, give me a job).

To tell you the truth, I'm not sure if there is one set-in-stone moral that you can pull away from this story.

I may or may not pursue this little insurance thing. I hope that I will come to my senses and realize that I really do wish to become a writer and continue on the long and tired path that I'm on now.

Please, for the sake of all of the little insurance salespeople out there, try to do something different and truly wonderful with your life.

Take the road less traveled – but for God's sake, don't forget to buy insurance from me.

Please give us your opinions and feedback.

We care. Really. We do.

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