

Alumni Council intervenes to save students' social lives

Great job! Thank you! Does the university's Alumni Council ever deserve these exclamations! Quite simply, the headline of an article in last week's *Old Gold and Black* — "Alumni Council concerned over Lilly Report's suggestions" — put a huge grin upon my face.

BRIAN BRADY

STUDENT COLUMNIST

Why was I so enthusiastic? There are many reasons why I, as well as the rest of the student body, should be thrilled.

The Alumni Council's uncertainty about the Lilly Report's recommendations is a good thing. The university has an endowment approaching \$500 million, and alumni contribute greatly to that figure.

During my four years at the university, major changes have taken place. Some have been for the good, some for the bad.

Jamie Spencer, a student panelist at the Alumni Council session, said that "... the Alumni Council are pretty consistent donors to the university and we all know that money talks."

The intended effects of all of these transformations were supposed to benefit the university. However, how one defines "university" is the key to assessing these changes.

Does it ever. And it spoke big last spring when the computer proposal for the Class of 2000 rolled over a majority of student objections to the benefit of the administration's plans. Money caught the attention of Reynolda Hall then; do you think it can do the same now?

It is apparent that the student body plays a minute role in the powers-that-be definition. The uncovering of the controversial Lilly Report is yet another example of the apparent disregard for the students' interest.

I have yet to figure out why the university is on a mission to destroy the Greek system. President Thomas K. Hearn Jr. has recently said that "there is no anti-Greek sentiment" in Reynolda Hall. Yes, and there is valuable beach-front property located in Nebraska.

To explain the background of the report would be redundant: If you have not heard about it by now, then you've been living under a rock, or you're just extremely apathetic.

The Greek system offers much to the character of this university, in positive ways. To take this away would be detrimental, and simply a bad move. Furthermore, this new alcohol policy the Lilly Report is suggesting resembles an elementary school approach to a "supposed" problem.

However, some of the more controversial parts of the report, such as prohibiting freshman rush, more strictly enforcing the alcohol policy and possibly ending Greek life at the university have become thorns for many students.

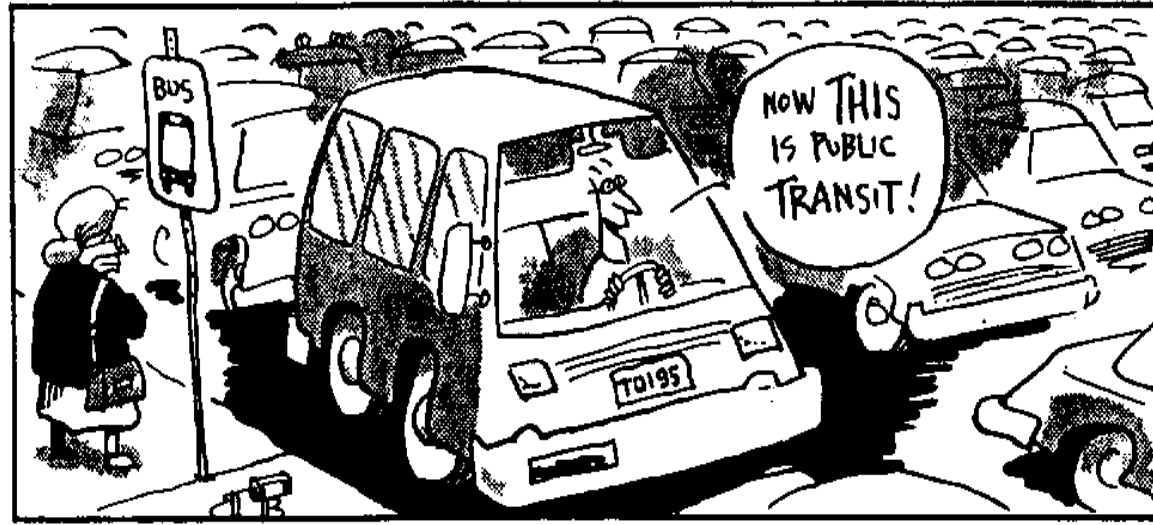
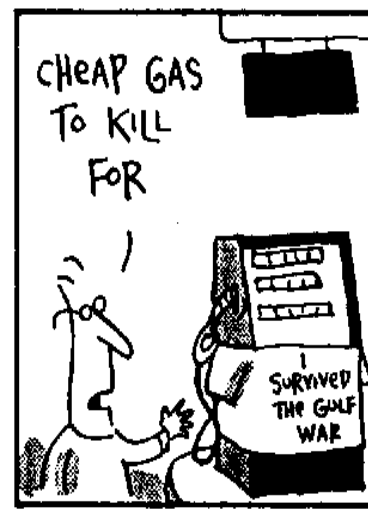
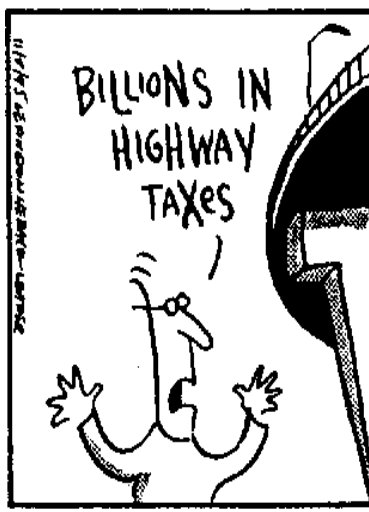
Thank goodness that the Alumni Council realizes this, because with the blatant disregard students have received from the administration, someone with power needed to stand up.

This is where the Alumni Council comes into the picture. Alumni councils at many universities hold influential positions, as they well should. The students have received a blessing that could be considered a miracle — someone has decided to support the student body.

The Alumni Council's opinion might actually be a wake-up call to the powers that be.

David Steffany, '80, the head of the council, said, "Those who made comments were somewhat dubious of the report's recommendations." Finally, someone is seeing through the smoke and mirrors that some of the faculty and administration have put up!

Money does talk, and after floundering so long with little outside support, the students might be able to fight fire with fire.



There's no place like home

Question: If I were to ask you right now, today, where you consider your home to be, what would you say?

TASHA COX

GUEST COLUMNIST

Would you look at me with a straight face and answer, "My dorm (or apartment)?"

the half-empty jar of salsa and Grey Poupon that has proudly remained in my fridge back at school. Then comes the moment of truth: going back to look at my bedroom. My room at home is a conglomeration of things that I have had since I was a little girl.

Would you not even give my question a second thought before you began to tell me all the exciting details of your hometown?

Or, would you pause, think for a few moments, and tell me that you honestly just don't know?

As Thanksgiving break approaches, many of us are preparing for the long-awaited trek back to the home in which our parents live. Most students do not have the luxury of going home but once or twice a semester.

The pastel flowered wallpaper that was hung when I was 12 no longer reflects my eclectic 21-year-old taste.

Therefore, the times when we do go home are marked by excitement, thoughts of relaxation, and possibly confusion.

Looking around my room, I realize that all of my necessary items are in my dorm room.

Yes, confusion. You heard me correctly. Going home is a strange little phenomenon, wouldn't you agree?

The shelves where I keep my CD player and television are empty, and my closet is bare. Suddenly I feel torn between two worlds: the world I used to live in and the world I left back at school.

As the years have passed, I have grown apart from my high school buddies. Now home represents time to spend with my family. Before I left for college, I never realized how important my family would become to me. I have a special relationship with both of my parents, my older brother and especially with my nine-year-old little brother.

When your parents start gushing about the new couch in the family room and you start to feel like you have no say about anything in the house anymore, truth is, you really do not.

When I first walk into my house during a break, it seems slightly foreign to me. I look around the house, inspecting everything as though I have been gone for years, not months.

So what is the point of all of this "home talk?" The important thing to remember is that we have to appreciate that we can still call our

I am amazed that there is actually food in the refrigerator, instead of

parents' home *our* home. Most of us overlook the free laundry service, the delicious home-cooked meals, and the freedom to have the run of the house as a right we have as daughters and sons. And we do. For now.

But when we seniors graduate (and the rest of you as well), going home will no longer be the privilege that it is.

Oh, sure, do not get me wrong. You can always go home and live with your parents. A lot of people do.

But after you graduate from college, about a year after, if you are still chillin' out at home spooning off of your family, you will probably start to feel kind of lame.

The truth is that as we get older, we begin to appreciate our parents and our families a lot more. While friends come and go and jobs change left and right, our families are the only constant thing that we have in the world.

For some reason, when you are home, the food always tastes better, your clothes always look brighter and your dad can always fix whatever it is that you broke back at school. When we are at home, we can relax. We can step back from our busy lives at school and recharge.

So, as we all sit down with our families this Thanksgiving, let us remember that these moments we have as children at home for break are precious. We might have to endure long exchanges with boring relatives.

We might get annoyed by our parents' quirks. But the bottom line is that we have to accept our families. They are the only ones we have.

They are the only ones we have.



Rats portend apocalypse

The apocalypse is about to arrive at the university. You see, I have thought about the recent rat invasion. And I've come to a conclusion. The rats are the beginning of the end of our civilization here at the university.

DANIELLE DEAVER

PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

For the last few years, all we've heard about here is how the university is expanding and growing, trying to reach new heights, eventually edging out the Ivies to reach that coveted number one place in that stupid *U.S. News and World Report* college ranking. The vehicle to our success will be that brainchild, the Plan for the Class of 2000. Thinkpads will take us where only Ivies have dared to tread before.

ties people walk around cleaning and repairing things every day. I'm sure that in the last few months one of the maintenance people has had the delightful experience of seeing a rat or being touched by a rat. They get around campus. They know.

With all of the improvements at the upper levels of the school, however, the administration has neglected to repair the lower, more basic levels. Perhaps the publication date of the next rankings is on their minds, or some fiendish alumnus has imposed a deadline on the Reynolda Hall inhabitants to finish paving over all the grass on campus, like in Perritt Plaza. For whatever reason, they seem to have forgotten that the campus has not moved into a rat free cyberspace heaven.

We have so many computers and records on computers now that we are quite dependent on them. However, I think it is quite likely that the computers will be destroyed by those nasty little rodents

How do I know the administration is responsible? They are ultimately responsible for every bad thing about this place, for one thing. That's why some of them get free cars and more money than some corporate CEOs. For another, they are probably the most out-of-touch people on this campus. I mean, the Physical Facili-

Same goes for Campus Police. Students ... we get to live with them, lucky people that we are. Of course, we're the ones paying to be here, so I guess it makes sense that we would be the ones to get small furry animals as \$1,200 pets.

But when was the last time you saw a member of the administration wandering around campus? Their treks are generally brief, from their cars to their rat-free offices. No wonder no one has seen ... oh, I don't know, an exterminator, wandering around with rat-killing potion.

Since it seems apparent that the rats will have no reason to leave campus anytime soon, let's consider what they can do to the happy little

haven that is our university.

First, consider rats. They have beady little eyes, long pink tails and sharp claws and teeth. Because of the tail and the height differences, they probably won't be mistaken for administrators despite certain character similarities.

We have so many computers and records on computers now that we are quite dependent on them. However, I think it is quite likely that the computers will be destroyed by those nasty little rodents, who will find the Pit food so distasteful that they will look to Ethernet wires for sustenance.

The entire computer system will crash. All the grades for which students have studied obsessively and fought professors — and each other — will be destroyed. The administration's records will die. The infrastructure of the university will be destroyed. Common rodents will do what the computer services have tried and failed to do for months.

So, once the records of an entire semester have disappeared, students will do one of two things. Either storm Reynolda Hall, get shot by security forces and thus be exterminated, or storm Reynolda Hall and convince someone to call an exterminator. Naturally, the university will cease to exist if the former happens, and if the latter happens, the exterminator's bill at that point would require a federal disaster fund.

Impressive, what a couple hundred really motivated rats can accomplish, isn't it?

Brookings by Raymond Fies, Dapper

