Fireside Chat starts protest conversation

Faculty, students and community members discuss history need for, effectiveness of protests

JESSIE TUREK
Antelope Staff

Dr. Lorna Bracewell, her wife Paula and Dr. William Aviles could have just turned around on their drive to the Women's March in Omaha. They debated during much of the car ride about whether or not it mattered at all that they were participating in marches happening all over the country.

Dr. Aviles, smiled while reminiscing about the road trip experience and recalled: “They almost dropped me off the side of the road…because I don’t know about this!”

But the other passengers were firm: “No, keep going!”

Dr. Bracewell and Dr. Aviles wanted the engaged audience at the April 7 Fireside Chat to look at political resistance and protests from a variety of different viewpoints.

Aviles, the political science professor, asked, “What do you guys think about when you think about a protest? In your minds a protest is achieved with what?”

Attendees’ ideas of protest included signs with catch phrases and songs like rap that pump up and communicate the message they are trying to convey, building solidarity. Achievements through protests are thought to start a conversation on the topic and involve a level of commitment that is significantly higher, with risks involved audience members said.

The Emerging Politics of Resistance, facilitated by assistant professor Dr. Lorna Bracewell, asked how many in the room had participated in a protest of any kind around half raised their hands.

Her question, “Do you think it mattered?” spurred varied audience remarks.

The majority nodded their head in agreement.

Dr. Bracewell then asked, “Why?”

Associate Professor Dr. Claude Louishomme, also in the political science department, recalled protests from his past that did have a lasting effect: “My sister and I went to Washington, DC a year after Ronald Reagan was elected along with 800,000 others to put pressure on the president make Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s birthday a holiday, and Ronald Reagan had a horrible civil rights record. He did sign that off. I think that march in freezing January did make a difference along with other stuff.”

Another reason for organized protest shared by a community audience member, Andrew White, was the tiresome and ineffective response of being told to write to congressmen about problems. White agreed that, however, writing can sometimes make a difference. “The problem lies in if the writing becomes just a chainmail and the message is not always received by the leaders. There is more attention given when leaders start seeing you on the news, out there actively participating,” White said.
Hero worship is a term you may have heard and it boils down to idolizing someone (usually six feet under) to the point that it becomes an unhealthy obsession. I am not criticizing the admiration of an individual or their work. I really enjoy Bob Ross and, thanks to him, have been trying my hand at painting (with limited success). If the opportunity arose in which I could buy one of his original paintings without breaking the bank, I would do so in a heartbeat.

I am instead referring to the range of the absurd, such as paying money for a used facial tissue into which your idol blew their nose or having a cardboard cutout you salute every day. This can be seen in many aspects of our culture, with varying degrees of awkwardness, from general discomfort to skin-crawling levels of disturbing.

For an easy comparison, I’ll use music as a punching bag. In the music industry, especially with the current generation who look back 20 or 50 years and moan about how much ‘better’ music was in those days. We all know one of these people and they’re easy to spot, as they wear Nirvana shirts and moan that “I was born in the wrong generation because music is garbage these days.” This idea of a golden age of music is absurd; no matter what decade or century you’re from, there has always been bad music.

Personally, I cannot understand a single word Kurt Cobain ‘sang’ in any of his songs and think classical composers like Bach and Beethoven were complete and total sellouts. The Nickelback of their age, if you would.

Golden ages look that way because they are powered by nostalgia, which is often used by those who were at their peak in that time. Sometimes that term is used in an ironic sense, much like the 1870’s Gilded Age in the US. It is true that there were powerful individuals in that time, but there have been similar individuals through history, and none of them were stainless saints.

Transitioning into politics, this hero worship is dangerous, as it is mind-numbing. One I often like to point out as misguided reverence goes to the only president mentioned just as many times as Jesus/God in a conservative speech: Ronald Reagan. Talk to any hardcore right-winger, even if they weren’t alive during his presidency, and you will hear nothing but praise. He singlehandedly pulled the nation out of recession, promoted Christian values and ended Communism!

While he did stop a recession, the impact was short term. His supply-side economics was dramatically flawed, adding massive amounts of debt and creating the false perception that tax cuts solve everything. No, they do not. Tax cuts on individuals do not encourage them to work more but create more supply without raising the level of demand. Increasing spending on research and development and producing a better-educated work force to work more effectively would have been far more superior steps.

As far as Christian values, it was used more as a whistle than an actual lifestyle. Though he did write checks to individuals who were in need, Reagan cut welfare for millions while doing so. Looking at his presidency as a whole, he used Christianity as a calling card rather than something on which to base policy.

While it is true that the weapons build-up did advance the collapse of the U.S.S.R. (along with maybe breaking an agreement or three), it wasn’t as much of a death blow as some may think. The U.S.S.R. was already buckling under debts, revolution in the satellite states and a general lack of political muscle. The best example I heard is that the U.S.S.R. was already choking while the U.S. watched. About two minutes later, the U.S. came along and slammed their foot on the U.S.S.R.’s throat. Reagan’s spending increases just sped up the collapse by a year or two.
After a few months of hard work and effort, Nick’s Gyros, a popular Kearney restaurant, announced its grand opening for their new establishment located across from campus at 1300 W 24th St.

Carlos Godinez, owner of Nick’s Gyros and its extension Nicks on the Bricks, said the restaurant will move back to where it started. About 13 years ago, Nick’s Gyros’ first location was located just across from campus.

Godinez said he thinks a combination of old-school style and modern ideas will make the new establishment a success with both current and past students.

The menu will continue to feature the gyros from the previous location, which are popular student favorites.

“People who are already gone and have their families, they still come back thinking about the first location and how convenient it was for the students,” Godinez said. His purpose is to bring back memories to those who once frequented Nick’s Gyros while in college, but also make the new location a popular place for the current UNK students and staff.

Godinez’ expectations for this new project are high, “I’m ambitious, I want something big and when I start something I want to make sure it is going to be successful,” he said.

Along with the new location, he is offering a coupon to buy one gyro and get one free, which will be available for the first two weeks after its opening.

Nick’s Gyros hopes to attract the younger generations via social media and wants to offer deliveries to make them more convenient for students and the larger community. Customers can call and place delivery orders during busy days.

Godinez says this is a big opportunity for those who are trying to get a part-time job close to campus. He needs help with deliveries and kitchen work and is willing to train, he wants to make his employees feel comfortable while working.

Godinez says he likes to work in the Kearney community and his customers are his main motivation to make successful changes. “The coolest thing about this business is if this place wasn’t being support by customers, it’s gone.”

UNK students won’t regret going to Nick’s Gyros grand opening and visiting it more often now that it is just right in front of campus. Its business hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day. Don’t miss it!

Nick’s will open right across campus within the next two weeks. They are hoping to find both customers and delivery help with the new location so near the university.
Activist offers eye-opening dialogue
Kadayifci-Orellana breaks down barriers

Visiting professor has worked for dialogues, development in Turkey, Israel, Palestinian Territories, Iraq, Chad, Niger, Kenya, Guatemala, Iran and Saudi Arabia, among others.

RACHEL OVERBY
Antelope Staff

S. Ayse Kadayifci-Orellana spoke to students and staff about the importance of conflict resolution and how she works to bring people of different faiths together to hold dialogues in order to resolve issues. She works closely with conflict resolution curriculum development in many Middle Eastern countries like Turkey, Israel and Iraq.

Kadayifci-Orellana’s dialogue on Thursday covered the issue of breaking down barriers and misconceptions of Muslim women and other religious groups. She discussed many topics, including how to properly hold a dialogue between opposing people or groups.

Kadayifci-Orellana says she works to teach as many people as she can about these issues. She has started many discussions, written curriculum and held training sessions to help teach others about these issues. She works closely with conflict resolution curriculum development in many Middle Eastern countries like Turkey, Israel and Iraq.

The event was held in Copeland Hall and was free and open to the public with many students and faculty members attending.

Let’s Party!

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create. love. inspire.
Kearney hosts International Science March
April 22, world marches to demonstrate importance of scientific community

On Earth Day, April 22, the scientific community of the world and members of the public that stand by the idea that empirical science improves the world and that science's well-being means the world's well-being, will march in defense of their beliefs.

The Science March is not intended as a protest; rather the march is intended as a peaceful, yet powerful, demonstration of the world's interest and support for the well-being of the scientific community and its practices.

The Kearney Science March is planned for Saturday, April 22, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., departing from Warner Hall (formerly Founders Hall) and moving to the Museum of Nebraska Art parking lot approximately 9 blocks away. Upon arrival at the MONA parking lot, there will be music, The Food Truck and discussion from the event's participants on the importance of science.

Anyone could march for the well-being of science for an unlimited number of reasons. Some will march for awareness of the importance of scientific agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) because they protect and improve the environment, its wildlife and people. Some will march for the importance of funding for scientific programs, as the progress of science always equals the progress of mankind.

Many more will march for innumerable reasons that are their own. If you believe in the importance of science's well-being, for whatever reason, join us on Earth Day to lend your voice and opinion.

Faculty and students of the University of Nebraska at Kearney support the march to show solidarity with the worldwide scientific community, as well as awareness about the importance of science in the Kearney community.

Kearney depends greatly on the well-being of science as it is the backbone for local industries that contribute to the city's success including agricultural practices, hospitals and the university.

The first organizing of the Earth Day science march in America began shortly after the 2017 presidential inauguration, mainly in response to proposed budget cuts to scientific agencies like the EPA. The Trump administration's proposal to cut $2.6 billion from the EPA, 31 percent of the EPA budget, would effectively cripple many of its programs and services, as well as eliminate an estimated 3,000 jobs.

The science march, originally intended for just Washington D.C, has developed into 481 satellite marches in 37 different countries and counting.

The current number of organizations publicly supporting the march has grown to over 180, including organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Sigma Xi, Next Gen Climate America and more.
Tennis takes down Midland
Men's and Women's teams edge out Midland University Warriors

Junior Mohab El Zanaty became UNK’s new record holder for career wins over the weekend, posting his 149th victory (78 singles and 71 doubles) over the weekend. El Zanaty was crowned ‘Loper of the Week’ for his achievement.

The Nebraska-Kearney tennis teams swept the Midland University Warriors by 9-0 scores Wednesday evening at Harmon Park.

The 29th-ranked Loper men improve to 7-7 while the regionally-ranked women are now 9-8. Midland is led by former UNK standout John Steinke.

This was the women’s final home dual of the 2016-17 season and they went out in style, allowing the Warriors (7-10) just one point in doubles and two in singles.

UNK’s lone senior is lefty Sthefani Rodriguez (Venezuela) and she was victorious at number five singles (6-0, 6-1) and paired with sophomore Sherry Sun (China) to win 8-0 at number two doubles.

Next, junior Emma Neil (Papillion) and freshman Ana Royo (Spain) both won their 13th singles match in dual competition. Neil played at number three (6-0, 6-0) for the first time while Royo (6-0, 6-0) won for the eighth straight time at number two.

The Loper men are scheduled to have one more home match – against Hastings College – but the April 11th date vs. the Broncos has been postponed due to recent changes in UNK’s busy schedule.

If this was the last home event at Harmon, all three seniors all went out as winners as Mohab El Zanaty (Egypt), Lucas Garces (Spain) and Justin Nguyen (Louisville, CO.) either won a singles or doubles match.

Overall, the banged up Warriors (8-9) tallied two points in doubles and 13 in singles. Besides UNK’s veterans, junior Raul Rodriguez (Spain) teamed with El Zanaty to win at number one doubles and sophomore Landon Warner (Lincoln Pius X) won in straight sets at number six singles.

Lopers.com

Photos by Todd Rundstrom

Top - Emma Neil handled her singles match easily in the women’s final home dual last Wednesday, defeating Midland’s Christina Villareal, 6-0, 6-0.

Bottom - Aaron Reekie keeps the volley going in his singles competition against Midland’s Christian Slupe, securing his 10th win of the season.
Step up to the plate  
Lopers hit 5 homers in 22-16 victory over Northeastern State

The Nebraska-Kearney baseball team outscored Northeastern State 22-7 over the final 7.5 innings to post a wild 22-16 victory Friday night at Memorial Field.

This was the first of a three-game set. With the win, UNK improves to 10-22 (3-16) while the RiverHawks fall to 17-13 (11-8).

In the nearly four-hour game, and on a night when the winds were blowing straight out for the first two hours, the clubs combined for 38 runs on 33 hits (seven home runs), 16 walks, six errors, four hit batters and two balks. Nine different pitchers took to the mound with all 18 starters going the distance and collecting at least one hit.

The 22 runs is UNK’s second highest total in an MIAA game; they twice tallied 25 runs against the Lincoln Blue Tigers (2015 and 2016). The five dingers is the most since seven against LU last February.

NSU’s first-ever contest in Kearney is one that won’t be forgotten soon. The 'Hawks led 9-0 after 1.5 innings thanks to a “Grand Slam” from catcher Chad Easton Edmond went yard -- twice -- in the second
Reibenspies (2 for 6) in the first inning and a leadoff homer by designated hitter Zach Henderson in the second.

The Loper comeback started in the second when they crossed home plate eight times thanks to four homers. Senior center fielder Easton Edmond (2 for 4, four runs & two RBI’s) started things with a solo shot to center; he later accounted for the final run of the inning with another dinger to center.

In between, junior catcher Dallas Schramm (3 for 4, two runs & six RBI’s) hit a “Grand Slam” over the left field wall with junior designated hitter Billy Hayes (Lemont, Ill.) directly following with his second homer of the year.

Schramm (Millard North H.S.) gave UNK the lead for good in the third when he belted a two-run shot to right center. The Lopers then scored three in the fourth, two in the sixth and seven more in the seventh.

The big seventh featured a two-run double down the right field line by junior third basemen Brent Kirsch (2 for 6, three runs) and a two-run single to center by senior second baseman Matt Salamon (Owasso, OK.).

During this Loper offensive explosion the 'Hawks were blanked in the third, fourth, seventh and eighth innings. NSU did score three times in the fifth and ninth innings to hang around a bit.

Kansas senior reliever Sean Laughlin (1-0) earned the win by fanning five and walking none in 3.2 innings with Iowa sophomore Clay Collison picking up a save by throwing the final three innings.

He struck out three more 'Hawks and allowed just two hits.

Finally, true freshman Ty Roseberry (4 for 6, three runs) and Calvin Rudolph (3 for 6, two runs & four RBI’s) were two more of UNK’s offensive stars.

Lopers.com

Photos by Haley Pierce

1. The Lopers tallied four of its five homers during the second inning of Friday’s 22-16 win over the Riverhawks.
2. Dallas Shram receives a warm welcome at home after blasting a grand slam in the bottom of the second inning.
3. Easton Edmond heads to the dugout after knocking his second home run of the game.
Dear baseball, I'm so glad you're back

America's sport is back, world order is restored

David Mueller
Antelope Sports

Spring training has come and gone, and baseball is back. While its relevance is of great importance to the players in terms of getting back in their groove, it's a pleasure as a fan to be in the regular season.

Over a week has passed since the much anticipated Opening Day festivities in the professional baseball realm. What have we learned during this short time frame? Man, it's good to have baseball back.

Opening Day weekend was highlighted by some great games, reassuring fans across the country that 2017 will indeed be another action-packed year. Highlighted by some great games,

In case you forgot (or live under a rock), here's a quick recap of Opening Day. Arizona came back late against San Francisco to secure its first win of the season in thrilling, walk-off fashion. The reigning world champions (Chicago Cubs) fell to its long-time division rivals from St. Louis on a walk-off as well, from the hot bat of Randal Grichuk.

Two walk-offs in the first three games? Not a bad start to the season at all.

Then, Boston grabbed a win at Fenway's opener in an interleague matchup against Pittsburgh, and the Yanks got throttled by the Rays. What more can a Red Sox fan ask for?

Another Commissioner’s Trophy! That's what we're asking for and that's what we're demanding. It's been four grueling years since the Sox have claimed a World Series title and 2017 seems promising with Boston's lineup.

With the addition of Chris Sale to the pitching rotation, as well as the mixture of experience and youth in the field and at the plate, the Red Sox make a legitimate claim as champion contenders, so long as everyone can remain healthy (knock on wood).

Let's dive back in history for just a second to analyze what has happened since Boston's last championship.

Donald Trump moved into the White House, Kobe Bryant retired, Leonardo DiCaprio won his first Oscar, the Cleveland Cavaliers won its first NBA championship, the legendary Muhammad Ali passed and Kim and Kanye got hitched and have two children. Am I missing anything?

Oh yeah, I forgot to mention the Cubs broke its 108-year World Series drought! The "Curse of the Billy Goat" is no more.

Maybe I'm being overdramatic. After all, there are eight teams that have yet to taste that coveted World Series locker room champagne and in baseball, anything can happen.

Realistically, every team has a shot at the title. I can do all the research and bore you with the thousands of numbers crunched by experts, but baseball is mysterious. That's why I love it.

Let Yogi Berra remind you about the beauty of the sport: “In baseball, you don't know nothing.”

Call me an optimist, but I consider myself a realist.

After the Met's postseason loss to the Giants in 2016, New York's ace, Noah Syndergaard, tweeted a heartwarming message that every fan can relate to at some point, “Baseball has a way of ripping your (heart) out, stabbing it, putting it back in your chest, then healing itself just in time for Spring Training.”

Yet another reminder that it's good to have baseball back.

But as long as the calendar says April, spring training is a thing of the past and the regular season is in full swing. Now, every team is playing for October, because every team has a chance.

Only 150 odd games to go.

Brown Bag features fake news, policy change

Rachel Arehart
Antelope Staff

The Women’s Center "Brown Bag" informational session "Policy and Modern Day Media" on Wednesday, April 5 in the Nebraska Student Union centered upon policy changes under the new presidential administration with emphasis on effect of social media and fake news. Tomjack also explored the topic of fake news and how easy it is for people to be fooled online.

Tomjack said that 50 percent of the 1.4 billion people using social media say they see breaking news on social media before they hear about it anywhere else.

“I go through social media and follow political policy change to see how it affects women’s and gender studies and the LGBT community,” Tomjack said.

“Using social media to report politics is relatively new,” Tomjack said, “Obama was the first president to actively use Twitter and social media along with the @ POTUS account.”

Tomjack said that online news sites purposely make outrageous headlines in hopes for people to share them on Facebook and Twitter.

Tomjack put up several different sensational headlines and articles for the audience and asked them to decipher which were fake news and which were real.

Most of the audience members could decipher fake from real based on the logos of the websites, as fake news sites were often slightly different from the actual logos. For example, the actual ABC news logo is a black circle with “ABC” inside, and this website was a black oval with “ABC” inside. The slight difference was easy for some to spot, but others said they didn't even think to look at the website logo.

“When I’m looking at news on Facebook, I’m not even paying attention to anything besides the story,” said Kiphany Hof, the associate director of UNK Counseling Care. She said that she will start to look more closely at the small details on websites to find out if they are real or fake news sites.

Tomjack decided on this presentation after being approached by Bailey Bond, the graduate intern in the Women’s Center. She is sophomore social work and pre-law major with a women’s and gender studies minor from Wahoo.

“I asked her to present about the changing policies because she keeps so up-to-date on politics, and it’s very relevant to what the Women’s Center does,” Bond said.

Tomjack also went into detail on recent policies in the news that affect students on our campus.

“The immigration ban has had such an immediate effect on citizens in our country. International students on our campus are worried about travelling home and if they do, how they will return to the United States,” Tomjack said.

She discussed the very recent repeal of the Violence Against Women Act and how it affects women on our campus and the Women's Center.

Tomjack urged students to let their senators know if they are unhappy with policy changes. “Calling senators is more effective than emailing,” she said, “They put your name and address down and keep an ongoing tally for policies and issues.”

Tomjack said that she calls the senators’ offices very frequently to give her opinion of future policy changes, and that it is a great way to make a difference in Washington D.C., even from Kearney, Nebraska.
Walking up to the World Theatre this past weekend, April 7-9, you would have noticed red sand in the cracks of the sidewalks in front of the ticket booth. This past week, the University of Nebraska at Kearney chapter of International Justice Mission (IJM) has been spreading awareness of human trafficking.

Members of IJM stood for 24 hours this past Wednesday on campus to honor all victims, but also helped sponsor a film, “The Whistleblower,” shown over the weekend at the Kearney World Theatre.

By dumping the red sand in the sidewalk cracks, IJM portrays the work of an artist who is bringing awareness to human trafficking. Molly Gochman, a human rights activist and artist, has started a movement of placing red sand in the cracks of sidewalks. “These interventions remind us that we can’t merely walk over the most marginalized people in our communities — those who fall through the metaphorical cracks,” Gochman says on her website. The sand represents the people with families, dreams and aspirations, while the cracks represent the slavery keeping them from those dreams.

“The Whistleblower” is a representation of what children go through when they are involved in human trafficking. It shows that not even the trustworthy can be trusted. This film presents a female police officer who finds the courage to help these girls and to attempt to give them a small ray of hope while in the hands of corrupt people. The film is based upon the actual experiences of a U.N peacekeeper from Nebraska who exposed a sex trafficking ring in Bosnia that was ignored and covered up by the U.N.

Unfortunately, human trafficking happens not only in other countries but in the state of Nebraska. With Interstate 80 being the most central road in the country, it is a common route taken by traffickers.

Jase Hueser, a sophomore, visual design major from Papillion, also a member of the UNK Chapter of IJM, said after the film it presents awareness of several statistics.

“One of our big focuses this year, of IJM, has been advocating for those in Nebraska who have been trafficked,” Hueser said. He said that there are been approximately 900 people, in sex slavery specifically, sold every month in Nebraska. “It really is on our hearts to make that known in as many ways as we can,” he said. When traveling in these commonly trafficked areas, be aware of what is around you and stay alert. Keep your eye out, specifically around gas stations or truck stops.

To find out how to help International Justice Mission, you can check out their Facebook page under the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

To learn more information on the red sand project and how you can help spread awareness, visit https://redsandproject.org/about/.

One of our big focuses this year, of IJM, has been advocating for those in Nebraska who have been trafficked.”

/ Jase Hueser
Pepsi commercial wasn’t that bad

Controversial ad yields unexpected results

RACHEL SMITH
Antelope Staff

Pepsi took down a Kendall Jenner ad focused upon bringing unity to young political protesters shortly after its release because of the negative backlash. Even though no one else is defending Pepsi in their efforts to publish a successful commercial, in a way, I am.

In their statement, representatives of the company said, “Pepsi was trying to project a global message of unity, peace and understanding. Clearly, we missed the mark and apologize.”

Did they miss the mark? It may seem that way because of media’s response, but I don’t think they did. Let’s break it down.

Unity

The commercial pictures many different ethnicities, genders and religions represented in the protestor group, including a photographer who appears to be a Muslim based on her head covering. They all came together to protest, as some type of world peace movement. Even if critics don’t think it represents unity, the backlash against the commercial actually has the potential to bring people closer together.

Everyone agreeing instead of arguing about other political issues makes them, in a sense, united. I realize this is not the intended effect Pepsi was hoping to achieve, but their commercial united the viewers in a common dislike. Although it wasn’t Pepsi’s best publicity, it still has everyone talking about them, regardless of their political views, ethnicity or gender.

Peace and Understanding

Perhaps Kendall Jenner’s act of giving a Pepsi to the police officer in this commercial was a reference the Black Lives Matter movement. I think Pepsi’s main point was to show that we are all people. Police officers are just doing their job. They get assigned to protests and things of that nature, but they rarely choose to be there. Getting offended because a protester would offer a cold beverage to a hard-working citizen is a bit silly. Pepsi just wanted to show that, while we all may hold different views, we are still people and should be treated equally and with respect.

Many people who were bashing the commercial on Twitter were saying things like, “Giving someone a Pepsi doesn’t solve any problem” or, “If only someone gave Hitler a Pepsi.” The point of giving the cop a Pepsi was not to just say all problems will be solved; it was a kind gesture to show that we are all people and, at the end of the day, enjoying a cold beverage really takes the edge off.

Last but not least, Kendall Jenner. Do I even need to say why she was in this commercial? Why wouldn’t Pepsi want a reality star and model with a huge following like her to promote their product?

Pepsi’s commercial didn’t miss the mark. They just made their message too broad so the viewers only saw the surface of the ad at a glance, not the deeper meaning.

YOUR LIGHT COURSE LOAD IS HEAVIER THAN YOU THINK.

When you don’t take a full course load, you take longer to graduate—which means you can get weighed down by things like growing debt and missed opportunities. That’s why the University of Nebraska created Commit to Complete, a program to help you graduate sooner and with less student debt.

VISIT YOUR ADVISOR MAKE A PLAN STAY ON TRACK GRADUATE SOONER

Learn the steps at CommitToComplete.com.
Add in some other business like Iran-Contra, his wife’s obsession with astrology and the impact it had on policy and you can’t understand why so many conservatives idolize this actor-turned-politician as infallible and unshakable.

The final nail in the coffin is that, had the 1980s occurred in today’s political climate, he wouldn’t even win a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Thirty-seven years have passed since Reagan first became president and in that time, the world has changed. We are living in a different era and sound bites that used to get voters to the polls have become actual dogma. Even with the myth that Reagan was a firm Republican, today many in Congress or the White House would consider him a RINO (Republican in Name Only). He was a hardliner for his time, but in the current environment, with his flexibility on the Department of Education, gun rights and other more-liberal policies, he would find few supporters.

Despite all of that, I will not label Reagan as the worst president. He paved the way for no-fault divorces, raised taxes once seeing the error of his policies, promoted clean air policies, formally apologized for Japanese Internment Camps and made Martin Luther King Jr. Day a national holiday. He is not either a flawless individual or greed reincarnated as human, but rather a human being trying to do one of the most difficult jobs on earth. Policies and party beliefs were as much a part of him as any other president, but his raw charisma and acting abilities makes him a very memorable president.

Golden ages and great people are decided in the eye of the beholder, and there is nothing wrong with seeing admirable qualities in certain people or a specific era. Just make sure that you acknowledge the good with the bad. No period of time is flawless, just as no human is perfect.
Students from organizations across campus went out into the Kearney community on Saturday to complete volunteer projects as part of the Big Event.

In its twelfth annual year, student organizations completed tasks including helping clean the Kearney Children’s Museum, picking up trash along the highway, and cleaning windows in an assisted living facility.

Dubbed “one big day, one big thanks, one big event,” the Big Event is an opportunity for UNK to show its appreciation to the Kearney community who greatly invests in the university.

The day began with opening remarks from Kearney Mayor Stanley Clouse and University of Nebraska Kearney Chancellor Doug Kristensen.

Once finished with their project, students joined the National Residence Hall Honorary at Harmon Park for pizza.

Photo by Haley Pierce

1. Michaela Flick, from Sidney; Kelsey Sloup, a sophomore accounting major from Seward; Hannah Hake, a junior advertising and public relations major from Creston; and Madison Sloup, a communication disorders sophomore from Seward clean up as their service project comes to a close.

2. Michaela Flick shovels mulch into a wheelbarrow.

3. Madison Sloup pulls bits of trash and dead plants from a flower bed before continuing to spread mulch in flower beds around the Nebraskan Student Union.

4. Members of UNK’s FIRST Leaders organization and the Chinese Student Association assisted UNK facilities with the task as part of the Big Event.

5. Miranda Cherry (left), a senior organizational communication major from Valentine, and Kendra Gonzalez, a sophomore interior and product design major from Albion, give up on using a rake and instead spread the mulch by hand.