



doug voegler

Down with Lee Terry-ism

Outstate Nebraska gets a wrong impression of the University. I wish I could say that it all happens accidentally, but unfortunately some of it seems to be done consciously.

Perhaps those who denounce the University possess an honest misunderstanding, but as people in the public light they have a responsibility to keep informed and seek all viewpoints. Anyway, they should not be making pronouncements and passing their ignorance and lack of understanding to the rest of the state.

It is time for students to combat the purveyors of misunderstanding who seem to have captured the attention and the minds of the state. Students should not just sit around and complain, but instead should go out-state and fight these people in their own backyard.

We must realize what people outstate see and hear about the University. On television they are shown the long-haired radical denouncing everything they value. They are shown the demonstrations and the protests. The "controversial" speakers and events receive an abnormal amount of news coverage. They are shown the sensational and not the sensible. The many fine aspects of the University are little noticed.

Is it any wonder, that after listening to Lee Terry's editorials and certain politicians that the state's citizens are scared to death of what is happening down here? A human sexuality conference becomes a "review for homosexuality," liberalized co-ed visitation become a quest for unrestricted sex in the privacy of their dorms, dispensing birth-control information becomes a symbol of the moral degeneration of campus students, the 1970 Cambodian protest was a "riot", a mild editorial on the legalization of marijuana indicates that the campus is hooked on dope and drugs.

This misrepresentation must be counteracted with information of what the real situation is. There are several ways to do this.

First, there must be a constant stream of constructive articles and responses to the media. "Letters to the editor" and various "viewers speak out" forums provide excellent opportunities. While there has been a tendency to concentrate on the media of Omaha and Lincoln, it is probably best to write to the papers of your home town.

This tactic is very effective if you come from a small town. It is easy for people to characterize all students and make rash generalizations about "them down there in Lincoln."

However, when a student from a small town confronts his or her hometown citizens with facts and information, they will listen and respond since they know the student. These people realize the value of an education and generally look up to students.

Another method is to talk to your relatives and your parents. Students can also make a point of talking periodically to the important and influential leaders of the local community.

Another excellent way of providing accurate information to outstaters on a regular basis is to provide them with a subscription to *The Daily Nebraskan*. This way they can read the paper every day, and not merely hear second-hand interpretations of selected editorials and articles. Also place a subscription someplace in the community, such as the local library, where many people can read it.

Another tactic for students would be to follow the various opponents of the University around (they are usually running for some political office) and when they tell the Wednesday Ladies Lunch about the University's debauchery and revolutions, get up and contest them. However, be careful that you are armed with plenty of facts and information.

Students have the means to lobby outstate. Perhaps if fear and ignorance about the University were removed from the minds of outstaters, those who thrive and cultivate them would wither for lack of sustenance.

LETTERS to the NEBRASKAN

Brevity in letters is requested and the Daily Nebraskan reserves the right to condense letters. All letters must be accompanied by writer's true name but may be submitted for publication under a pen name or initials. However, letters will be printed under a pen name or initials at the editor's discretion.

There was an error in Roger L. Dinges' letter that appeared the Thursday's issue of *The Daily Nebraskan*. The last paragraph of Dinges' letter should have read: "From my personal experience, I would say that Bob Hope was more interested in having his insatiable ego propogated to the people back home than entertaining GI's in Vietnam."

Dear editor,

The antics of the Regents as they attempt to keep their constituents placated would be humorous were it not for the detrimental effects such actions have on the University.

The most recent incident has resulted from the distribution of the birth control handbooks to dormitory students. Mr. Paul O'Hara, executive director of the Nebraska Catholic Council, has seen fit to complain about this, and the Regents (who, by the way, were very magnanimous in their suspension of the rules so that they might hear Mr. O'Hara) have responded by deciding to investigate the matter. It is fairly obvious that it is not the question of student fees, but rather the subject matter of these booklets, which has precipitated this investigation.

It seems to me highly ironic that the Regents, who surely must have more important things to do with their time, feel obligated to decide whether or not it is proper for students to receive factual

information which could very well have a direct bearing on the quality of their lives.

It is an even greater sadness that there are students on this campus who feel that material placed in their mailboxes is being "forced" upon them. One might even hope that after attending a university for awhile, they would be able to read and judge material rationally, no matter what its content, without feeling threatened.

Finally, the opposition from Mr. O'Hara seems to represent the vestiges of a sexist society in which pregnancy is considered as the just reward of those individuals who are so morally bankrupt as to have sexual relationships outside of the sacraments of marriage. The handbooks contained factual information. They were not designed to promote sexual promiscuity, but rather to educate people to the fact that it is not necessary to bring unwanted children into the world, or to live in fear of doing so.

Robert Koelling

Dear editor,

Sanjulu Michael C. Randall seems to say that he despises America (*Daily Nebraskan*, Nov. 4). If he believes what he says, why doesn't he go to North Vietnam or Cuba?

I feel this would do him and the country lots of good. No other people in the world enjoy the freedom and standard of living that we enjoy in the United States.

Michael Hilgert

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