

# East Campus should avoid paranoia, apathy

Ron Clingenpeel is a Daily Nebraskan East Campus staff writer.  
by Ron Clingenpeel

During the time I have worked on East Campus for the Daily Nebraskan, I have found that two definite feelings exist—paranoia and apathy.

Paranoia seems to be the main feeling, because students on East Campus always seem to be afraid of what others think of them and their campus.

I find that this paranoia isn't the fault of the students there now, but of students who lived there before them.

The University was established under the Land Grant Act, and since this is primarily an agricultural state the College of Agriculture became the largest college on campus and remained that way for a long time.

During this time there was little discrimination and students from both campuses got along well together.

But as the state and the people became more interested in other ways of life than farming, City Campus enrollment grew.

City Campus students began taking over many of the functions of the University community, and as times went on they began to keep up with current styles.

East Campus students, for the most part, didn't follow style changes and the result was that they were ridiculed for their life styles.

East Campus students started believing that their counterparts on City Campus were discriminating against them and they passed this feeling on to new students. Today, most of the students on East Campus feel that in order to be someone or to get somewhere, one must be from City Campus.

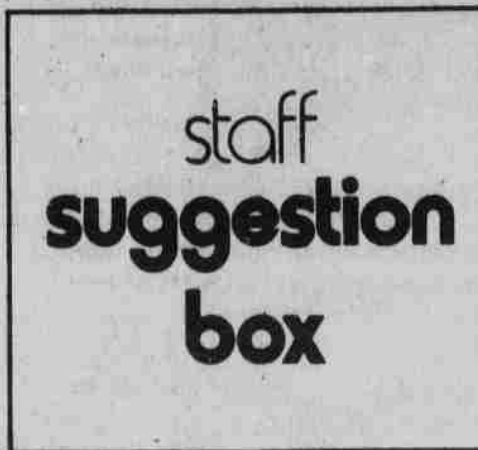
They seem to feel that anyone from that campus will only be out to put them down.

Many situations I've encountered start with the East Campus student making it very clear that he doesn't want anything said that will make him or his campus look bad.

This paranoia about how East Campus is represented could be easily

remedied if East Campus students would just be themselves and not worry about how they are seen by others.

With a few exceptions, most of the students on East Campus don't seem to care about how this University is run or what can be done to bring about change.



Rarely do East Campus students take an active role in University politics, and in last spring's election I estimate that about one out of every

20 students from East Campus voted in the ASUN election.

During the voter registration drive last spring, it was reported that not one East Campus student registered at the booth provided at the East Campus Activities building.

Yet, it is these same students that don't like the way the University is running things. They don't like where their new union will be built, and they don't like the buses they have to ride between the campuses.

I'm glad to see that some students on East Campus are throwing off paranoia and apathy and are striving to better relations between themselves and students from City Campus. But I'm wondering what it'll take for those other paranoid and apathetic students to wake up and realize that if they really want to get somewhere, they'd better get on the bandwagon and do something for themselves instead of watching it go by.

No one will hear you unless you speak, and no one will listen unless you speak with a sincere heart.

## to the editor

Dear editor,

Your article "The Homosexual and VD" (Friday, Oct. 20) was misleading and incomplete.

For instance, although it is true, as your source said, that some gay people "have as many as 15 sexual partners each week" and "the average is less than five," the truth is that the average is much, much less than five. The way the statement stands gives the impression that gays are sex maniacs.

Also, use of the word "homosexual" as a noun reflects the erroneous assumption that people are either "homosexuals" or "heterosexuals" and gives no sense of the emotional and social attachments which may be present in same-sex relationships.

The word "gay," as used by the gay liberation movement implies neither an obsession with sex nor a limitation to the same sex.

Although it may be true that fears of legal harassment are groundless in Lincoln, there are other kinds of harassment which may serve as equally powerful deterrents to seeking treatment.

Last spring, I visited the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Dept. because of a urinary infection I thought might be a symptom of gonorrhea. While talking with a doctor, he ascertained that I was gay. His reaction was to start lecturing me on the evils of homosexuality. Then he told me that the only reason I had come to see him was that I felt guilty about what I had done.

A few months earlier a friend of mine who clearly had symptoms of gonorrhea was denied treatment altogether when the doctor found out he was gay.

The statement by Lester Jensen that not more than five "homosexuals" had visited the health dept. in the last three years is totally absurd.

I personally know more gays than that who have visited the department. Besides, in most cases there is no way anyone would know who was gay unless he volunteered the information.

The University Health Service nurse who said "when they come in they are usually infected in either the mouth or the rectum" is reflecting the fact that the only people she can be reasonably sure are gay are people infected that way. People infected in the genital area may or may not be gay.

That bit about active and passive partners is ridiculous. The vast majority of gays do not copy those traditionally heterosexual roles.

The words "active" and "passive" do not describe accurately either the level of activity or the person's personality, and what a person does in one sex act cannot be used to predict what he'll do in another sex act or with another partner. I thought that myth about active and passive partners disappeared long ago.

Women are hardly mentioned in the article. It is instructive to note that in a lesbian relationship it is almost impossible to transmit VD.

The rudest insult about the article is that a staff writer of a campus newspaper writing about a minority represented by a campus group failed to ask members of that group for their own experiences and



"We'll have a coalition government over my dead body!"

fears concerning harassment and other aspects of the situation and relied solely on the testimony of non-gay health care personnel.

In this day and age, no other minority group would be treated this way; only gays are still ignored and stepped on.

I think the Daily Nebraskan owes the gay community of Lincoln an apology for its misrepresentative, poorly researched and insulting article.

Larry Fine

### Poor word choice

Dear editor,

I found the cartoon on the front page (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 23) amusing. I was disappointed however, in the choice of the word used to demonstrate surprise or amazement: "Christ, no wonder..."

The name Christ means "Anointed One" and was given to Jesus because he was anointed of God (Acts 10:38). The cartoon's use of Jesus' name in this manner is inappropriate. Was any thought given to this? If not, perhaps it is another example of parrot vocabulary, that is, repeating often heard expressions without thought.

Christians have instructions regarding the use of

the name of Jesus Christ (Deuteronomy 5:11). Though many may not feel compelled to follow this instruction, many do. Consequently, they consider the use of the Lord's name in such a manner to be objectionable. Does not responsible journalism then suggest that such expression be avoided?

David L. Dierenfeld

### Beetlemania

Dear editor:

As much as I appreciated the article on wine by Larry Kubert (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 24), I feel that a possible source of confusion in the presentation should be clarified. He referred to a beetle-like insect called the phylloxera which was responsible for the temporary demise of the European wine industry in the 1800s. It should be noted that the grape phylloxera, *phylloxera vitifoliae* (Fitch), cannot, in any stretch of the imagination, be properly termed a beetle-like insect. It belongs to the order Homoptera, not Coleoptera, and its physiognomy is so substantially different from that of a beetle that there is absolutely no room for confusion.

Brett C. Ratcliffe  
Curator of Insects  
University of Nebraska  
State Museum