

# to the editor



Dear editor,

Upon arriving at UNL this September, I found myself facing a situation which I find very hard to believe in a state-supported university. Since first grade, I have been told that ours is a democratic nation protected by the U.S. Constitution, and that it is the duty of the states to enforce and guarantee our rights.

However, now that I am 19 and considered an adult by law and can enter contractual agreements, I suddenly surrendered all of these rights when I signed my housing contract to live in the UNL dormitories.

I ask the Board of Regents, how can you justify the denial of rights and privileges of adulthood to those who find a dormitory convenient living in an "educational environment?"

Is it just and proper to restrict visitors to dormitory rooms which have been paid for, just as one would rent an apartment off-campus? Is it just and proper for students to be required to leave their room door open while visitors of the opposite sex are present? Why is there a distinction made between adult on-campus, and adult off-campus? Why should I be penalized because I want to live on-campus? Since tax money is not used in dorms, why don't students have a choice, since it is their money?

I also ask the regents and Nebraskans to reread their constitutions: Article XIV; "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or

immunities of citizens of the U.S.; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

I believe that the regents should reconsider their positions in regard to visitation and the open-door policy at UNL since it is contrary to state and federal law and is denying the rights and privileges of the thousands of students living on the Lincoln campus.

Joe Lipsey

## Editor's note

Beginning Friday, the **Daily Nebraskan** will no longer publish letters to the editor which are longer than 500 words. The change is due to the newsprint shortage and space problems.

Letters received after Friday will not be published if they exceed that limit.



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