



to the editor

Letters appear in the Daily Nebraskan at the editor's discretion. A letter's appearance is based on its timeliness, originality, coherence and interest. All letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name, but may be submitted for publication under a pen name or initials. Use of such letters will be determined by the editor. Brevity is encouraged. All letters are subject to condensation and editing.

Abortion

Dear editor,

Mary Cannon's column against abortion (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 21) hinges on the notion of the right of the fetus. This concept of a natural right to life is based on an 18th Century construct duly reflected in the Constitution, but it is a misrepresentation of history. It is society, not nature, that determines rights. Insofar as our society posits a right to life it also defines the nature of such a life. That such a definition must necessarily be random does not diminish its significance.

Cannon protests that "a baby entitled to human respect five minutes after birth... surely is entitled to the same consideration weeks or months earlier." The point at which a fetus becomes a citizen can only be determined legally according to criteria of social utility. Any other criteria lead to injustice or absurdity. (In regard to the Dred Scott decision, the injustice lay in basing judgment on narrow political expediency rather than social utility.)

If a 3-month fetus has an inherent right to life, why hasn't a gamete equal right by reason of its potential for life? The Catholic Church uses precisely such reasoning in banning birth control, and yet if it were to follow this logic thoroughly it would be forced to ban virginity as monthly murder.

Even granting the fetus rights, one is still left with the conflicting rights of the mother. One set of rights must of necessity be subordinated to the other. It may be argued that the fetus, like any organism, has the natural right to continue its growth, but surely this right pales before the mother's rights as a conscious biological organism.

Abortion, far from avoiding "reasonable responsibility," as Cannon claims, extends the area in which human responsibility must be applied—responsibility for overpopulation, the

consequent exhaustion of resources and deteriorating quality of life, the exploitation of women—responsibility for the living population of the world.

Victoria Pulos

Price ain't right

Dear editor,

Ten million dollars is a nice round figure for Woody's Fine Arts Center. Lincoln, the world's cultural center, is greatly in need of a multipurpose community performing arts center. The University is completely satisfying the educational needs of the student with 50-year-old buildings that house libraries in their hallways, buildings that have been condemned, buildings that are fire traps. There is no need for a Life Sciences Bldg., an addition to Love Library or a new Law College.

With rising residence hall rates, rising student fees, rising tuition and rising inflation, \$10 million is to be spent on a badly needed fine arts center. Who is going to pay for this? Will there be a mandatory fee attached to tuition that the students have been begging to pay for the last five years? Or would the students rather pay that fee for a much needed, nonvarsity athletic faculty? Or would it be better to pay \$10 million off on the bonds that are owed?

I, for one, do not recognize the need for Woody's fine arts center. Let the Lincoln community pay for it. Also, there is much need for the use of the Coliseum by the Men's Physical Education Dept. and the Recreation Dept. I feel that the students should be consulted before \$10 million is spent on a fine arts center. While that is going on, we can watch the side show of the Capitol over the University budget for next year.

Tim Evensen

Run-around

Dear editor,

I am a UNL senior student athlete, and I would like to reply to Mike Dennis' letter concerning his disappointment in the UNL track program (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 15).

Mike Dennis has a problem that many freshman students have: adjusting to college and, in particular, college athletics. Track at a major university isn't at all like track in high school. It's more demanding. There is no room or time for people who haven't the basic ability and desire to spend in this sport.

I believe the problem should not be blamed on the

power structure of college athletics. Who blames the admissions office for not letting a bum in the engineering college? Some persons are admitted to the track team knowing they have no business there.

They are given a chance anyway by the track coach (Frank Sevigne). When they find they aren't in high school any more, sometimes they take out their bad feelings on the very person who gave them every reasonable chance.

Like most sports at UNL, other than football, track does not get a tremendous amount of recognition. The track program here needs more bad publicity like it needs to lose more good athletes to academic eligibility requirements.

I hope Mike Dennis can find a place in this University and in society before he throws too much mud at the people who are trying to help him.

Roger Chadwick

Equal chance

Dear editor,

I decided to write this letter after reading the announcement of yell squad tryouts (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 22). I read in it that the squad might add tumbling and other stunts to its routines, which is really quite funny, considering they should change some other stuff first.

The first change would involve fairer tryouts. If you don't have a Greek symbol pasted across you, you're in for a hassle. I tried out two years ago, but because of my residence hall background I wasn't even considered. I always thought that who ever proved themselves capable of the job was eligible, but at those tryouts I found it different (undemocratic and unfair). I also can recall much publicity about expanding the yell squad, specifically the males. What are they waiting for? I think an increase in male members on the squad would definitely improve the squad as a whole. It wouldn't look so one (female) sided, and maybe people on the sidelines would realize that it's not so terribly bad to show enthusiasm at the games if the well rounded yell squad was out there leading good cheers.

An increase of guys on the squad would allow more area to be covered on the football sidelines (more people could hear the cheers) and would fill in the uneven ratio of four women to one man at the ends of the basketball court. I hope this year's kids trying out have an equal chance, unlike previous years.

B.D.

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