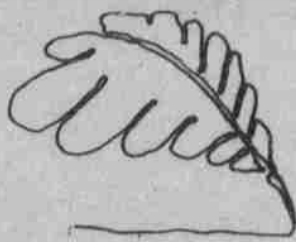


# to the editor



Dear editor:

I am writing this letter to voice my strong opposition to the removal of the religious preference card from University registration materials.

The religious preference card serves a healthy function. The University of Nebraska, as a public education institution, has the obligation to pursue the goal of "total education." "Total education" includes the acquisition of a pattern of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will result in increasingly responsible and productive behavior. Many institutions within the University community can be said to play a part in this process—including the campus ministries. And the religious preference card is used by all ministries, according to Pastor Norden's comment in the *Daily Nebraskan*.

The "separation of church and state" issue can be brought up but, given the circumstances, I don't believe it is a meaningful argument. While the issue is difficult, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a New Jersey statute authorizing tax-supported funds to be spent for bus fares of parochial school pupils attending public and other schools was not unconstitutional. The reasoning behind this decision was that the payment was made for the benefit of the student, regardless of his religion.

While such aid indirectly could promote religious functions the Court found this not in conflict with the First Amendment. The State is not required to be the adversary of religion. Likewise, the University makes no direct cash payments to religious houses here. It merely allows the campus ministries to have use of University machines and personnel for the preference cards the same as for registration materials. And this is for the "total student" benefit.

Spiritual education is a valid part of education. We know students are seeking for a deeper ultimate meaning to their lives. All men are concerned with God's place in their lives. And we know a student's college years can be critical in this regard. In addition, the student can receive personal counseling, fellowship, moral training and encouragement to social activism—all of which benefit society, too. The provision of these services is considered in the policy of tax exemption to religious organizations, according to the student's preference—resulting in no prejudicial benefit to any sectarian religion.

In closing, while I believe it is the right of administrators to determine the content of the registration packets, I also believe that as public servants they have a responsibility to listen to the interests of involved parties before making a decision. While I can't say the campus ministries absolutely need the cards as they exist, I believe at least some will be hurt materially if they are discontinued in their present form.

I know of no other acceptable alternatives suggested. Over 60 per cent of the people of Nebraska are churchgoers, according to Father Kalin. The registration process is the best way to reach students, according to Mr. Bowker of academic services. And the campus ministries can offer a unique service to students. The religious preference card has been here for a long time. Maybe revise the format a little, but let's keep it.

Darrel D. Voegler

## An essential flaw

Dear editor:

Your editorial (*Daily Nebraskan* Feb. 19) on the religious preference cards makes a good point, but it contains one essential flaw.

You won't be bringing in the sheaves with the argument that religious preference cards shouldn't be included in the registration packets because they are a form of proselytizing.

Proselytizing is the soliciting of converts. Religious preference cards are a gathering of data. They may be used by some campus ministries to expedite evangelism, but other ministries only use them to get addresses of students who might be interested in the programs provided to members of certain denominations.

Are ye able to comprehend the error of your ways? The road to hell is paved with flawed intentions.

"John Wesley"

## Appalled by snowballs

Dear editor:

I was appalled by the actions of our student body Monday night. Here were the leaders of tomorrow engaged in a snowball fight. The people that have been given an opportunity for almost unlimited advancement and responsibility. Don't get me wrong. I have nothing against a good snowball fight, but what I saw was nothing more than a rampant mob.

Too many students were out with the intent to

destroy property. I heard the remark as people ran by "Let's break some windows." When I arrived at Pound, I saw a male proceed to throw a snowball and break a window after which many students cheered. I thought to myself, "What a man."

As for the snowball throwing at cops, we have an awful lot of people with good arms and aim, but 100 students against three officers is a big lopsided. What really sickened me was that there was not one individual who had enough guts to say to his group or friend, "Let's call it quits."

Michael Feichtinger

## "Fun" running wild

Dear editor:

We students complain about our lack of rights and the rising costs at the University and yet we allow ourselves to run wild, destroying property while having some "fun."

Monday night a snowball fight erupted around Neihardt. The leaded glass window over the main doorway was shattered. Perhaps this wasn't enough, as some other windows along the front of the building were broken.

Maybe all this was purely accidental and such action was never meant to happen. But what happened on the south side of Piper was no accident.

Some person or persons unknown broke the window of a room and stole several cartons of pop sitting on the window ledge. These persons unknown then threw one of the pop bottles through the window of the next room, shattering it all over a girl sleeping there.

What rights, if any, do we deserve when we descend to such levels? This "fun" was simply destruction of property which endangered the lives of others.

Paul A. Bartz

## Strive for racial harmony

Dear editor:

This is in response to A'Jamal Byndon's opinion concerning racial ignorance and bigotry on campus expressed in the Feb. 27 issue of the *Daily Nebraskan*.

I come from a small city in Nebraska where there are no black residents. Slanted news reports and tainted attitudes from parents and elders constituted the only source from which to draw my knowledge of black ideals and attitudes. As an open-minded freshman, I came to school with a strong desire to learn about and experience relationships with minorities for myself.

After two years of school and contact with most minorities on campus, I have come to realize that my elders have divorced themselves from the world of reality. This in turn results in a reluctance on their part to admit that deviations from their stereotypes actually indicated a changing attitude between all peoples. Attitudes are changing, and I have faith that they will continue to change for the better. Dick Gregory calls the youth of today "a breath of fresh air." We are not burdened with the prejudices the establishment has imprisoned itself with.

My only hope is that we do not stagnate that "fresh air" by paying too much attention to the pessimistic Byndons whose purpose, it seems, is to attract excessive attention to the bad conditions presently existing. Instead we must strive toward the day when Americans can proudly acclaim racial harmony.

Concerned Fremont

## Bigots on both sides

Dear editor:

This letter is in regard to a guest opinion by A'Jamal Bundon. It just so happens that I live on the floor where Byndon is the student assistant and was in on some of the conversation which brought up some of the things Byndon speaks of.

True, some of the things spoken in that room were lacking in any great amount of thought and sensitivity. But, this goes for both sides. I'll grant that most, if not all, white people on this campus are prejudiced in one way or another. The people that were in on the conversation and on this floor came from towns like Gordon, Sidney, Bridgeport, Beemer, Sutton and Fremont. I'm from Lincoln. How many of those towns have a high concentration of blacks. We all can't come from Omaha or some other large metropolitan city where we interact socially with any minority, in this case Blacks. We are prejudiced and in some ways, ignorant. But most of these people come to college and find it hard to overcome 18 or 19 years of learning in one semester of college.

But how are we to learn if when we try and talk to a Black we are called sic, redneck, bigots and racists? Byndon did have the patience to talk to us, which most Blacks will not do. But we react to these names in a negative way, as would anyone. We cannot learn if we are shut off. Byndon did talk to us for quite awhile, and he stood up to some pretty dumb questions. But why should he make such a wide generalization? If he does come from the ghetto, then he should expect some of these things from a place like Lincoln.

After we left the room, I told him some of the

things I've said here, and he asked me if I thought it was true that coming from the ghetto is worth four years of living experience. I had no answer. But, if he believes this to be true, then he is speaking from the experience of 24 years. His letter, despite the fact that some of his conclusions are true does not sound like a 24-year-old psychology major or a student assistant. It sounds more like a little immature child engaging in name-calling. I believe Byndon to be just as much as bigot or racist as he says whites are.

Brian Weidenthaler

## Want UNO graduation

Dear editor:

We wish to present the view of the minority of the criminal justice students with regards to the current controversy concerning graduating from UNL or the University of Nebraska at Omaha. We want to have UNO engraved on our diplomas.

It seems the basic complaint of the majority is having to be graduated from UNO and also having to drive fifty miles to attend graduation ceremonies which, even if they were held in Lincoln, few would attend.

Scholastically, there is little or no difference between the quality of the education received on either campus.

Being from Omaha we are both aware of the stigma of "West Dodge High" which has been attached to UNO. Both of us also had no desire to attend UNO.

The fact remains, however, that UNO is ranked in the top seven criminal justice schools in the nation. It also offers a well-established graduate program for those wishing to continue in the field.

Unfortunately, in our society people are recognized more for the prestige of the university they attended, rather than the intellectual ability of the individual. Thus a person graduating from UNO would carry more prestige and have a better chance at a job opening than one who graduated from a university that was virtually unknown in the criminal justice field.

It is our hope that this letter might help the majority see the light and not encourage a change that would be detrimental to all concerned.

Jim Rowoldt

Bob Schorr

## Fight would have died

Dear editor:

I believe the Lincoln police acted in total incompetence in attempting to control a large-scale snowball fight between two factions that exist on this campus. Had the police simply let the fight go, it would have died as quickly as it started, as it actually did after the police left. Not only did the police fail to display the newest techniques in K-9 police work, they actually prolonged a confrontation which they were assigned to stop.

The trend of the night was clear, it was not primarily a confrontation between campus factions, rather it was a classic police versus student confrontation, a game of cat and mouse. This continued for about one and one half hours with the students milling around uninhibited and the police with their dogs attempting to scare a few people.

At the height of the disturbance on 16th St. the Greeks and residence hall residents actually stood on opposite sides of the street and shelled the police with snowballs. Women from the residence halls and from sororities also joined in this peculiar situation. The police found themselves in vacuum between students. The officers who were assigned to handle the situation should be praised for their courage while underfire.

As for the police chief and his assistants shielded behind a desk at the police facility, I would recommend a short refresher course on police theory for, say, three years at the nearest police academy.

John Hess

## No resemblance in cartoon

Dear editor:

A few statistics are in order in regard to the availability of paddle-ball courts;

There are now seven operative courts available to *men only* from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. There are now seven operative courts available to *men only* from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday, Thursdays and Friday evenings. There are now four operative courts available for *men only* from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday evenings. There are now three courts available for women from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Contrary to the tone of the *Daily Nebraskan* article which implied that we are being treated generously, the allocation of courts is clearly discriminatory.

In addition, having played paddleball fairly regularly this semester, the women who play do not remotely resemble the one depicted in Ron Wheeler's cartoon.

Madeleine Lutman