

'Black is bad' attitudes instill inferior beliefs in some

By Clyde Stearns

In the Declaration of Independence it says that all men are created equal, but, all through my life people have told me that because I was black I was a second class citizen. Some black people really believe that they are truly inferior to white people. Thus they attempt to disassociate themselves from the black culture by a number or various means. I can't really understand why they are

ashamed of their past, their present, or themselves. All through my life I have been told that black is bad and anything black is bad. Thus I am black so I am bad. As a matter of fact, throughout everyone's life they are told that black is bad and that anything black is bad. In the same sense everything white is good or all right. For example: to tell a lie is wrong, but if it's a white lie, it's all right.

Even when you watch television these ideas are still subliminally implanted in our minds. Westerns almost always portray the bad guy by dressing him in black whereas the good guy rides his white horse down the yellow brick road looking like a vanilla wafer singing "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas," which we know is better than a regular Christmas.

Also, a large black mass, a tornado is very destructive and dangerous, but as soon as it gets your kitchen clean,

that they were slaves.

I feel that this country has done black people a grave injustice by attempting to suppress our heritage. We, as black people, have not been allowed to express ourselves through any form of the media without having bits and pieces censored out so that it is acceptable to the white middle class society.

In the 1968 Olympics, two black members of the U.S. Olympic team were banned from further competition in the games because they "reverently" saluted the flag as black Americans. Why won't people just except us as black and allow us to live our lives. Instead we are expected to change our values to accommodate the masses. What makes it so bad is that some black people are allowing the masses to influence their daily existence.

Staying away

Right here at UNL, black people have reservations about being "black." They feel that if they stay away from black parties, forget their black friends, stay away from black organizations, and generally ignore any black people that they see, they'll be better off. Some feel that in order to fit right in on campus they must recruit a brightly colored companion.

Actually there is no better or worse, because all men were created equal, remember: There is a right and a wrong though. Because it's all right if someone's not quite the man he wants to be, but it's wrong for him to try to be somebody he's not. People should be proud of themselves for what they are or can be and shouldn't be sorry for what they are. Because whatever you are, it is unique and let's keep it that way.

Clyde Stearns is a junior educational psychology and special education major from Omaha.

letters

Rodeo team ignored

Once again I open the rag and see a half page picture of the state high school basketball tournament (March 10). Last week the girls' state basketball tournament rated front page coverage.

I find it hard to understand that a paper that is supported by UNL students takes so much interest in teeny-bopper basketball. If space can be found for the stories and pictures for this madness, why can't they find space to print results of a UNL team that is second in the region and a strong contender for the National Collegiate finals? This team I am talking about is the UNL Rodeo team.

We have submitted results from the last five rodeos that the team has contended in and none of them have been printed as of yet.

In a personal contact by one of our members with the sports editor of the rag we were informed that there is not enough interest for rodeo and not enough space for coverage for this sport. The space must be for the teams that have more interest in them by the students.

All we want is a chance. Who determines where the interest is? Why is this UNL team that is not supported by UNL funds who must pay their own entry fees and transportation costs not eligible for a little recognition from the university newspaper? After all we get coverage in the Lincoln Journal and other out-state newspapers—why not here?

It seems to me that if we are being censored out, then how much other news of university organizations is being censored also? After all we are the ones that support this paper with our student fees. It seems to me that a rodeo that draws contestants from six states and is the second largest indoor rodeo in Nebraska put on entirely by the Rodeo Association of UNL should be eligible for some of your precious space.

So come on sports editor instead of telling us about the teams that are seventh out of eight, or sixth out of seven, how about telling about a team that is second in the region and has several national ranked members on the teams, how about it?

Jim Gocke
Publicity Chairman
UNL Rodeo Association

Pen pal wanted

I am an inmate of the Nebraska Penal and Correctional Complex. At present I am doing 30 days to three years in the adjustment center for possession of marijuana. All in all I'm doing eight years.

I would really appreciate someone to write to.

Just the time it would take me to answer the letters would be a great help, let alone the news and word that I would receive through these letters.

Rick Huddleston No. 28741
P.O. Box 81248
Lincoln, Neb. 68501

guest opinion

it's the white tornado. Further, Black Friday, black cats, eight ball, even a black eye, which in no way resembles the color black, but in fact is purple, since purple eye does not properly describe the severity of the evil associated with purple eye, then black eye is used, all describe some tragic event.

Stay back

Regardless of where you were born, in the great nation of ours, if you are black you had better stay back. Unless you can play football, basketball, run track, pick trash or sweep floors there's no place for you in this society. Although there are some people trying to change this kind of thinking, it does exist and will continue to exist despite their efforts.

There are too many extraneous environmental factors working against these people for them to completely abolish this type of thinking. Meanwhile we must get used to others and ourselves at times associating the color black with something bad.

The black culture has suffered greatly because of this ignorance. Throughout history the black man has been kept in the background. The black man has fought in the same wars as the white man, made his discoveries in the same laboratories as the white man, and even sailed the same ships as the white man. Why isn't he in the same history books as the white man?

If black people are equal why isn't black history found along with American history? Instead you must go to another source to find out about a black man who crossed the Delaware with General George Washington. If black people are—so much—equal how come the only thing that American history teaches them about their past is

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