

Cut-happy ASUN narrow-sighted in WRC denial

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska flexed what muscle it has last Wednesday night. Never let it be said again that ASUN is totally worthless.

ASUN reduced many of the Committee for Fees Allocation's recommendations for student organization funding. Some of the cuts were prudent. Student Fees are nearing the \$100 mark — and none of us wants to pay more. Many of us can't afford to.

But some of the cuts were ill-informed, and seemed careless in light of the fact that CFA spent several months preparing their recommendations. They interviewed members of organizations, students, debated and voted. It seems to defeat the purpose of such a committee to disregard its recommendations.

Case in point: The Women's Resource Center.

ASUN gutted the WRC by voting to eliminate its operating budget (about \$3,500). That means no paper clips, no phones, no photo copies, no paper.

The senator who proposed this cut was Clark Osborn. His reasoning: The WRC is unapproachable to most women on campus. He said there are "lesbian activities" at the WRC.

Without any substantiation of Osborn's claims, the senate voted to cut the funds. Osborn's proposed cut should not make it beyond the desk of the interim vice chancellor for student affairs. The WRC is needed — and there are much better ways to effect change than by eliminating budgets. One would be to find out what the facts are before voting.

The WRC did provide a lesbian support group last semester, according to coordinator Jan Deeds. She said she didn't think the group existed this semester.

The group provided counseling for lesbians. Perhaps that's what Osborn meant by "lesbian activities."

The WRC had a support group for women in transition and counseling on male/female relationships. The WRC also provides counseling for rape and incest victims. According to Deeds, about 500 people a month call or visit the WRC. Deeds noted that many people probably do not call or visit the ASUN office each month.

In addition to providing counseling, the WRC organizes programs and speakers for the campus community and recently wrote a handbook on rape prevention that was published through the Affirmative Action office on campus. "Lesbian activities" constitute a small part of the WRC's activities programs — yet a valid part. Homosexuals face a number of problems in our society, including prejudice.

Osborn's comment shows a decided ignorance about the resource center's purpose. In any case, counseling for homosexuals is not grounds for cutting funds. In fact, it's a blatantly discriminatory reason to cut funds.

ASUN President Mark Scudder said the vote to cut WRC's funds was a statement by the senate that WRC is not serving the campus well. He said ASUN will follow up its "statement" with recommendations for change. He agreed, however, that cutting budgets is not the best way to change the internal workings of an organization.

If the ASUN senate thinks the WRC is unapproachable to most students, and is run by a small minority, questions should have been asked before the budget came to the senate. Or perhaps ASUN could have surveyed WRC users to find out who is using the center, rather than reacting to the subjective opinions of some senators. If there is a problem, changes could be made.

Editorial

SEAN, IN THIS BUSINESS YOU CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THE FAMILIES OF THE PEOPLE YOU GUN DOWN--

--THEY CAN'T ALWAYS BE THERE TO WATCH--



Lebanon invasion unjustified Israelis explain actions, but lose moral standing

A couple of months ago, the military-affairs writer for the Jerusalem Post, Hirsh Goodman, abandoned tanks and missiles and tried instead to explain Rabbi Meyer Kahane, the Israeli parliament's notorious Arab-hater. Kahane, Goodman wrote, is not an Israeli creation, but an Arab one. He's what you get after 37 years of Arab hostility toward Israel.



Richard Cohen

Goodman was explaining, not justifying, and it is good that he recognized the distinction. It is, in fact, a distinction being pressed into service when it comes to what Israel is doing in Lebanon — why it's blowing-up homes, making mass arrests, terrorizing the civilian population and turning parts of the country into a police state. As with Kahane, you can explain, but you cannot justify.

The explanation begins with the recent suicide attack in Southern Lebanon in which 12 Israeli soldiers were killed outright and another 14 wounded. That incident brought to 126 the number of Israelis killed since Palestinian guerrillas left Beirut in September of 1982. All in all, Israel's invasion of Lebanon has cost it 634 dead — casualties of Vietnam War proportions for a country that size.

But numbers are, well, numbers. They do not tell you that one of the dead was the

only child of Holocaust survivors, people who clawed their way out of the death camps, managed to get to Israel, lived through maybe four wars — and then lost their only child in some stupid operation in Lebanon. The numbers do not tell you about the lieutenant who got married last summer and has one kid on the way — none of the little tragedies carried on the inside pages of the Israeli press.

And so you can understand — can't you? — the fury with which Israel strikes back. You also can understand the terror of the troops, their fright when night falls, how scared they must be to move about in a population that has grown to hate their guts. Worse yet, the new enemy is a fanatic. The PLO was tenacious, often brutal, but it did not go in for suicide attacks. How can you fight someone who does not even value his own life, never mind yours?

But that is all explanation. There remains the matter of justification and that is out of reach. Israel was wrong in invading Lebanon, wrong in staying and wrong in not instantly withdrawing. It might even have converted Lebanon from an enemy in name only, to a real foe. The Shiite Moslems, some of them fundamentalist zealots, have discovered both their numbers and their strength and they report to nobody — not Nabih Berri in Beirut, not the Syrians in Damascus, and certainly not the joke that proclaims itself Lebanon's central government.

By remaining in southern Lebanon, Israel stands the chance of converting what was once a political or nationalistic

struggle into a religious one. Palestinians are not Middle Eastern kamikazes. Palestinians are usually not Moslem fundamentalists — in fact, some of them are not Moslem at all, but Christian. The PLO that once controlled southern Lebanon was (by contrast to the Shiites now on the warpath) reasonable — almost a state unto itself. Through intermediaries, Israel could negotiate truces; it could retaliate. Now it faces small bands of fanatics. Now it must come to grips with the fact that the explosive-laden truck that took 12 lives was heading toward Israel itself — the town of Metullah.

The Israeli government, an entity with the divisions and pettiness of an academic senate, says its troops will be out of Lebanon by September. The Labor Party would like to leave sooner; Likud later. The result is a compromise — a staged withdrawal designed to show that Israel cannot be pushed around. It has installations to dismantle. It has strategic concerns. With Prussian arrogance, Israel sticks to its plans. It will not lose face.

As a result, it loses its moral standing. Like an animal in a swarm of bees, Israel is being made mad by repeated stings. It arrests. It shoots. It kicks and beats, sometimes kills the innocent and maybe even — who knows? — blows up a mosque. Everything is explained — the need to retaliate, to appear strong — until it becomes clear that what you're hearing is a litany of excuses for inaction.

Israel just ought to get out of Lebanon. Then no one will have to explain anything.

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Casino Night acts ridicule minorities

At the recent Casino Night extravaganza, sponsored by two UNL Greek houses, I could not help but feel I was among an elite group of people. Although for the most part it was a pleasant evening, I twice felt sick to my stomach because of acts performed during the "floor show."

"The Jews Brothers," a takeoff of "The Blues Brothers" was a tasteless put-down of members of the Jewish faith. Another low point was a lip sync by three white fraternity men dressed as black women

resembling The Pointer Sisters. I find it ironic that the fraternity has no black members, yet feels the "need" for blacks in a silly skit. Maybe during this summer's rush, they will plan ahead and sign up some black "associates."

Of course, these acts were done in the name of fun. But perhaps we need to re-examine our definition of fun. The fact that others are a minority gives no person the right to poke fun at, and at the same time offend, any member of any minority. As long as the "just having fun" excuse is used, the stereotypes will continue. I hope that in future programs, all groups on campus will try to exercise common cour-

tesy to those who may be different, even if it means sacrificing some fun.

Frances McGovern
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