

Editorial

Diluted proposal useless without including gays

ASUN senators will try to keep afloat a watered-down anti-discrimination bill at tonight's meeting. But the proposal is a farce because it fails to protect all minorities.

The original plan defined discrimination as "defying individuals membership or appointment on the basis of physical or cultural characteristics, where such characteristics include but are not limited to age, race, color, gender, creed, sexual orientation or place of residence."

That proposal was vetoed last spring by ASUN President Gerard Keating, who opposed the sexual orientation clause.

Last week, senators failed to override Keating's veto, saying sexual orientation is "personal business" and does not need to be in the bill. They also cited a lack of campus support and a similar city bill, which was rejected by 90 percent of Lincoln voters.

Keating said he vetoed the bill because the sexual orientation clause is too specific and could not be enforced because sexual orientation is intangible and cannot be seen.

But sexual orientation is no more intangible than a creed, which also cannot be seen.

The specific argument also has flaws. When a group of people is discriminated against, no clause is too specific. But left-handers or blue-eyed students would not need to be included, because they rarely are discriminated against.

Keating also said that only about 12 of the 2,200 U.S. colleges and universities include sexual orientation in their anti-discrimination bylaws.

But passing the landmark anti-discrimination bill, UNL could have become a leader in students rights. Instead, student government leaders chose to follow.

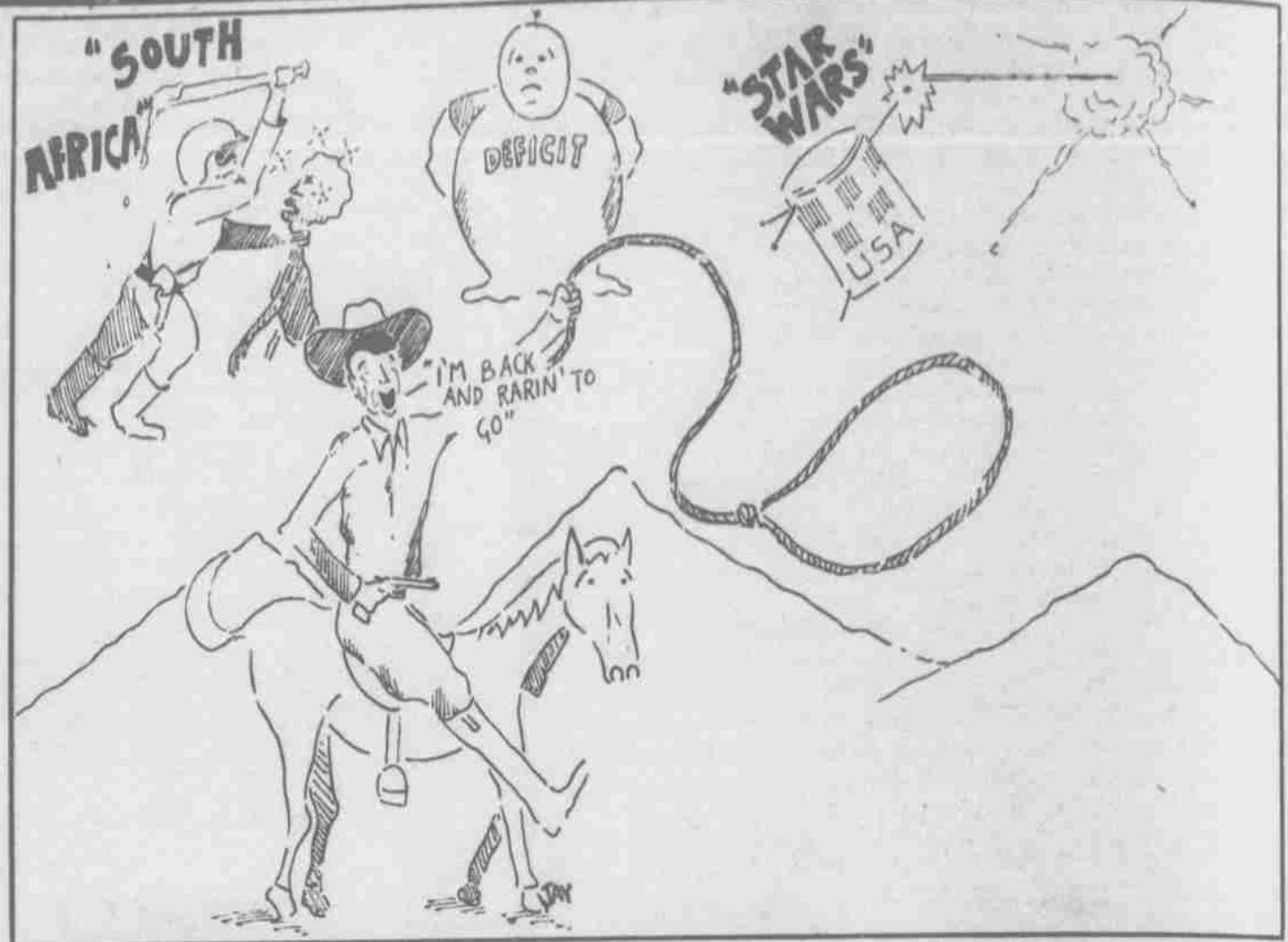
Currently, the groups set up their own membership criteria, excluding race and color. The legislation was passed in 1968.

Rodney Bell, secretary of the UNL Gay/Lesbian Student Association, said he knew of no acts of discrimination toward gays in UNL student groups. But the GLSA hoped to counteract the ASUN veto by gaining support from the National Organization for Women, Nebraska Young Democrats and the Nebraska State Students Association.

ASUN senators must revise their student group non-discrimination policy to protect all students —not just heterosexuals.

If ASUN cannot draft a policy for all students, it should ask the equal opportunity organizations for help.

Student government leaders took an oath to represent all students, not just those with similar sexual preferences.



Serial strips survive summer

It goes almost without saying that the most significant literary genre since the development of the Near East suzerainty treaty-covenant form is the serial comic strip.

Sadly, the unique difficulty with this imposing apogee of Western culture is that the strips must be followed for some period of time before the stories make any sense. This difficulty is magnified for students, for even if the strips were followed during the last school year, summer sloth and local absence has destroyed the continuity required for involvement with serial comics.

To facilitate the reintegration of this most important experience into the common university student's padeia, I posit the following offering as a public service to the pursuit of truth.

What the Code of Hammurabi is to suzerainty treaty forms, Bloom County is to the serial comic strip. Earlier this summer, Oliver, the budding Bloom County scientist, determined to take a substantive step to end apartheid in South Africa and consequently developed a sort of ray gun that turns light-skinned people dark-skinned. Cutter John was commissioned to balloon to Washington, D.C., and use the ray gun on the South African ambassador to the United States.

During the launch, Opus, the tuba player and penguin, accidentally was sent off along with the balloon. The two were lost somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean and presumed eaten by walruses. Opus' will consequently was probated with Bill the Cat — who then was convalescing at the Betty Ford Celebrity Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Center. Bill inherited the substantive portion of Opus' estate. Milo Bloom retrieved Bill the Cat from the clinic,

but while celebrating, Bill began associating with Jeane Kirkpatrick and nary a word of him has been since heard.

In the meantime, Opus has returned, but with amnesia; he currently is reacquainting himself with his previous lifestyle. (Incidentally, Bloom County is the only comic strip currently being regularly published in the Daily Nebraskan.)



Jim Rogers

In the strip "The Amazing Spider-man," Peter Parker has gotten involved with a news reporter named Jenny who has a daughter who is quite afraid of Spiderman, attending a day care center under the management of a fat guy named Uncle Ralph (or something like that). The strong intimation of the strip is that Jenny's daughter is being molested by someone at Uncle Ralph's establishment. The expose' is taking a painfully long time.

Mary Worth has returned to New York to resolve some difficulties with an apartment complex that she owns there. While visiting, she discovered that Jenny Troon, the granddaughter of the now-retired nightwatchman, had gotten access to a supposedly vacated apartment. However, Mary was rather forgiving since Jenny redecorated the apartment and apparently did so rather well. But the point of interest in the story is Jenny's addiction to horoscopes, her attendance at some sort of bizarre nearby school and an upcoming date

with a man she met via the school's bulletin board. In usual style, Mary Worth is butting her nose into the entire mess.

Rip Kirby recently attempted to capture the Mangler, who was preying upon sea-going drug smugglers (because they would obviously not complain to the police). However, after confining the Mangler and his crew to his own boat's brig, the Mangler managed to escape while Rip Kirby's boat crashed on a reef surrounding an uninhabited island.

While the Mangler sailed to Fort Diablo in search of weapons with which to finish off Rip and his crew, the Kirby clan built a raft, set sail and are now engaged in a desperate attempt to reach land before being run down by the Mangler.

Finally, in the strip "The Heart of Juliet Jones," the Princess van Loshazen has taken quite a liking to Owen Cantrell (Julie's husband) and has the intention of making him her sixth husband. When Eve Jones, Julie's younger sister, was visiting the princess in order to talk her out of her fiendish desire, her butler surreptitiously planted a piece of jewelry in her coat and then the princess accused Eve of thievery after she had left the premises. The princess' offer is to drop the charges against Eve in exchange for Julie's divorce from Owen.

In the meantime, Julie hired a private detective who discovered that the princess was married five times but only divorced four times, thus making her a bigamist. Owen currently is making his way over to confront the princess with the damaging evidence.

Rogers is a UNL economics graduate student and law student

Tiny Yugo has potential as road kill

In the days when I was earning \$50 a week and counting pennies, I decided that buying a tiny economy car that gave 30 miles to the gallon would be a smart move.

But I got myself an early, used Beetle. It was such a basic piece of machinery that it didn't even have a fuel gauge. You knew you were running low on gas when the tank was empty and the engine sputtered. Then you kicked a lever on the floor that opened a tiny spare tank that would get you to a gas station.

Many of my friends told me I was nuts. They said I might be squashed like a bug by big cars.

Then I made a trip to eastern Ohio. Somewhere near Akron, the hills began appearing.

I noticed something strange happening. Going uphill, I had the gas pedal almost to the floor. But I was creeping along so slowly that even big

trucks were passing me.

Cars were swerving around me and people were leaning out the window and yelling: "Are you crazy? . . . Pull over, you lousy . . . You want to get killed?"



Mike Royko

I made a vow that I would never again be so un-American as to drive a car that didn't have a powerful engine.

I have kept to that vow. During the great fuel scares, I refused to be stampeded into buying something small and practical.

So I'm waiting with dread for the

arrival on the highways of something called Yugo.

This is a tiny car from Yugoslavia that, at \$3,990, is going to be the lowest-priced new car in the United States.

Dealers already are writing stacks of orders from frugal people eager to drive something that's not much bigger than a kitchen appliance.

They will be a menace and should be banned by law from being driven anywhere but in the backyard or at amusement parks.

But they won't be. So I'm serving warning on all future Yugo drivers now. Stay out of the way of me and my current gas guzzler.

If you don't, I'll just pull off at the next exit, go to the nearest car wash, and have them brush you off my grill.

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