

Letters

Brief letters are preferred, and longer letters may be edited. Writer's address and phone number are needed for verification.



ASUN defies representation

It is said one cannot intellectualize bigotry or racism, but I must hand it to ASUN Sen. Dan Hofmeister, who made one heck of an attempt to do so at last week's ASUN senate meeting.

What is truly sad is not that such an attempt was made, but that a majority of the senators were brought into this attempt and failed to override Keating's veto of a non-discrimination bill that would prevent ASUN and recognized student groups from discriminating on the basis of race, creed, color, age, gender, place of residence or sexual orientation.

While I classify Hofmeister's address to the senate as an attempt to intellectualize bigotry, it cannot be said that he appealed to his senate peers and constituents on an intellectual level. On the contrary, an appeal was made on an emotional level — perhaps an indication of faith in the argument and knowledge that the best tactics needed to sway a conservative senate would be an appeal to small hometown values, parental disapproval and those unknowns invented as the "silent majority."

I regret that I cannot put to paper the dramatic persuasiveness of the rhetoric used last week — it was classic. Hofmeister did his homework and seemed to know his stuff, but with comments that questioned what parents would think when students start

giving rights to gays and if parents would want to send their sons and daughters to the University of Nebraska, one wonders what literature Hofmeister used in preparing his homework — perhaps a volume of the Prepared Arguments Opposing the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It is interesting that 20 years ago Hofmeister could have used the word "blacks" and would have received the same response.

My disappointment is not only with one senator, but with the entire senate, which failed to analyze the arguments it heard last week. A few senators had the courage to stand up for what they believed in despite emotional rhetoric. I commend them, but their actions are not enough to redeem the actions of a racist, homophobic ASUN.

These senators purportedly were elected to represent the students. It is interesting that out of 50 in the gallery, only one voiced support of Keating's veto. One senator who polled students in her classes found only one of 100 supported the veto, and senators still voted 19-8 in support of Keating's veto. What kind of representation is this?

Tonight ASUN will debate an amended version of the bill that was presented last week. This time the phrase "sexual orientation" will be omitted, but the phrase "race, creed, color, age, gender and place of residence" will be retained. The mere fact

that this bill will be debated legitimates the possibility that an ASUN senator may have on the agenda to narrow the scope, and attempt to intellectualize racism tonight.

Lisa Ramirez
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UNO should not receive all class cuts

As an alumnus of UNO, I take offense from a statement in an editorial on university program cuts (Daily Nebraskan, Aug. 26). The editorial said that if programs are offered at UNL and UNO, the UNO segments should be eliminated.

I view this as false assumption that the segments of programs at UNO are of lesser caliber and importance.

I agree that the university must drastically lower its budget and eliminate duplicated costs. I do not agree that this should be accomplished by automatically eliminating the Omaha segments of duplicated programs.

Rather, I propose that both segments of the program should be examined by an impartial committee using criteria such as:

- The national, regional and local recognition of quality of a particular segment.
- The recognition and respectability by peers in the field of a segment's faculty and staff.
- The acceptance of students into their field before and after graduation.
- The ability of the segment to generate income.

It is my hope that this letter has ended the assumption that UNL programs are not necessarily superior to UNO programs.

P. A. Dugaw
graduate
human nutrition and food
service management

Bookstore is excessive

As I wandered through our wonderful new University Bookstore, I was accosted by several sales personnel asking if they could be of assistance.

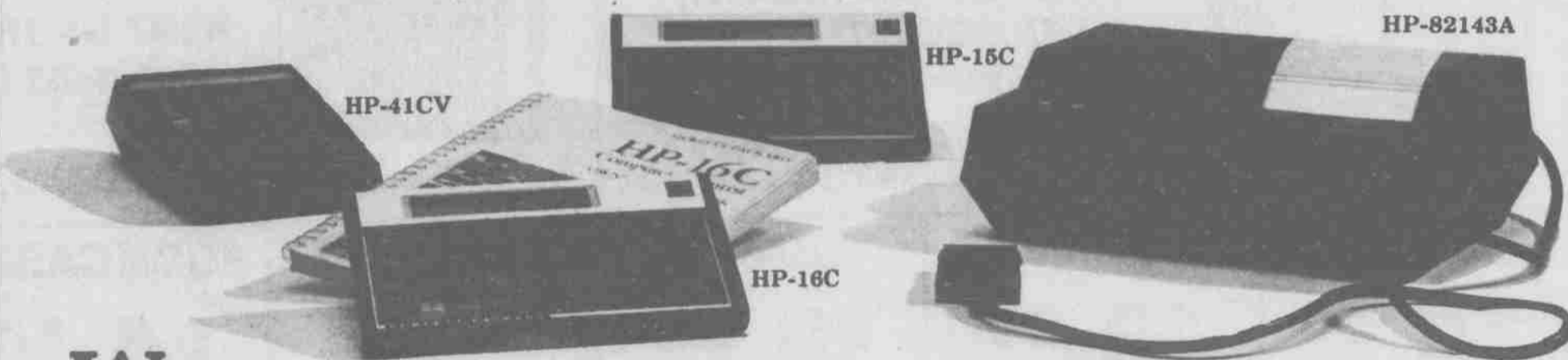
Unfortunately, none of them could quell the rising tide of nausea that I felt. I find our new designer University Bookstore disgusting.

When I go to a bookstore, I want to buy books. I don't want to buy candy.

To the University Bookstore and the Nebraska Bookstore, I give this advice: Students would rather buy their books from a hole in the ground and pay \$10 less than shop in a bookstore that doesn't look like a basement and pay the current price.

Doug Weems
junior
history

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