

Letters

Senator says all students should be heard all the time

The first misconception about the much-maligned ASUN Sen. Howard is that he may be a lot of things, but he ain't no liberal. He's out there on the anarchist fringe with me. The question that should be posed, then, is this: Why are two anarchists serving on ASUN? Just that crazy anarchist sense of humor, I guess.

I am concerned when Jim Rogers describes the concerns of a fellow student and ASUN senator as petty and obscene. When any student voices a concern about the university, I fail to see the pettiness in the concern. About the labeling of Howard's proposed remedy as constitutionally obscene, I am certainly glad that the Supreme Court doesn't share Rogers view of

obscurity. Otherwise, dissent would never get published.

Rogers' claim that ASUN funding constitutes a meager 6 percent of the financing of this last bastion of edited free speech, and I believe that he is correct, raises some interesting points. Judge Urbom states that slashing funds would violate the First Amendment.

On the other side of the coin, maybe ASUN should freeze funding levels so as not to appear to endorse one type of thought, prevailing through editorials, over another. Or perhaps ASUN should increase funding so that the DN could publish all letters to the editor, positive and negative. I would favor increasing funding if only because of my belief in the right of a student to

express him/herself through an instrument that student funds support.

The fundamental difference between Rogers and myself lies not in the opinion that slashing funding would be unconstitutional, but in the fact that editorial censorship of expression is something to be seen as repugnant, no matter how widespread the practice.

Finally, I would like to point out the contradiction of a conservative, like Rogers, quoting an apparent liberal, like Judge Urbom, in his column. Politics, the press and the courts certainly make strange bedfellows.

Ed Miller
graduate student
ASUN senator

Student criticizes Orr's avoidance of campaign's main issues

Helen Boosalis does not favor a tax increase. Boosalis has stated repeatedly that she opposes tax increases and promises \$1 for \$1 property tax relief. It's unfortunate that a second-year law student (DN, Oct. 2) can't understand the difference between the concepts of tax increase and tax substitution.

It's also unfortunate that Kay Orr's campaign can't get beyond this rudimentary concept and move on to more compelling issues. It seems to me that

Orr's campaign is grasping at straws. Why else would they continue to attack the same non-issue with the same weak argument week after week?

It's time we take a look at the real issues such as Boosalis' new ideas for agriculture and education and compare them to what the Republican party has dictated to Orr's campaign.

Boosalis will be a governor for all Nebraska, and her leadership, innovative ideas and respect for all people

will make Nebraska the "Best Life" for all of us.

Shawn M. Boldt
senior
speech communications

Second numbers set tells females to relax

GOODMAN from Page 4

mathphobics among us, Moorman is an analyst of marriage and family statistics. She did not genuflect to the three Ivy League statisticians.

At 36 and married only three years ago, Moorman said to herself, "I just didn't believe that the current 30-year-olds were not going to get married. There is an awful lot of marrying going on right now."

Moorman and her colleagues did what statisticians do. They ran the numbers. Here is what they came out with:

Of college-educated, 30-year-old, never-married women, 66 percent will eventually marry.

Of 35-year-olds, 41 percent will marry.

Of 40-year-olds, 23 percent will marry.

Of 45-year-olds, 11 percent will marry.

The above information if offered to you in a form suitable for framing. Or for passing around at parties. One of Moorman's colleagues has found this a more effective mood brightener among her peer group than unlimited amounts of chardonnay.

Is this just a case of dueling statistics? It's more like a case of dueling mathematical models.

The Harvard-Yale people got into this whole catastrophe as an experiment; for the first time they used something called a parametric model. I will spare you the details, but it is regarded by its designer as risky for these sorts of projections. The Census Bureau people used the standard model.

"They think I'm wrong and I think they're wrong," says Moorman philosophically. But she points to other weaknesses in The Study That Would Not Die. The sample, divided and subdivided, was rather puny. The dimmest prospects for black women were based on about 100 in each age group.

Moreover, what separates these two sets of statistics — the difference that produced the Old Maid Revival — is a dispute over whether educated women are postponing the marriage option or closing it out. Here too, the trends are in the Census Bureau's direction. Not only has the median age of women at first marriage been rising rather dramatically, especially for educated women, so has the overall marriage rate.

The statisticians behind both The Study and The Rebuttal do agree on one thing. One of the Harvard-Yale team attests, "The bottom line is that we really don't know what will happen in the future."

These are statistics, not tea leaves, projections not predestination. Nobody predicted the baby boom itself, and nobody can predict when, how and whether the boomers will marry.

The appalling part of the media hype of The Study is that it transformed mar-

ital choices into marital chances. We have analyzed the glee that accompanied this feat. It struck with the power of a backlash.

How nice now to have a second, user-friendly set of numbers that add up to one message: Relax.

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Goodman is a Pulitzer prize-winning columnist for the Boston Globe.

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