

Editorial

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ASUN vs. religion Groups should have exemption.

The proposal that UNL religious student groups should be exempted from strict adherence to ASUN's "non-discrimination" clause isn't as unreasonable as some would have you think.

ASUN certainly had good intentions last year when it passed a provision that student group constitutions, in order to be recognized, must say the group "does not discriminate in the selection of members or appointments" due to age, race, national origin, color, gender, creed, handicap or place of residence.

According to a Sept. 22 guest opinion in the Daily Nebraskan by ASUN Sens. Greg Dynek and Joanie Eickhoff, the clause wasn't "an invention created by ASUN to harass organizations" and deny them the use of student fees, access to the Nebraska Union and other privileges.

But from the viewpoint of the religious groups, it sure looks like it. The problem for those groups isn't that they're out to discriminate, but that they often have to answer to a higher authority than ASUN. And doing so doesn't automatically mean racism, sexism or some other "ism."

In the case of University Lutheran Chapel, 1510 Q St., the constitution was rejected because women and non-Lutherans are ineligible for some offices in the chapel assembly. That policy, Pastor James Bauer says, is based on the biblical interpretation of the chapel's governing body, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, which doesn't condone sexism but says women shouldn't be pastors or lead congregations or assemblies.

Because ULC is not a regular

congregation of its synod but is run directly by the synod, those who attend it can't just change the constitution on doctrinal matters. But when the issue at hand relates to a crucial aspect of a religious group's beliefs, that group shouldn't have to change at all — especially if they're not discriminatory in spirit.

The "real discrimination," Dynek and Eickhoff say, would be to set up a double standard for religious organizations. But the First Amendment put such a double standard into the Constitution. In addition to saying, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," it also says, "... or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Based on the latter clause, religious groups have enjoyed tax-exempt status and other special rights that help them carry out their mission.

Failure to adhere to ASUN regulations won't force UNL student religious groups out of existence. But they aim to accomplish their mission specifically among the UNL community, which makes the advantages of being a student organization quite valuable. Denying them the full freedom to work among their target audience unless they adhere to government-dictated standards would be "prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

ASUN should find a way to let student religious groups enjoy equal access to UNL facilities without forcing them to compromise their beliefs. Its goal of non-discrimination is laudable, but its methods aren't appropriate if they violate the First Amendment.

Candidates and UNL Voters deserve more than generalities

At least students and faculty members know a little more now about Helen Boosalis's and Kay Orr's beliefs on higher education. They need to know more before they can make an informed choice for Nebraska's next governor.

The first two Boosalis-Orr debates brought little more than vague generalities on higher education issues from both candidates. In Monday night's final debate in Omaha, Boosalis and Orr gave the viewers an idea of where they agree and differ on the most pressing questions, such as budget priorities and the thrust of NU's mission. But it was only a fleeting glance.

As was noted Thursday in this space, both candidates agreed with Gov. Bob Kerrey that higher education budget cuts will be needed next year. Rather than dwell on that point again, let's repeat that NU has suffered too many cuts in the last few years for excellence to not be damaged by another round.

Orr proposed something that would help NU indirectly. She

avored returning authority to set sales and income tax rates to the State Board of Equalization, which had that power until the Legislature took it away early in Kerrey's term. Since the Legislature has been setting tax rates, political fears have helped cause no end of revenue shortfalls and mid-year budget cuts.

On NU's mission, Orr said research should be of first importance, while Boosalis put undergraduate education at the top. But neither talked about what those priorities would mean. Students want to know whether a research emphasis would force cuts in academic programs, while graduate students wonder if stressing undergraduate education means their programs will be first on the chopping block.

Students and faculty members deserve to find out what an Orr or Boosalis administration would mean for their interests. We hope both candidates move away from generalities in the campaign's final days and tell these voters what they think.

U.S. SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA



"You ought to know that man does not live by bread alone."

Brian Barber/Daily Nebraskan

Union food battle continues More dramatic than UNL student protests during Vietnam

It is a serious time at UNL. Very serious.

A compelling problem faces the students and faculty at this university. A problem that could change our lives.

It's been the cause of lovers' quarrels. It's torn the Daily Nebraskan editorial board into shreds, even turning conservatives against conservatives and liberals against liberals.

The only other event in UNL's history that can rival this issue was the Vietnam-era student takeover of the Military and Naval Science building.

This somber, potent topic happens to be the Union Square restaurant and the battle over which franchise should open in that location.

We're talking big stuff here. The stuff that, when digested, becomes our hair follicles, our red blood cells, our cholesterol, our reflexes.

And because of the issue's urgent nature, I've taken it upon myself to spend 13 days intensely researching the alternatives that we have: Hardee's, Burger King, Taco del Sol and Runza.

I've spent long nights battling with my conscience, long days putting finishing touches on my patented Ad-o-taste-o-meter to help in my search for the ultimate franchise.

My findings are as follows:
BURGER KING: The Whopper, Burger King's premier burger, ranks a 7 on the Ad-o-taste-o-meter. (Highest possible score is a 12).

Actually, I think Burger King is a classy act. It's red and yellow colors usually fit well in any neighborhood and would complement the Union's interior. I also like its ads that ran on television when I was a kid. Remember the ones with the woman, complete with Nancy Drew-like haircut, who would sing "Hold the pickle, hold the lettuce, special orders don't upset us." I always liked Cissy (the older sister) on the television show "Family Affair." The woman in those singing commercials looked like her, so Burger King holds a special place in my heart.

There is, however, a seedy side to the Home of the Whopper. I once had a wreck in front of a Burger King. It was an unpleasant experience. And, regretfully, I have to subtract two points from Burger King's rating because of it.

RUNZA: Definitely a hefty competitor. This is the franchise the Daily Nebraskan endorsed, mainly because, they said, Runza had fresh, "quality" food.

Runza is the local kid on the block. The chain originated in Lincoln and still has its headquarters here. I think that's pretty cool. Also, add three points to Runza's score because it's considerate enough to have a restaurant within 10 blocks of my house, complete with a drive-up window. I can



Ad
Hudler

get a Runzaburger (which ranks a 7.6 on the Ad-o-taste-o-meter) with fries while sitting in my underwear within the security of my darkened car. One bad point: when they designed the drive-up window at the 13th Street Runza restaurant, they constructed the building so that it's difficult to turn around the curve and get close to the pick-up window. Sometimes I actually have to get out of my car to reach up for the sack of food. I tell them I'm wearing a swimming suit.

TACO DEL SOL: An interesting entry. I think I have to agree with the DN editorial board on this one, despite its usual conservative slant. A Mexican food menu lacks variety.

And I'm kind of worried about fairness here. Why shouldn't other ethnic groups have their foods represented also? In fairness, we shouldn't exclude anyone.

I suggest a rotating restaurant, should the powers-that-be pick Taco del Sol. In April, we could feature Mexican food. In March, Greek food. In December, Vietnamese food.

What "well-rounded" students we would become.

HARDEE'S: This, I believe is the underdog of the great Union Food Fight. Hardee's was popular when we were kids. Remember that jingle, "Come to Hardee's where the burgers are charcoal-broiled?" Over the years,

Hardee's kind of dropped out. But it's coming back strong now. Hardee's restaurants are popping up all over the place. And, what's better, they're cheap.

I really have no problems with any of the four choices we're looking at.

But I do have a more sensible alternative.

I think we should approach Lincoln General Hospital and ask them to open a Lincoln General Hospital North Restaurant.

The place has a lot of pluses. Parts of "Terms of Endearment" were filmed there. I think that's kind of cool. And because it's a hospital, we would be served safe, non-carcinogenic foods. Yes, sir, I think they would be genuinely interested in our well-being. Kind of makes me feel good inside.

We could have Debra Winger come back for the grand opening. Something weird probably would attract David Letterman's attention.

Let the Great Union Food Fight continue!

Hudler is a senior news editorial major and Daily Nebraskan Sower editor.

Letter policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names from publication will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.