

Letters

Clause extends ASUN control

The role of student government at UNL is supposedly to represent and serve the students. Instead, the current government appears to be trying to control them. The most obvious case in point is ASUN's enforcement of the non-discrimination act, which states:

"(An organization) may not discriminate in the selection of members or appointments when discrimination is defined as denying individuals membership or appointment on the basis of age, race, national origin, color, gender, creed, handicap or place of residence."

The original intent of this legislation was simple: to make ASUN a more diverse and thus more representative body. Today, the act has become another tool for ASUN officials to expand their power base. ASUN is using this legislation to test new ways of controlling student organizations such as prohibiting event registration and blocking access to organizations' accounts. It is making no effort to ensure that the act leads to a reduction in discriminatory practices. The result is resentment of non-discrimination legislation by student organization members who find themselves being brought ever more tightly under ASUN's control. It is time to re-evaluate the purpose and the enforcement of the non-discrimination act.

The importance of the act is not that it is the 12th paragraph of every student organization's constitution, which appears to be ASUN's position. The act's significance could come from changing the composition of organizational membership. An organization which is designed to be representative, but which is composed primarily of members from one group, is discriminatory.

From this perspective, we have one question for ASUN: Based upon your current membership, can you honestly say that your organization is in compliance with the non-discrimination code?

Jay Mulligan, senior integrated studies
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Lutheran tradition defended

In response to Cynthia Doerr's letter "Sexist Synod vs. ASUN," (DN, Oct. 16), she evidently doesn't know the reason why we members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS) don't have women in the offices of ordained ministers, congregational elders and congregational presidents, none of which are "hierarchical position," as she put it. The LC-MS is not a hierarchical body in that each congregation decides on its own which minister it chooses to hire. All of the congregational offices are held by the members and are voted on by their peers, men and women of the congregation.

The reason women cannot be ordained as pastors is a matter of tradition and symbolism. The minister represents God our loving Father, and the Church (worldwide) is his family just as the local congregation is a family, to watch over and protect. We do not say men are better and represent God himself, but merely the relationship of father to child, because all are created equal in God's sight. I don't think anyone can deny that there is a special bond between a father and his child, a sense of strength to draw on, and our pastors help us tangibly to see that that is how God loves us.

In 10 to 20 years we may see the LC-MS change its position in this area due to pressures from other denominations and maybe even Missouri Synod members themselves. But in the end it is the members themselves who make this choice, and since we LC-MS students are part of this national body of well over a million people, I don't think they will decide to change an age-old rule just to please our ASUN "leaders" and Cynthia Doerr.

If Doerr can't wait for us to change our system but likes the way Martin Luther taught the Bible, there are at least three other synods somewhat more liberal than the LC-MS. They are the Lutheran Church in America, The American Lutheran Church and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. So as you can see, we are not discriminative because we Lutherans offer a number of alternatives here on campus.

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sophomore
agribusiness

Summit 'failure' may be a blessing

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capitulationist position. We have not helped our ally, Kohl, by ordaining a position different from his own on this delicate issue.

Meanwhile, the defense ministers of the Atlantic alliance were meeting in Scotland, and Britain's Defense Minister George Younger, in the account of

reporter John Cushman, "repeatedly warned that the elimination of strategic ballistic missiles would not be wise unless conventional arms, including chemical weapons, were also controlled." Younger was entirely explicit. His government "would be extremely concerned at a final agreement to abolish strategic ballistic missiles altogether if there was not at the same time a very effective and appropriate reduction in

conventional forces."

And the final rebuff: "Beyond the issues, the almost visionary quality of the Reykjavik discussions unsettled many Western European arms experts, who said they were not sure Reagan was fully aware of what he was doing."

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Buckley is the founder of National Review magazine.



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