

ASUN obliged to fight discrimination

The nondiscrimination clause does not "extend ASUN control," as stated by Mary Marcy and Jay Mulligan (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 28). It does, in fact, implement a power already assigned to ASUN by the university Board of Regents.

I am constantly amazed by the complex issues surrounding this seemingly simple process. Do we debate the need for awareness among student organizations that discrimination on the basis of sex, race, creed, etc., is intolerable? Do we pretend that ASUN will win a popularity contest by implementing the nondiscrimination act? Do we ever stretch the issue far enough to imagine that ASUN's "power" will be extended by this implementation? NO. To assert that this implementation process is one by which ASUN is attempting to gain control over student organizations is asinine.

Guest Opinion

More than one year ago, students on this campus addressed the issue of discrimination in student organizations. Mary Marcy chaired the Equal Opportunity Coalition and requested that ASUN implement nondiscrimination policies for all student organizations. ASUN agreed with the coalition's request and has since made great efforts toward realizing the goals of the coalition. It has been a costly effort, both in time and money, but despite current opposition from the originators for this cause, it has been a successful one. The process of implementation is one by which ASUN hopes to make students aware of the implications of discrimination and to discourage organizations from participating in such unconstitutional behavior.

It is distressing to me to see that the intent of this process is being warped by those who refuse to admit the obligations that ASUN has to the student body. The authors of the letter seem to want to return the electoral process by which most student senators come to office. The voting public had the choice to elect its representatives. (Public includes all students enrolled on campus, excluding no one on the basis of "age, race, national origin, color, gender, creed, handicap or place of residence.") Perhaps the real answer for those who insist discrimination exists is to put together a viable party and run in the elections this spring. Or at least to vote in the elections themselves and encourage members of this body, who feel underrepresented, to get involved in the process as well.

Those who complain that the appointments process of ASUN is discriminatory have certainly not reviewed the process very closely. ASUN is representative on the basis of college population, through election and appointment. If this group "is composed primarily of members from one group," it is *not* inherently discriminatory. One process very closely. ASUN needs only simple logic to review the applicants

and realize that it means only that as well as being from different colleges, the applicants were "primarily members of one group." ASUN has taken great strides toward making the public aware of openings in the senate and other appointed positions. Advertisements appear in the paper, letters are sent to organization presidents and advisers, and notices are posted in residence halls, Greek houses, the union and academic buildings.

If Marcy chooses to dispute the fairness of democracy, I challenge her to find a better way to select our college

representatives. By direct appointment of the chancellor? Or perhaps the college deans?

ASUN will continue to work with student organizations to fulfill its obligation of nondiscrimination. We make every effort to accommodate individual organizations, and make no attempt to change the purpose of any group. If this is a "power trip," as Marcy alleges, I can think of many other trips I would rather take.

Chris Scudder
ASUN president



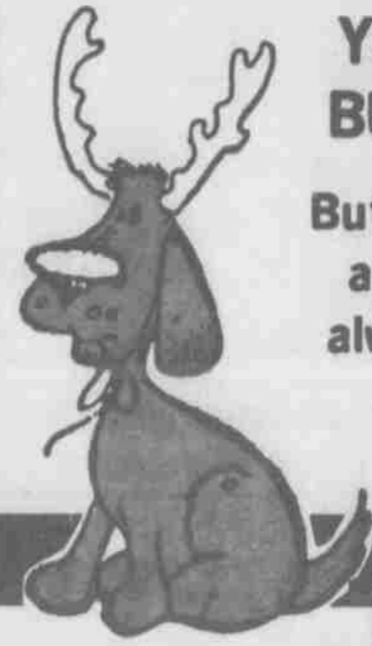
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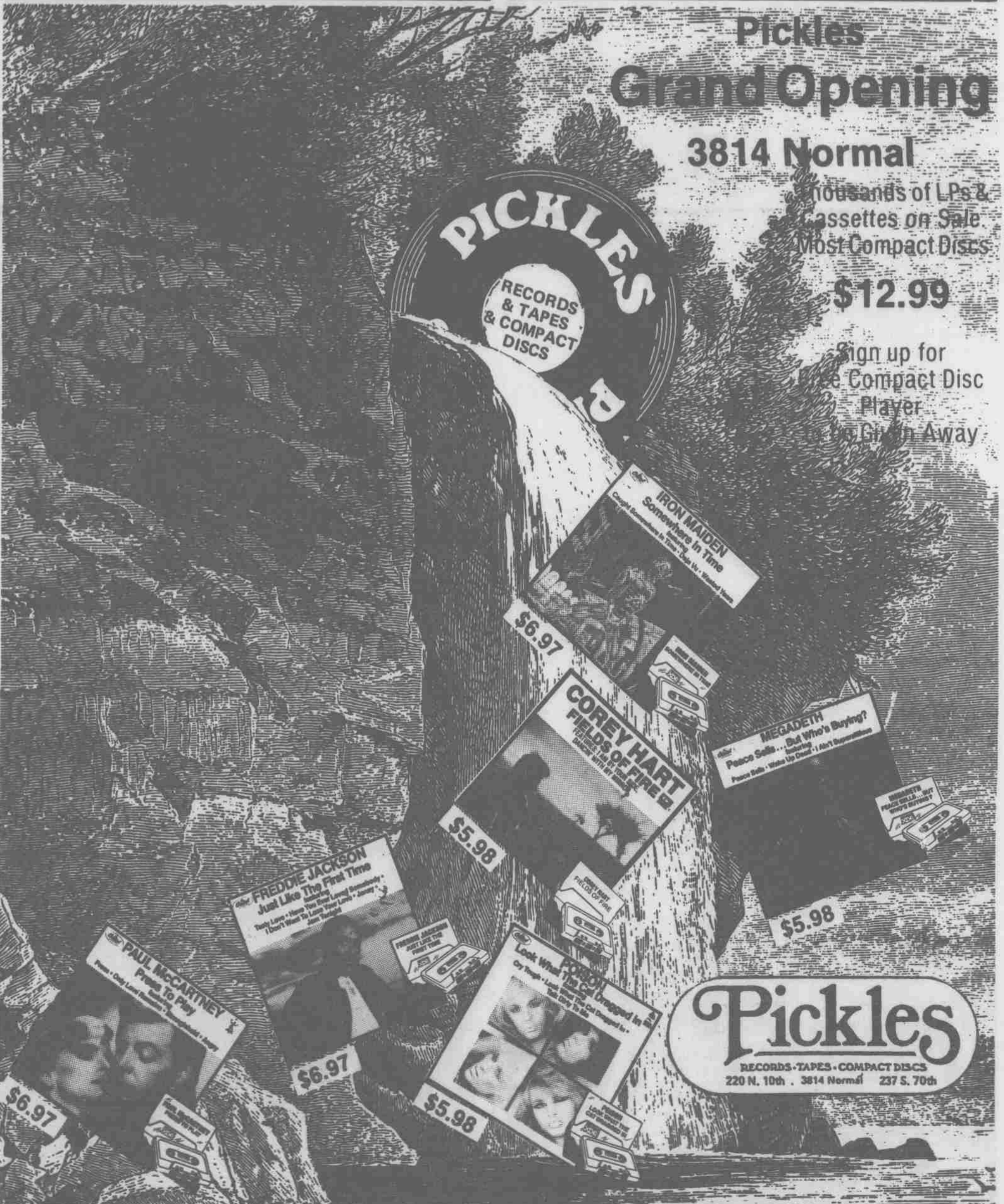
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