

Editorial

Daily
Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jeff Korbelik, Editor, 472, 1766
James Rogers, Editorial Page Editor
Gene Gentrup, Managing Editor
Tammy Kaup, Associate News Editor
Todd von Kampen, Editorial Page Assistant

No money for gays UNL can't afford new group

On Dec. 2, the Union Board will decide the fate of a programming committee for gays and lesbians. The committee, initiated by the Gay/Lesbian Student Association, already has gained approval from the University Program Council's Executive Board for formation and financing. The committee would be a part of UPC-City.

The Daily Nebraskan urges the Union Board to refuse the proposal for one major reason: The committee doesn't merit funding because it only would represent approximately 30 people in GSLA.

If the committee is formed, it should not fall under UPC-City, but rather under the American Minority Council.

For the record, university students pay \$6.38 in Fund A fees to help support four organizations. Of that money, \$2.99 goes to UPC, \$2.38 to ASUN, 96 cents to the Daily Nebraskan and 50 cents to the Nebraska State Student Association.

UPC is divided into three sub-councils: UPC-City, UPC-East and the American Minority Council. They are responsible for social, cultural and entertainment programs.

Special Events, a UPC-City Committee, has a yearly budget of \$565, the lowest on City.

Talks and Topics carries \$20,000, the highest. Most of the City Committees have between \$4,000 to \$5,000. All these bodies program events for the entire campus.

The American Minority Council

emphasizes programming for UNL's ethnic communities. AMC contains six committees with budgets between \$1,000 and \$3,000.

Rodney A. Bell II, GSLA president, said if approved by Union Board, the committee would ask for 5 percent of UPC-City's budget or \$6,138. The budget cannot be formulated until the committee has been accepted. Bell said, based on a national survey, that 10 percent of the UNL population, or 2,400 students, is homosexual.

Angela Swantek, UPC-City president, said the 10 percent figure comes from a "universal" statistic that has been applied to university campuses. Bell and Swantek called the figure conservative. Frankly, Union Board's decision should not be made based on the applied number; an actual number should have been solicited.

Six thousand dollars is a hard number to swallow, considering it would only serve the 20 to 30 students in GSLA. Bell said the committee may help some homosexuals "come out of the closet."

Programming would be for all UNL students, he said. But past programming has shown attendance to be low. About 200 students attended activities for Gay Student Month, their highest-attended activity. The number should be much higher to warrant funding.

Finally, should the Gay/Lesbian committee be approved, what will stop other organizations from petitioning UPC?

Admission unnecessary Hospital policies create expenses

The relationship between doctors, patients, hospitals and quality medical care is changing, but much too slowly.

A recent study released in the widely respected New England Journal of Medicine estimates that upwards of 40 percent of hospital admissions were unnecessary. That's four out of every 10 hospital admissions.

The cost to patients and society should be measured in terms of health as well as money. Although the study did not even attempt to estimate the cost of the unnecessary procedures, the financial toll must be staggering.

But most likely it's the financial cost that is one part of the problem. After all, the patients' expenditures are hospitals' receipts. If 40 percent of hospital admissions are unnecessary, then, in their absence, the percentage of empty hospital beds would be very high.

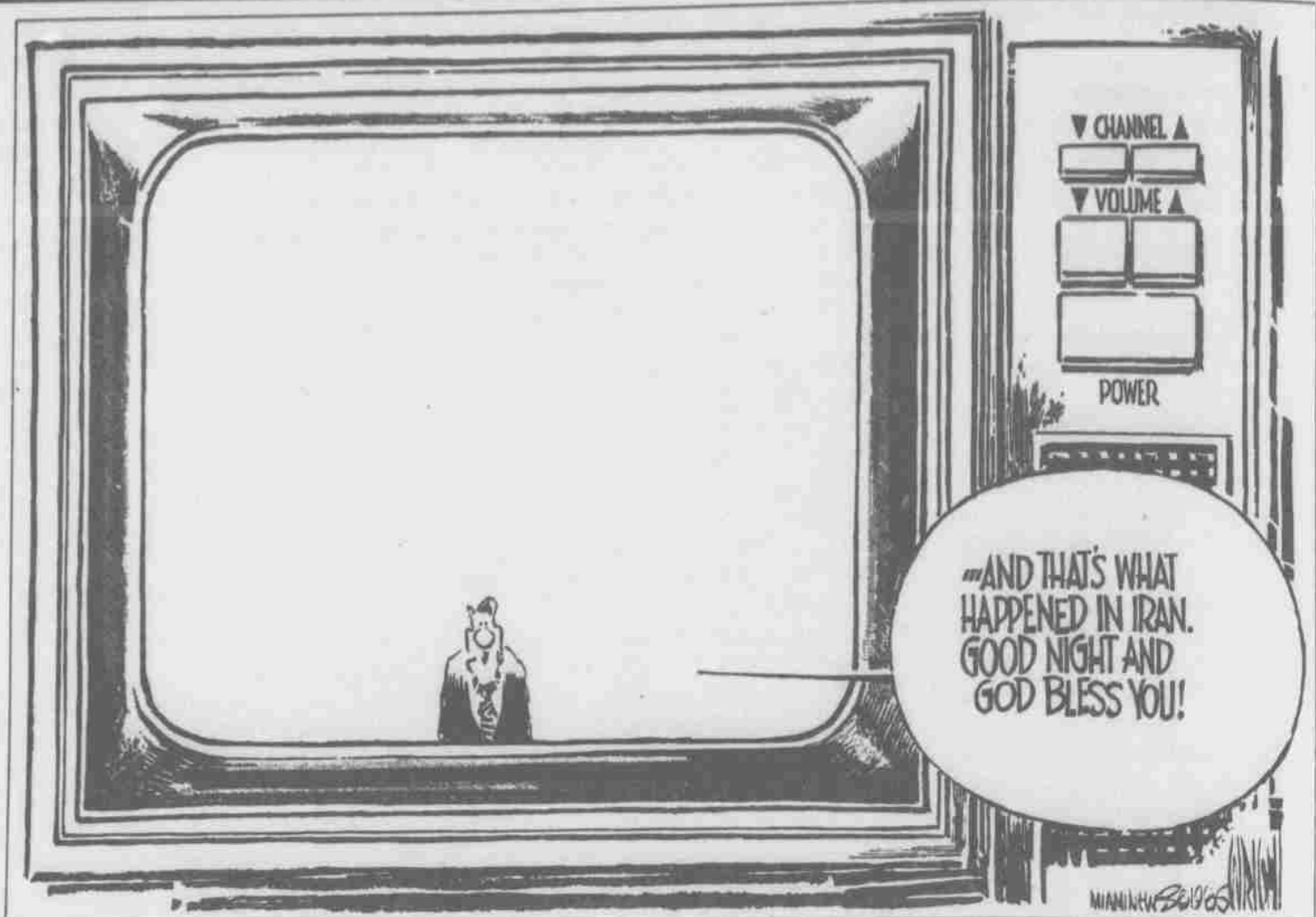
What the statistics indicate is that over the last decade or two a tremendous overexpansion of hospital space occurred in the health industry. One way to pay for this overexpansion is by increasing the admission rate of patients — even if patients could get the same care on an outpa-

tient basis or at the doctor's office.

The cost of overuse is not only in terms of money. Hospitals aren't real healthy places to be around. After all, there are a lot of sick people in hospitals. Studies indicate that many hospitalized patients acquire diseases at the hospital as a result of the hospitalization.

Given a figure of 40 percent unnecessary hospitalizations, that means that tens of thousands of Americans are getting sick unnecessarily every year because of their unnecessary hospitalization. Now that's really bad.

Changing payment systems doesn't seem to help. When the patients had to pay part of their hospitalizations, there was no significant difference between the rates of necessary and unnecessary hospitalization. The only real solution for the problem is for patients to get more actively involved in their own treatment and communicate to their doctors what their expectations are. If patients take doctors off their pedestals and get involved in their own treatment, it will certainly save their money, and may preserve their health as well.



Pro-lifers resort to extremes

Abortion protects the unborn from entering an unwanted world

Last Thursday night Kathryn Marie Kersensbrock (call her Katie) came into this world. I've never met Katie (although I hope to some day) or her parents, and her birth didn't cause much of a stir outside of her family. The reason I think it's kind of neat is because she was born on my birthday. Someday she and I will have a wonderful celebration.

Yes, the birth of a child is occasion for celebration — or at least it should be. I'm sure Katie will have a wonderful life because she has parents who love and care for her. But sometimes children are born into families that can't love them and can't care for them. That's something opponents of abortion tend to either ignore or not care about.

A column in this paper earlier this week mentioned that those who are pro-choice on the abortion issue have so-called "hardened hearts."

I don't think of myself as having a "hardened heart." Nor do I consider myself a "baby killer."

Abortion is a complex issue. It is not black and white.

You can't just say, "Thou shalt not kill" and leave it at that. What about the women who had illegal abortions before 1973 and died?

While we're on the subject, why is it that the same congressmen who lead

the outcry against abortion are the one voting for aid to Contras? Apparently killing babies is wrong — American babies at least — but Nicaraguan men, women and children are okay. That logic escapes me.

The Bible does have some gems in it, but to realistically expect it to have all the answers to the problems that beset the modern world is a little like setting out from Lincoln with one of Lewis and Clark's maps and expecting to find Portland.

Geoff
Goodwin



The real question to be addressed is what kind of world an unwanted child will be born into. Where is the justice in forcing a mother to have a child who won't be wanted and won't be cared for? Isn't there enough misery in the world without adding more?

The tone of the earlier column would have you believe that pro-choice forces are out cruising the streets, looking for pregnant women to kidnap and carry

off to the abortion clinics.

What rubbish.

Nobody is forced to undergo an abortion. Women get one because they think it's in their best interests. And who has the right to decide what an individual's best interests are?

Let's suppose for a moment that state funds were cut off for abortions. This was on the ballot in a couple of states this year. It lost. Estimates are that abortions would cost as much as \$4,000. So the rich would be able to afford it while, as always, the poor suffer.

Abortion is a fact. It's not going to go away. As soon as people realize that and start dealing with it in that context we'll all be better off.

It baffles me how anyone could think that a woman could consent eagerly to an abortion. The women I know who have had one say they would never do it again. It's not an easy decision. It's not a decision a woman rushes into.

Perhaps the most ridiculous part of the whole debate is that men essentially are making laws that have nothing to do with them. This is a decision that, when push comes to shove, is a woman's decision. It's her body and her life. Perhaps that's the most important thing to keep in mind.

Goodwin is an undeclared graduate student and Daily Nebraskan night news editor.

Three can be more than company; they can also be (co)educational

In the past four years, my original Abel Hall roommate, Steve, and I have lived with three different women.

Our sophomore year we moved in with Luanne — one of Tekamah's most notorious teen hell-raisers — and Sharon, a Casper, Wyo., native who provided that mother figure we needed during our first year off campus. This year Luanne, and Sharon are gone, but Cindy has moved in.

And today, I reflect on four years of what I call "sex education."

I missed out on having a sister, so these three women filled that void. They taught me how to bake chicken (cover it, Ad, or the moisture leaks out). They taught me everything I know about football. They reproached me when I treated a female friend badly.

The lessons that first emerged were the more practical ones.

Rule No. 1: Never leave the toilet seat up. Several women, I've learned, don't look down at the toilet before sitting down. They expect the previous person to have put it back down after going to the bathroom. Luanne told us

she almost had to yell for help one night when she fell victim to the unprotected jaws of the porcelain god.

By the time Cindy moved in, Steve and I had learned to leave the seat down, but it stayed down when we, too, went to the bathroom. We told Cindy she had her choice: falling in or putting up with a little yellow wetness.



Ad
Hudler

Cindy, Luanne and Sharon let Steve and me know if they didn't like or trust the women we were dating. They pointed out the ones they thought were prone to pregnancy and marriage. If they caught us lying on the phone, they

I've learned Midol works great as an aspirin substitute. I've learned raisins are made from grapes and pickles from cucumbers. I've learned how to com-

parison grocery shop. Cindy has taught me how to take phone messages and how to freeze bread. And she taught me how to check the oil in my car.

And I learned more traditionally masculine things from Luanne than I did from my big brother. I was kind of a pansy in high school. I had never ridden a motorcycle or seen a real gun until Luanne took us home with her once for a ride on her red Honda and a view of the prize goose she shot that fall. I even got to hold the gun.

The accoutrements of female lives also come in handy. Steve and I had to share a room at our Ninth and E address. One evening I was up typing late and Steve jumped up and yelled, asking if we had any cotton for his ears. I walked into the bathroom. I looked. No cotton. But I did find a substitute. I whipped out two of Luanne's maxipads, ripped the adhesive strips from the backs and jammed them into Steve's ears. He slept soundly, but Luanne reminded me the next morning just how expensive the suckers were.

The coeducational situation also helps in the dating game.

See HUDLER on 5