

Editorial

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Gift ideas reviewed Sheldon addition recommended

One sparkling gem in the rather tarnished crown of UNL is the Sheldon Art Gallery. Sheldon is renowned nationwide for its collection of 20th-century art. No finer use could be made of the 1987 senior-gift money than to contribute to its collection.

This year's senior-gift committee has selected three possible projects funds collected from the 1987 class could go.

One choice is for the class to sponsor a portion of the proposed North American Indian display in Morrill Hall. Another choice is to use the gift to sponsor "a major room or facility" in the proposed recreation/training center. Finally, the committee proposes that the gift fund could be used to purchase "one or more pieces of art representing the 1980s."

The Sheldon project is the superior option.

If the funds for Morrill Hall were proposed for needed renovations rather than for a new exhibit, this option would be much more attractive. The cry-

ing need of the museum is for the preservation of the important artifacts and displays already being exhibited. While each anthropological exhibits are somewhat interesting, little real significance seems to be advanced by such exhibits.

The recreation-building fund already is moving ahead under its own speed. With the significant following of Cornhusker football, that the center will be built sooner or later is almost a foregone conclusion.

Sheldon, however, can always use incremental additions to its already reputed collection. In fact, given its special commitment to 20th-century art, it cannot maintain the quality of its collection without such contributions. An incremental addition, such as the one proposed by the senior-gift committee, has real meaning in this context and would contribute to the overall effect of the museum. These factors should combine to provide the senior-gift committee with a resounding "yes!" for the Sheldon gift.

Guest Opinion

Rec center unneeded

ASUN senator resigns; students should not vote

The students and faculty of this campus are being raped once again by the athletic-administrative alumni complex, and the ASUN Senate is again taking part in the crime.

The rec center will owe its existence to the athletic department in general and the football team in particular. The impetus for moving this project forward, after all, came from Tom Osborne, not from ASUN. Since the athletic department is responsible for the rec center's being built, just who do you think will have the final say over who gets to use it and when? After all, the Devaney sports center was to be used by faculty and students. Yet, students and faculty are barred by the athletic department from using a taxpayer paid-for and built-for building. How are they going to act about a building which they raised money for? A clue was in the athletic department letter, which stated that the facility would be used by students when the football team did not need it.

UNL is last in the Big Eight in recreation space, and the new rec center will not change that. Not much space is being added for the students. The coliseum will simply be remodeled. Additionally, the tennis team's courts will be taken out, leaving the tennis team to use already overcrowded dorm courts.

But never mind the details. Student leaders suffer from a country-club attitude. Details of the problems which arise from their messing around will be worked out by the hired help. Students become servants. So what if students pay \$20 a semester in fees for a complex most of them will not use? As they like to tell you at ASUN, it costs more than that to join a health club. It costs even more for a country club.

Student leaders in general believe that what is best for them is best for

everyone. Note the endless work that has been done in pursuit of getting night bus service between campuses. Yet an unreleased poll of more than 1,000 students by ASUN showed that an overwhelming majority of students would not use the bus service. But if a couple of senators need it, by golly, the will of the majority be damned.

Student government spending so much time oohing and ahing over this new rip-off is equivalent to Nero fiddling while Rome burned. ASUN is nothing more than an arm of the administration, and has been for years. The president herself once said that she had an equal responsibility to students and administrators. Yet who voted her into office? While the university burns, students leaders, generally short on intelligence and long on ambition, have been passing bylaws and organizing twister events.

Even when pro-student legislation somehow sneaks through, it gets vetoed by the president after she has consulted administrators as to what she should do. Is that student leadership or administrative checks and balances? Perhaps this is part of the reason so many senators who do not wish to defend the powers-that-be have resigned from ASUN in the last year.

In the spirit of protest, I am joining those senators who have come to realize that student government is a joke, and ASUN is another cornerstone for non-representation and hereby announce my resignation from ASUN. I encourage students not to vote for anyone in the next election. Your vote, like student government, is meaningless and will be ignored by those who you elect.

Tim Howard
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Birth control is smart sex

Don't be caught by surprise when things just start to happen

Picture this typical teen: a Reebok-wearer in torn Levi's 501 jeans holding a tiger Teen Beat in one hand and a box of Trojans in the other. Hey, wait, where did that come from? Actually, that box is probably not in the scene at all. But it should be. Because, according to a recent Harris poll, 60 percent of all teens have had sex by their 17th birthdays. Yet only one-third say they use birth control.

OK, we've probably all had our fill of teen sex and the teen-pregnancy scare. We've seen the docudramas and documentaries about children with children. We're aware of the problem, but as college students we're not included in it.

We're older, smarter, better educated and more sensitive than those kids.

Or are we? According to a recent Gallup survey, nearly 70 percent of college women (for some reason men weren't included) are sexually active yet about half admitted they hadn't been formally educated about sex. Many believed a variety of myths about birth control:

Thirty-two percent thought that withdrawal would prevent pregnancy and about 25 percent use the rhythm method — they guess when it's safe to have sex.

Even sillier, nearly 50 percent believed condoms came in different sizes. (One size fits all.)

And college-age men probably know even less about birth-control methods than women do, simply because they don't use them as often. Men don't have to worry about getting pregnant.

Tim Moran, community-relations director for Planned Parenthood of Lincoln, said the teen poll on sex and birth-control use reflects some general and unfortunate truths about society's ignorance. Birth control isn't thought of as being automatic — it's unromantic and intrusive. James Bond doesn't reach across to the drawer in the night stand when he's in bed with the gorgeous Russian spy.

Teens have this answer for not using birth control consistently: "It just happens," they say.

"It just happens," to these UNL dents too.

She saw an old boyfriend at a

party. He drove her home because she was too drunk to drive. They talked; he was leaving town the next day. They kissed. Then, you know, it just happened. Of course, they didn't use anything. "Why did he do this to me?" she asks, knowing it's just as much her fault as it is his. But he's not the one waiting to see if he's pregnant.

He's a strict Catholic, there are even priests in the family and everything. But he's normal. There have been girlfriends and, of course, sex. He doesn't carry anything with him, of course, and the kind of girls he dates wouldn't use birth control. So he's taken chances.

She and he shared about three



Lise Olsen

pitchers and then went home and ended up in bed. No one else was around except the cat. The cat didn't warn her. It just happened before she knew what was going on. She had nearly passed out, but suddenly she was sober enough to realize that she was taking a terrible chance just to have fun with someone she hardly knew.

He and his high-school girlfriend did it and didn't use anything. She thought she was pregnant. He thought his life was over. He wasn't ready to be married, but he couldn't have done anything else. He would have been trapped.

Things happen quickly in the summer. They were close, nearly engaged. She went on the pill, but didn't like it. It made her feel sick. She felt pregnant, sick all the time. So they used rubbers.

Sometimes. But sometimes they forgot. She was lucky for a long time — but then it just happened. She went to a city and had an abortion. People were picketing outside the clinic and she had to walk through the line. During the operation, she could see the shape of the embryo on a monitor. She lives with stomachaches and suppresses memories. So does he.

Some college students are paying now for mistakes they made when they were 17. Others will pay in the future for mistakes they're making now.

Mostly, we've always been most concerned about pregnancy. But today the issue is complicated by a host of other concerns — sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS.

When you go to bed with one person, you go to bed with a sexual history and the history of all his or her sexual partners, as one woman said.

The media has been bombarding the individual with frightening facts and panicky polls, but actual behavior isn't reflecting the publicity given to these very real concerns. There are just too many other stories like the ones I told. Publicly, a few sexual taboos are toppling. A San Francisco TV station agreed last week to allow condom ads. In 1985, Atlanta, Ga., made Newsweek when it allowed condom ads on billboards.

At a bar in Iowa City, home of the University of Iowa, the condom machines have come out of the closets. They've even made their way into the women's room.

But all the external changes, all the information, all the counseling and condom giveaways won't make much difference if individuals keep making foolish choices.

"It just happens" way too often, and no excuse really sounds good anymore, especially with birth control readily available a few blocks away at Planned Parenthood, the University Health Center and Osco Drug.

Even if you don't have sex. Or even plan to, it doesn't hurt anyone to be prepared. The costs are cheap compared to the financial, emotional and physical risks of unprotected sex.

Silent air of hope for democracy blowing in from China, Russia

There is a great, mostly unspoken hope in the air, blowing in from the east, bearing news from Russia and China. The hope, against hope, is that we have been wrong about totalitarianism. Perhaps like all other forms of tyranny, it is mortal. Perhaps, after all, it may be reversible.

The news, like the hope, has come in a rush. From Russia, a startling departure for socialist-realist journalism:



Charles Krauthammer

a disaster at sea, a riot and a KGB abuse have been reported in the Soviet press. Even more spectacularly, the names Pasternak and Baryshnikov have been plucked from official oblivion and restored to the lexicon of Soviet life. Glasnost — openness — is the word.

Meanwhile in China, tens of thousands of students have taken to the streets demanding democracy. They have not been met with glasnost. Supreme leader Deng Xiaoping ordered the demonstrations halted. His Directive No. 1, a classic of velvet-glove repression, reads: "We can afford to shed some blood. Just try as much as possible not to kill anyone." Three



leading intellectuals, accused of preaching the heresy of "bourgeois liberalization," were purged from the Communist Party. And Hu Yaobang, the liberal Party boss most sympathetic to the students, lost his job.

While Russia basks in glasnost and plans a Bolshoi welcome for Baryshnikov (a clever rewrite of the "White Nights" storyline), China is in the grips of a crackdown. Soviet intellectuals are encouraged to speak. Chinese intellectuals are warned to hold their tongues. And yet the only real hope lies in China.

The reason is to be found in something said by one of the three purged Chinese intellectuals, Fang Lizhi, a

hero of the democracy movement who was fired from his post at University of Science and Technology: "Democracy granted from above is not democracy in a real sense. It is relaxation of control."

Gorbachev's is a revolution from above. He is offering to relax control in order to revive a moribund economy, a sclerotic society and, most of all, a demoralized intelligentsia. His goal, the best that can come out of his efforts, will be efficiency: a more agreeable repression, under which workers and intellectuals will improve their production.

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