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Minority recruitment Discrimination and neglect unjustified

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has once again fallen near the bottom of the Big Eight — this time in minority student recruitment and retention.

Paul Miles, coordinator of the newly formed Minority Affairs Commission, claims Nebraska holds the reputation of having a weak minority student recruiting program.

Meanwhile, tuition increases and the state's economy steal all the headlines, but minority problems continue to be disregarded. No wonder minority students look elsewhere for their educational needs.

Part of the reason for low minority enrollment at UNL might be the lack of minority faculty members. According to the UNL Institutional Research and Planning Office, only 84 of UNL's 1,362 faculty members are minorities. UNL employs 1,003 white men and 275 white women, but only six blacks, 11 Hispanics, 64 Asians and three American Indians.

UNL's Minority Task Force had best get busy. By increasing the number of minority faculty, minority students would feel more comfortable coming to UNL.

Besides recruiting more minority faculty, there are other ways to increase minority student enrollment. Although the recruiting program is struggling, it isn't beyond help.

Tonya Horn, chairperson of University Program Council Black Special Events, said the recruiting program should show potential university minority students what minority students are involved in and introduce them to university minority students.

In addition, Horn said, more academic scholarships should be offered as incentives to keep mi-

norities at UNL after they have been recruited. She said minorities attend UNL and then transfer to the University of Nebraska at Omaha because they cannot afford UNL.

Helen Long Soldier, counselor at Multi-Cultural Affairs, said minority students feel isolated on campus because there are so few minorities.

Horn said if she could start over, she would have chosen to attend a predominantly black university. She said the academic and social aspects of such a university would be more enjoyable and less strenuous.

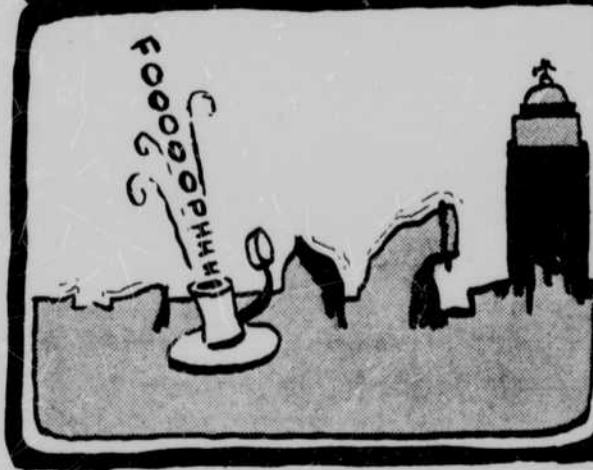
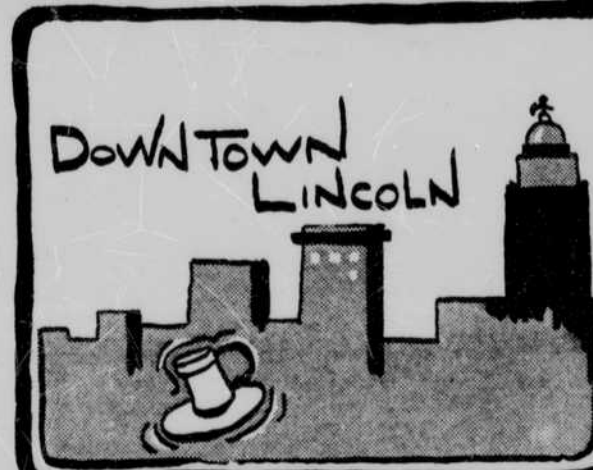
UNL caters to white students, Horn said, and Nebraska minorities should not have to leave the state to attend a predominantly black university to feel comfortable.

It seems apparent that UNL needs to look past its athletic endeavors and take an interest in a serious problem. The unrealistic makeup of the UNL student population does not give a clear perception of life in the real world, and in the long run, the effects of this misperception will be felt by minorities and non-minorities alike.

Most UNL students will leave Nebraska upon graduation. It is possible they will encounter minority situations they are not accustomed to. The minority population of larger cities and Southern states may very well be incomprehensible to those UNL students who have never left the state.

The initiative taken years ago toward desegregation in schools, for example, may shatter UNL's students' perceptions of what life is really like outside UNL's campus.

And just because the minority population of Nebraska is somewhat small, discrimination and lack of attention to minority problems can't be justified.



Bush not best man for president

Vice president should stay in office forever, columnist says

I just can't figure the man out. There is every indication that he will be the next president of the United States, and I can't figure him out.

George Bush swept through the South like the proverbial Gen. Sherman in this week's "Super Tuesday" regional primaries. One-time challenger Robert Dole and Iowa surprise Pat Robertson were left sucking his dust bunnies as he moved relentlessly within spitting distance of the magic number. With almost 500 total delegates, the vice president now has almost two-thirds of the votes he needs to start shopping for a running mate.

And still I can't figure him out. I'm not really sure what he thinks about most things. The only things I know for sure are that he thinks he'll be better than Dole (and so, apparently, do many Southern Republicans), he thinks he can do as well as Reagan, and he thinks no one can do better than he.

I disagree on all three points.

Poll after poll continues to show Dole to be the most likely candidate to be elected in either field. The same polls show that either Richard Gephardt or Michael Dukakis could beat Bush. I have never been a big fan of these glorified surveys, but surely the time when they carry the most weight is when people are asked for whom they would vote. And most people would vote for Dole over any Democratic candidate. Bush is definitely vulnerable here.

Besides this, I have written before and maintain that Dole has more of what it takes to be president than Bush does. He has the hard-nosed, "I'm tougher than you are," gut-wrenching defiance that has always guided presidents to success in the postwar era. Depending on how you view him, Jimmy Carter proved that nice guys and wimps cannot be successful presidents. Dole is neither; Bush fails on at least one count. It is interesting that Dole has been hurt by his tough-guy image. We like it when

Clint Eastwood is in the White House, but we are afraid to admit it, even in the privacy of a voting booth.

Which brings me to my second disagreement with Bush. He will not be able to continue the Reagan agenda. Reagan's secret has not been his programs but his methodology. His incessant charm and "Aw, shucks" veneer, barely disguising a



James
Sennett

grueling, incessant and obnoxious persistence, has become the hallmark of his strong presidency. Bush enters as the spoiled heir, knowing all of the surface and none of the substance. Sure, he can echo the views, but he will never be able to slam the results home. I would be genuinely surprised if the Bush presidency lasted two terms.

All of this contributes to my third disagreement. I happen to think several candidates would do better than Bush. Surely he would give us better leadership than, for example, Jack Kemp, but I am not losing sleep worrying about Kemp becoming president. However, practically any candidate with an authentic platform and the guts to carry it out stands a better chance of a successful presidency than Bush.

Bush has spent the last 12 years of his career in a very low-profile, QT-type jobs, and he seems well-suited for those. As director of the CIA, he eschewed publicity and revelled in his covert activities. As vice president, he has attended funerals, entertained dignitaries and spent a lot of time being upstaged by secretaries of state. It is the kind of job that suits him. In fact, I would like to start a movement to make the man vice

president for life — with a proviso, of course, that the presidential succession would skip him and move directly to the speaker of the House.

But tons of Southern Republicans disagree with me. Many people in New Hampshire, Maine and points bucolic disagree with me. Dole will gurgle and sputter through a decent showing in Illinois next week, and then we will settle down to figure out which Democrat will try to unseat the Reagan aura transfer. I am quite certain I do not want Bush in the White House, but I have no idea which Democrat I would favor. The closer he gets, the more I start checking out literature from the fringe parties.

When the Democratic Party regained control of the Senate in 1986, House Speaker Tip O'Neill announced that the Reagan era was over. At that time, I issued a challenge to the man to meet me in 1988 and see about that. He never acknowledged the challenge. I obviously had him petrified. National Public Radio exit polls showed that 80 percent of Republicans voting on Super Tuesday are satisfied with the way things are and want them to continue — hence the Bush landslide.

If the Republican Party succeeds in transferring the Reagan glow to Bush, the polls once again will be proved fallacious, and Bush will slaughter anyone the Democrats throw at him. Far from being weakened by years of washing, the Reagan Teflon is strong enough to leap to another Republican. Unless Bush hops in bed with a prostitute in the future, the next president of the United States will be a career politician who looks like Cliff Barnes, sounds like Jack Benny and can't decide whether he is from Texas or New England. I've heard there are lots of employment opportunities in Australia.

Sennett is a graduate student in philosophy and campus minister with College-Career Christian Fellowship.

Letters

Whites still dominate society

In response to the 20th anniversary of the Kerner Report, James Sennett has written (Daily Nebraskan, March 3) that much has improved in race relations since then.

In 1968, the year of the Kerner Report, black unemployment was more than double that of whites; today the ratio remains more than 2 to 1. In 1968, black's median income was 58 percent of the median income for whites. Today the ratio remains at 58 percent.

Need more? Black infant mortality rates still remain strikingly higher than whites, and the difference has increased since 1968; housing in our cities, including Lincoln and Omaha, remains largely segregated; and the number of racial incidents has taken a sharp rise upward in recent years. In 1987, the number of racially related incidents in Chicago increased for the fourth year in a row.

Want to look closer to home? A federal jury on March 3 awarded \$35,000 damages to a black policeman after hearing about a

pervasive atmosphere of racial hostility in the Lincoln Police Department.

Has the gap between black and white narrowed in the past 20 years? The depressing news is no. For the most part the gap remains the same as it was in 1968. Worse, since 1980 and the coming to power of the Reagan Administration, some of those gaps that had been narrowing have started to widen.

The danger of Sennett's article is it provides such an easy temptation to do nothing. Listen to your fellow students. Do you feel any sense of urgency about correcting the imbalances in our society, or is it the usual talk of sports, parties and the food in the cafeteria. Despite his good intentions, Sennett is contributing to the "So what?" attitude that pervades this campus and this nation.

Peter T. Hoffman
law professor
Coordinator of Clinical Legal
Education

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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. Letter should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

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