

Daily
Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Mike Reilly, Editor, 472-1766
Diana Johnson, Editorial Page Editor
Jen Deselms, Managing Editor
Curt Wagner, Associate News Editor
Chris Anderson, Associate News Editor
Joel Carlson, Columnist

Racial harassment

Employees should be able to prosecute

The Supreme Court is possibly in danger of violating the trust of minority groups.

The court said Monday that it will consider overturning a key civil rights precedent allowing people to sue private citizens accused of racial discrimination, according to The Associated Press. It said it will use a North Carolina case involving a charge of on-the-job racial harassment to consider throwing out the 12-year-old decision.

The decision stems from an appeal by Brenda Patterson, a black woman who wants to use a post-Civil War law to force her employer, McLean Credit Union, to pay actual and punitive damages for alleged harassment. The 4th U.S. District Court of Appeals, in 1986, upheld a ruling by a federal judge in Winston-Salem, N.C., that threw out her suit.

The appeals court said Patterson could not use the Civil War-era law to charge racial harassment. The appeals court said the law is designed only to ban racial discrimination in hiring, firing and promotion.

The law was also enacted in the aftermath of the Civil War to ensure that recently freed slaves would enjoy all the rights of

citizenship. It seems that Patterson's idea is a bit outdated. It's confusing that the law would still be available for consideration by any suing citizen.

So Patterson will be allowed to charge her case under a 1964 civil rights law. It provides that those who win their cases in court only may collect back pay, not potentially heavy damages awarded as compensation for emotional and mental suffering. Civil rights groups say the more limited 1964 law may not be a sufficient deterrent to harassment.

Patterson, who worked as a teller and file coordinator at McLean Credit Union for 10 years until she was laid off in 1982, charges that her boss repeatedly harassed her because she is black.

The point is, if Patterson's cries hold out to be true, she should be able to prosecute her employer for whatever damage he caused her, be it emotional, occupational, mental or physical. Discrimination and harassment in any case justly deserves punishment. It is the responsibility of the highest court of justice to uphold the rights of citizens of the United States and especially those of minorities.

Letters

Students should challenge 'book mongers'

So the managers of the bookstore monopolies don't think the book exchange proposed by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska will work (Daily Nebraskan, April 26). I am sick and tired of students being ripped off by the bookstores.

If all students would take advantage of the book exchange, they would benefit financially while gaining the satisfaction that they may be forcing the book monopolies to re-examine their despicable treatment of students. The only use for the book mongers would be for new issues of books.

UNL boxing coach commends Sigma Chi

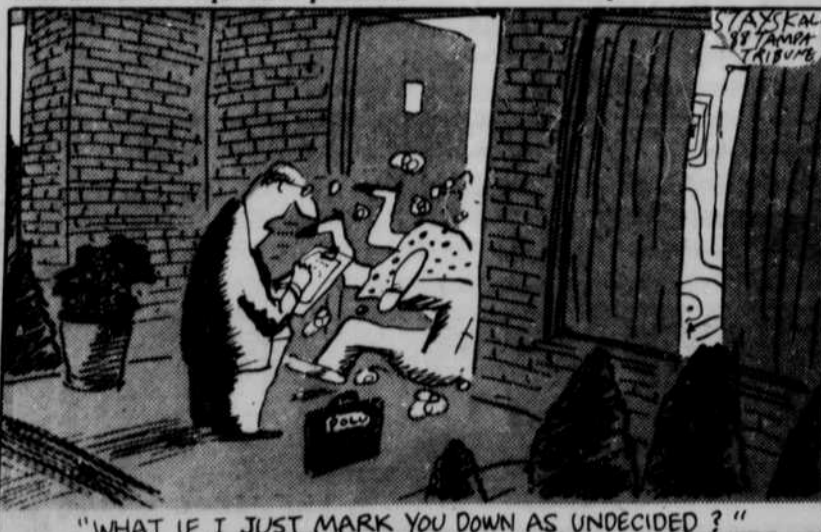
I would like to recognize the Sigma Chi fraternity — Jeff Johnson, Pat Pensick and Mike Montanez in particular — for an outstanding job of organizing and running the 1988 Greek Fight Night. As former coach of the Texas A&M University Boxing Club and now a coach with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Boxing Club, I am quite familiar with all the time and effort required to present a

How healthy is it for the consumer when a business doesn't even worry about any form of competition? I think the overconfident attitude shown by the money-hungry book mongers in the recent article successfully answers the question. It is high time that students take a stand against these despicable book hoarders. The worst aspect of this situation is that one of the book palaces is owned and operated by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. What a crock!

Charles W. Vasey
senior
finance

boxing event. I also would like to commend them for using this event to raise money for such a worthy cause as the Wallace Village for Children. Finally, I also commend all the boxers who participated for their tremendous effort.

Cliff Walton
UNL Boxing Club
faculty adviser and coach



Imbecile awards announced

Reagan, Democrats, among 'One Born Every Minute' honorees

Well, they tell me seven is the perfect number. If that's true, then you are in for a treat in this column, because I am proud to present the seventh semi-annual "There's One Born Every Minute" Awards.

Since the spring semester of 1985, politicians, school officials, average citizens and newsmakers around the globe have waited anxiously for the revealing of each semester's winners. Now, once again, their anticipation is about to be rewarded.

These awards are among the most prestigious in the news media. Only a handful are offered each time, and they are reserved for the cream of the crop — those who have gone out of their way to make our lives unbearably trivial, pedantic and otherwise inconceivably insidious. These are the people who have made us wonder if there is any meaning to the phrase "civilized country"; who have chosen as their goal in life the eradication of common sense and common decency; who have sworn not to rest until intelligent dialogue is toppled and stultification reigns supreme.

The envelope, please.
The "Piece of the Action at Any Price" Award for heroic hindrance of effective negotiation goes to President Reagan, who decided that it was time to send the National Guard to Honduras just as the possibility of peace talks for Central America was looking the best it ever had. There are those who will say that this action was the catalyst that finally drove the Sandinistas to the bargaining table, but something has always bothered me about peace at gunpoint. I think they used to call that "surrender."

At any rate, from the halls of Managua to the shores of Tehran, Reagan has once again demonstrated his paranoid fear that, if we are not extremely cautious, peace could break out at any moment.

The "It's Easy to be Color Blind When Your Eyes are Tightly Closed" Award goes to the National Democratic Party for its under-the-

table "Anybody but Jackson" campaign. It's good to know that the opportunities for blacks are completely unlimited among Democrats — as long as they know and keep their place. Jackson has done what no black has ever dared to do before — taken these bureaucrat fat cats in bleeding-heart clothing at their word. He has made an impact and threatens to expose many of the dreams of minority equality as simply nightmares they thought would never come true.

concerning prejudice on campus. Wilhite presented a study in irony that should have sent Al Franken and Andy Rooney to their respective phones to offer him jobs. Yet there are apparently many people on this campus who are just aching to hear a word that sounds anything like bigotry. So many made total fools of themselves by writing to condemn Wilhite for his alleged obscenely blatant supremacist attitude. He finally had to respond with a "Read My Lips — It's a Joke, People" letter in order to stem the tide. Real smooth, people.

We will never tear down the walls that separate us as long as there are those who love to be hated so much that they refuse to recognize parody press at its best. Keep up the good work, Scott.

Television Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart rounds out this semester's lucky few as he brings home the "Once Is Not Enough" Award for evangelical copycatting of the Jim and Tammy variety. No one cried louder than the Parson Pianist when the Bakker bangles were announced last year. Now we find that Swaggart has been copping a few snuggle bunnies of his own. The really juicy news is that self-proclaimed media-minister watchdog Jerry Falwell recently announced that the sins of yet a third well-known preacher would soon go public. I can hardly wait. Who needs the National Enquirer when you've got Sunday morning television?

Well, there they are. I know that some of your favorites were left out — some of mine were, too. But decisions of the judges are final, and there are always those for whom the word must be "Try harder next time." This is not an easy slate to make. With the total imbecility that we have come to deem important, there will never be any lack of fuel for these purifying fires. See you in the fall.

Sennett is a graduate student in philosophy and a Campus Minister with College-Career Christian Fellowship.



James
Sennett

I began supporting Jesse because I liked the vision he embodied. I support him now because he has become a line of demarcation for just who are really serious about equal opportunity, and who are simply appeasing the masses to get ahead.

Nebraska State Sen. Roger Wehrbein receives the coveted "Now I Are One" Award for his totally incomprehensible letter to the Daily Nebraskan, published April 14. Wehrbein wrote in protest of the DN's April 1 spoof issue, the Daily Half-Asskin. However, with sentences such as "Although it may not be 'news' to pre-college students, it is certainly not raising up any ideal and values of a college education," it was really hard to tell just what he was trying to say. I agree with Wehrbein that the April 1 issue hit new highs in low humor, that it was crude, lewd and probably tattooed. However, I did notice that the sentences were all in English.

Speaking of letters to the DN, the "Don't Make Me Laugh" Award for misplaced senses of humor goes to the myriads of students and faculty who wrote in response to Scott Wilhite's stunningly satirical letter

Letter Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

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.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.