

Daily **Nebraskan**
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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UNL, ASUN take note

KSU sets pace in fighting discrimination
By the end of the year, Kansas State University can become one of the first universities in the nation to have an official policy condemning discrimination on college campuses.

And the University of Nebraska-Lincoln needs to follow suit.

The Kansas State Collegian reported Sept. 8 that working drafts of the policy are being considered by members of the Faculty Senate, Classified Affairs Committee and Student Senate.

According to the Collegian, Kansas State Provost James Coffman said the document is an anti-racial harassment policy.

"The intent (of formulating the policy) is to raise everybody's level of consciousness," Coffman said. "We just felt like it was a step that had to be taken at this time."

It's a step that the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska should take, too.

With upcoming legislation concerning minority faculty recruitment and retention, ASUN should take heed of the Kansas State action and deliver the same type of document to UNL administrators.

Coffman said the policy has two purposes: "to increase the number of ethnic minorities and to contribute to a community atmosphere more attractive to minorities; and to decrease attitudes of discrimination against minorities."

Kansas State professor Charles Rankin, chairman of the committee that formulated the policy, said the most important thing about the policy is that it "has teeth" and provides a course of action if violated.

And that's exactly what's missing from the ASUN bill. It skirts around the issue, refusing to clearly define the discrimination problem and arriving at an intelligent solution.

But Rankin said Kansas State's policy helps the university in "coming to grips with things that have been ignored and overlooked in the past. The most crucial thing about this is keeping it out in front."

The Daily Nebraskan agrees. It is important to recognize the problem before you can work to solve it. That's something ASUN and UNL administrators must understand.

Alcoholics can't seek help until they have admitted their problems to themselves.

The next round's not on us.

— Curt Wagner
for the Daily Nebraskan

Dyrda's response blasted

Annette Dyrda's response (Daily Nebraskan, Sept. 1) to Jim Anderson's letter (DN, Aug. 29) about Contra aid provided a typical example of the sort of arguments used by supporters of Contra aid.

The gist of these arguments is that not only are the Sandinistas a wrong and unexcusable government, but that by being communist and supported by the Soviet Union, they pose a threat to national security by providing a starting point for communist infiltration and invasion.

There are no black and whites in world politics — the Sandinistas are no world keepers in mind that neither are the Contras, who from all reports appear to be much less noble than these "freedom fighters" we keep hearing about. Human rights violations of any kind in any severity are

unacceptable.

You can rationalize, justify, argue and support all you want, but the fact remains that Nicaragua isn't the United States, part of the United States, or under its jurisdiction. All the arguments for Contra aid fall apart and become moot when we realize that.

Not only is it arrogant of us to assume that a form of government that works here is going to work in a small, still-developing country with a vastly different culture, but it's also immoral and dangerous when we extend that train of thought so far as to believe that we have the right to correct "errors" in other countries.

Kirk Johnson
sophomore
English

editorial

Signed staff editorials represent the official policy of the fall 1988 Daily Nebraskan. Editorial is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Curt Wagner, editor; Mike Reilley, editorial page editor; Diana Johnson, managing editor; Lee Rood, associate news editor; Andy Pollock, columnist; Bob Nelson, wire page editor; and Craig Heckman, columnist.

Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper.

According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.



Allen not too far off mark

Greek life criticized as hypocritical, elitist

Many faithful Daily Nebraskan readers have cringed at the recent discovery of "The Best of Allen" being printed this semester on the editorial page.

Many readers, namely freshmen, don't even know or care who Bill Allen was.

Those are the lucky ones. Bill was a columnist, an Arts and Entertainment editor and resident madman at the DN for several years. He had a bad habit of making a lot of people very angry. Others considered Bill "very good humor."

On campus, Bill was either loved or hated for his sarcastic, often one-sided beliefs about some of the University of Nebraska's oldest institutions: greek system, Husker football and alcohol. Bill didn't have very many friends at the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska and was never invited to a little sister social event.

What many people didn't understand about Bill was that he thrived on "pissing people off." Letters to the editor, nasty phone calls and dirty looks in local bars only increased his fun. The more he angered people, the worse his columns became.

Most of the time, Bill wrote for fun. Unfortunately, the groups and individuals he poked his fun at took the topics very seriously.

I enjoyed reading what Bill wrote, I'll admit that. I didn't always agree with him, but I always got a good laugh. But what I always wanted Bill to do, along with other fans, was, for once, to come out and give logical reasons why something wasn't right instead of hinting at it.

Bill had most of his fun with fraternity and sorority members. He made fun of how they dressed, how they talked, their social functions and their ideals. He wrote about everything from them taking greek life too seri-

ously to rumors about sorority women.

But what he never pointed out, at least in the columns I read, is some of the most fundamental reasons why the greek system is pointless.

In my own defense, let me say that I am talking about the system, not the individuals in it. I have several greek friends, whom I respect very much. But I would respect them more, if they made an effort to change several aspects of the system that are clearly wrong.



Lee Rood

The idea of a fraternal organization is a nice concept. It would be nice to think that students could have homes full of friends, brotherhood charity and learning.

But today, the greek system seems to have other priorities.

The philosophy of brotherhood has given way to a sense of elitism — those up and coming young people who are special enough to be "the chosen ones."

Its clear to those outside the system that everyone is not welcome in greek houses.

The process of rush is a prime example. Girls dress up in their finest clothes, do their hair "just right," and hope to say the right things in order to fit in. Men are told by fraternity actives that their house has the prettiest women come to their parties, test files to help them breeze through class and a cool reputation.

But you won't see too many minorities in these houses. Blacks have

had to develop their own houses in order to belong to the greek system. I haven't met any Asian or Native American greeks, so to speak. And the greek houses are not accessible to people in wheelchairs.

During rush, some brothers and sisters stress the importance of house philanthropic activities. But those activities are once or twice a year and looked upon by many people as another reason to get drunk.

Greeks have parties like the rest of us on campus. You can't complain that they get drunk a lot. But the parties are always behind closed doors — shutting out others. Greeks will have parties with other greeks before they'd even think about "dormies." A football player at a party? Forget it. A pretty girl with a nice —? You bet.

Those stupid things are what Bill liked to dwell on. And that's what made greeks so mad. That's what made others so damned happy.

I don't intend to be a greek-basher. ASUN-stammer or administration-hater this year. Bill did that well-enough on his own. But I might cover some of the same ground every once in while, if I think students still need to open their eyes.

Hopefully, the DN won't have to print too many Allen reruns this year. Receiving 20 letters once a column is enough. Receiving the same amount the second time around makes you laugh.

I won't be mentioning Allen's name anymore in my columns either. Seeing it, may drive the few readers I have away. Instead, with this column I hope to help put his memory to rest. He definitely had a way with words, but I needn't replace mine with his.

Rood is a senior news-editorial major and a DN associate news editor.

Editor's note: This strip will appear three times a week on the editorial page.

Campus Notes



by Brian Shellito