

opinion
READER

Readers tired of greeks, Kerrey, smokers

UNL day care support too late, reader says

It's reassuring to know that University of Nebraska Lincoln administrators think day care is important for students and staff and support an on-campus location (DN, Sept. 2). Unfortunately, their reassurance is a bit late. About two years ago, they booted the University Child Care Project out of the Commonwealth building and couldn't seem to find a location for it anywhere else on campus. As a result, it had to locate in a church out in the Belmont neighborhood.

John Gruhl
associate professor
political science

Greeks rush wealth and white, reader says

I would like to respond to letters written by Luke Schollmeyer (DN, Sept. 5) and Brenda Butts (DN, Sept. 9).

Schollmeyer stated that the reason more blacks weren't in fraternities was because the majority of black men on campus are athletes, and therefore, do not have time for fraternities. An editor's note stressed that the majority of black men on campus are not athletes. Schollmeyer assumed that because a male student is black, he is an athlete. That is prejudice. That is racism. And that is exactly one of my grievances against the greek system.

Schollmeyer then wrote that some people simply can't afford to join a fraternity. That is another fault with the greek system that I tried to expose in my previous letter. The system discriminates according to monetary status. It doesn't matter how intelligent, talented or gifted a person is, if he/she can't pay, he/she can't join.

Butts also contradicts herself. She stated that I was being sarcastic (I was) and then took seriously my comment that women attend UNL only to find a husband. With one exception, every woman I have met at UNL is by far more concerned about getting an education than getting a man. And I have as much respect for these women as I do for the men who I have met.

Butts continued by listing some of the advantages of joining a fraternity. The list included business contacts, a home away from home, friends, steady partners and learned leadership abilities.

I can make business contacts outside a fraternity. The business community is not all fraternity alumni. I don't need a home away from home. I have plenty of friends (many of whom, believe it or not, are fraternity brothers, sorority sisters and little sisters). And as for steady partners and leadership abilities, I don't need anyone to push me academically and my record speaks for my leadership abilities. I, too, am a four-year Regents Scholar. Furthermore, I am a recipient of the Walter Scott Jr. Scholarship, the most prestigious engineering scholarship offered by the College of Engineering and Technology at UNL or UNO. In addition, I have a perfect 4.0 grade-point average, that is more than a full letter grade above the all-fraternity grade-point average.

And just for curiosity's sake, the one woman who was more interested in men than an education, found a husband. He is not a fraternity brother.

Lonnie Buresh
sophomore
electric engineering major

Reader calls Kerrey bad luck, empty-headed

The Karnes-Kerrey debate came off with Kerrey not answering the questions as usual.

Kerrey used such phrases as "creating a path of renewal." Ask Com-

monwealth, State Security and American Savings depositors what kind of "path" Kerrey created for us? It was a "path" to poverty, not "renewal."

Kerrey said the 1980s were a tragedy for farmers. What does he think about depositors?

Kerrey closed Commonwealth, said there was no state liability. None of the things Kerrey did or said gave us back our money. He is totally incapable of working with others for the good of the citizenry.

If you want to be led down the "poverty" path, go ahead and vote for Kerrey. I have had enough of his "empty-headed" prose.

Frank Bartunek
Lincoln

Reader says smokers deny rights of others

In regard to Tony Bunting's letter about non-smokers who complain (DN, Sept. 9): It's nice to read an insulting (and inaccurate) letter every now and then, isn't it? I'm sure glad he told me that I think only about trivialities, that I have absolutely no important thoughts, that I drive a noisy, stinky car and that I don't care about the environment.

I guess my life is just worthless. Maybe all non-smokers who complain should be exterminated, like

termites. Would you like that, Bunting?

No, the issue of smoking is not trivial. It is no more trivial than the issues of seat belt laws, helmet laws or even the censorship of "The Last Temptation of Christ."

The issue of smoking comes down to a very basic but important question: Does one group of people have the right to deny another group of people their pursuit of happiness in whatever form it may be? Does this line sound familiar? "... That they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

That phrase has always been interpreted to mean that you can do whatever you want, as long as you don't hurt someone else or deny them their basic rights.

Let's set the record straight while we're at it. By not smoking you don't increase your life span: rather, you decrease your life span by smoking. I know that it's quality and not quantity that matters, but isn't it better to live a fulfilling 80 years than to live a fulfilling 60 years? I think so.

Oh, by the way, I care deeply about the environment (a lot of us "whining" non-smokers do), our natural resources and the pollution of our atmosphere by factories. I drive a quiet, clean, fuel efficient car—not a smelly gas-guzzler. One of my main interests is international relations, so

I read a lot of the top journals in that field. Are you still going to tell me that I think only about trivial things? U.S.-U.S.S.R. relations are very trivial, aren't they?

Larry Stetz
Sophomore
Agriculture Honors

Reader: Sandinistas are lesser of two evils

In response to the letter written by Annette Dryda (DN, Sept. 1), I would like to address the following questions to her.

First, has it ever occurred to you that while the "Marxist-Leninist" government of Nicaragua is a communist one, it is working and is a legitimate form of government that the United States, Ronald Reagan and his cavalry have no right to undermine?

Second, did you know that communism has been a lot closer to the United States than Nicaragua for a much longer time? Has anyone heard of Cuba?

Third, did you know that since the Somoza regime was overthrown by the Sandinista regime, the literacy rate among Nicaraguans has skyrocketed?

Fourth, do you realize that the Contras are nothing more than the

remnants of the terrible Somoza regime that had cast Nicaragua into hell?

Fifth, did you know that it's OK with Reagan and the rest of his gang in Central America. Pick up a newspaper, Time, Life or any other news publication. Or watch television. Last February, a movie was shown titled "Weekend War." It was about a group of reservists who went down to Honduras, I believe, to reconstruct a road or two. But then they were called away from that task to repair a bridge that had been blown up. Drug traffickers and soldiers wanted this bridge—it was the only access to the country for fifty miles in either direction. Some of these "soldiers," weekend soldiers, were blown away by grenades, other bombs and machine gun fire. This was only a movie but doesn't it give you pause to wonder... WHAT IF? ...

Liz Rogan
senior
history

UNL FORMS NOW AVAILABLE FOR DIRECTORY EXCLUSION

Forms are now available for University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who wish to exclude individual student information from the 1988 Student Directory. The name-exclusion forms may be completed in the Office of University Information, 208 Administration Building. Forms must be completed in person before Sept. 21, 1988. Proof of registration or identity is required for completion.



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