

Daily **Nebraskan**
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Problems unsolved

Women's center needs to find its place

An open forum Monday night to establish the role of the Women's Resource Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln brought few results.

An eight-member review team, chosen by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen, listened to several hours of testimony from students, faculty and staff, alumni and community members.

But nothing was settled — and it needs to be. Soon.

One of the complaints raised by debaters was that few people on campus know that the Women's Resource Center exists.

This wasn't always the case.

Four or five years ago, the Women's Resource Center was a prominent group on campus. Not positive, just prominent. Many women involved in the group tore up Playboy magazines in the name of feminism.

But that wasn't a very nice thing to do, and it stigmatized the center as a lesbian hangout.

Nanci Hamilton, a UNL student and WRC volunteer, said Monday that the center should promote itself to a larger degree "to let people know that feminism is for everyone, not just for radical lesbians."

Hamilton is right. Men can be feminists too, and the Women's Resource Center plays a valuable role on campus by promoting the accomplishments of women.

Students should be allowed to play an active role in deciding how to promote the center.

Bridget Franks, a former WRC volunteer, said at the forum that when students raised concerns, they often were ignored.

But the Women's Resource Center is designed to educate the UNL community, so input from that community should be important in establishing the role of the center.

Peg Johnson, director of special projects in Griesen's office, said the current WRC coordinator, Katherine Araujo, was asked not to attend the debate, so that discussion would be uninhibited.

A Daily Nebraskan reporter also was asked to leave the debates. The reporter left, but later returned.

Johnson should check Nebraska's open meeting policy. An open forum is supposed to be open to the public and the press.

That's what promotes discussion.

After all, if no one knows about the problems, how can they offer suggestions to solve them?

— Amy Edwards
for the Daily Nebraskan

BULL SHORTS

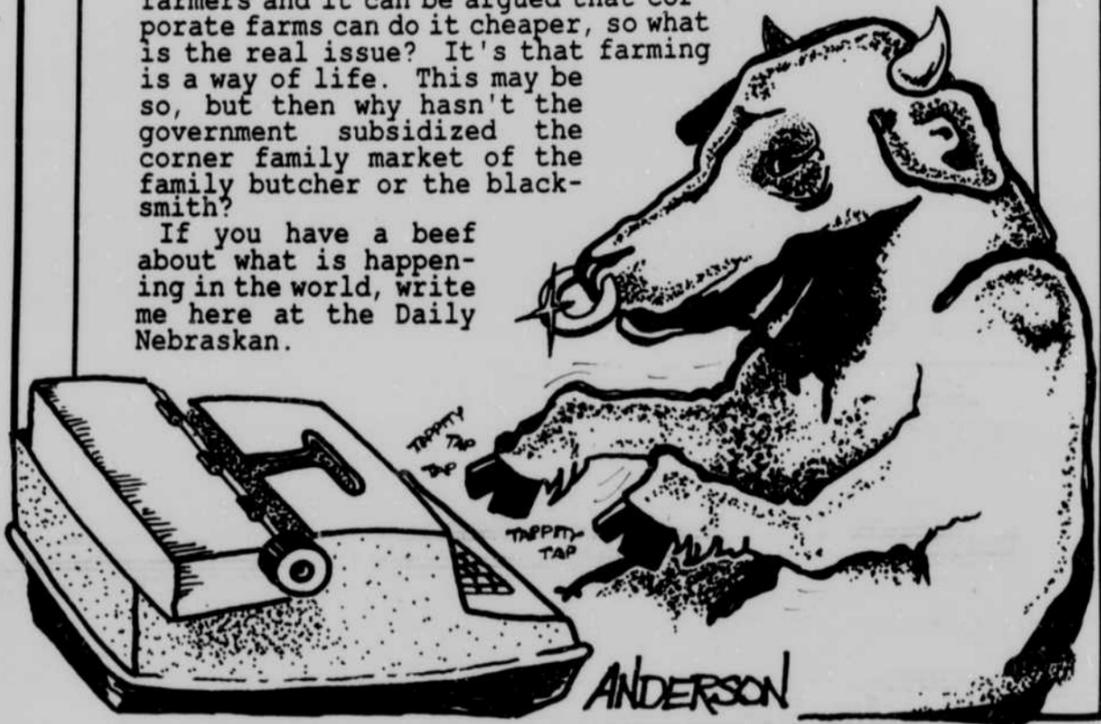
This is the first of what I hope to be a series of features where I speak my beef.

"Let those who ride decide." That was a sticker I saw on a motorcycle helmet. I could care less if you idiots who ride cycles without helmets want to commit suicide. I, however, don't want to be financially and emotionally bankrupt because I made a terrible mistake and hit you with my car and you were killed because you were not wearing a helmet as opposed to wearing a helmet and just getting banged up pretty bad. I have seen my share of cycle accidents and you will get banged up.

Why are there not bike paths for the bicycle rides on campus? All too often between classes when the sidewalks are busy, that admitted minority of bicycle riders create havoc with pedestrians.

I know Sen. David Karnes' statement that we have too many farmers was a slip of the tongue, yet he may have a point. The government must subsidize many of the farmers and it can be argued that corporate farms can do it cheaper, so what is the real issue? It's that farming is a way of life. This may be so, but then why hasn't the government subsidized the corner family market of the family butcher or the blacksmith?

If you have a beef about what is happening in the world, write me here at the Daily Nebraskan.



Stereotypes still exist at UNL

Racism in Nebraska loses nasty sting, while the pain lingers

There has been a lot of talk recently about racism and discrimination on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. We tell ourselves racism does not exist here, not today anyway. After all, Martin Luther King Jr. wiped it away with his civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Racism does exist, discrimination shades our vision, and King's dream remains unfulfilled.

A page from the Aug. 26 USA Today, devoted to a discussion of King's dream, hangs on a bulletin board in the south part of the Nebraska Union. It quotes Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women.

"Dr. King's dream is far from realized, but I think the inspiration that it has instilled has awakened a new determination for full participation in the hearts of his people and all people," Height said.

Granted, racism has lost its nasty sting, for the most part in Nebraska, but pain lingers.

So what constitutes racism in contemporary Nebraska and at UNL?

Jimmi Smith, director of Multi-Cultural Affairs at UNL, helped clear my understanding of the term.

"Racism today," Smith said, "occurs not so much out of spite, but rather out of neglect."

The problem arises not from our hearts so much as from our heads, which are driven by societal pressures.

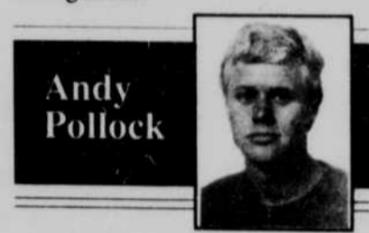
"Our society," Smith said, "has taught people that we have to be rewarded for everything we do."

Most UNL employees and stu-

dents are not concerned with how minority students are developing and prospering from their college experience, Smith said. The homogeneous environment at UNL does not tolerate people coming into contact with people who are different.

Smith said there are no rewards to encourage majority (white) people to make contacts with minorities. Instead, a "What do I get out of it?" attitude stifles the interaction.

What kinds of rewards is Smith talking about?



Andy Pollock

Primarily economic, monetary incentives, he said.

It is sickening, in my view, to think that money is the force that drives us so powerfully and singularly. I've often asked myself whether money has become our god. Smith's comments reinforce my idea that it indeed has.

Stevie Wilson, former chairperson of the Black Special Events Committee of the University Program Council, has been active in the African People's Union and is currently on the ASUN appointments board. He agreed with Smith in saying that while racism does not exist so overtly as it did 20 years ago, it is by no means absent from society.

Wilson, a broadcasting senior, said majority students often stereotype minority students. For instance, in a recent letter to the editor of the Daily Nebraskan, a student wrote that most black students are athletes — a fallacy.

"You have to win people over," Wilson said, "to overcome the stereotype."

Miguel Carranza, the director of the Institute for Ethnic Studies and an associate professor of sociology and ethnic studies, said that in order to help eliminate such stereotypes, people — both the majority and minorities — must share views.

Carranza said he's pleased with steps vice chancellors James Griesen and Robert Furgason are taking to address minority issues. He added that a coordinated and well thought-out plan with specific goals and objectives needs to be implemented across the university.

Carranza said the entire university must work to increase the presence of minorities on campus by recruiting students, faculty and staff.

"The first step to break down attitudes," he said, "is to change the environment. Interaction is the best way to tear down barriers."

Like Height, whom I quoted above from the USA Today, Carranza, Wilson and Smith believe that "full participation in the hearts of his people and all people" is necessary to eradicate what remains of racism.

Enlightened.

It is the best word to describe the

opinion

READER

Reader doubts Kerrey's support of farmers

It surprises me to hear some farm leaders and farmers praising former Gov. Bob Kerrey for his policies expounded during his U.S. senatorial debate with Dave Karnes last week at the Nebraska State Fair.

Kerrey's support for Initiative 300 was tenuous and weak. Kerrey appointed Attorney General Robert Spire, the arch enemy of Initiative 300. He has used the laws in every conceivable way to allow big business to win over the farmer.

If you farmers really think Kerrey is going to take care of you if he is elected to the U.S. Senate, just look at who elected him governor. It was big business in the state. These are the very people who are undermining Initiative 300.

One farmer told me that 45 percent

of his farm income came from government subsidy. When this happens, you can better believe that it took about the same percentage for administrative cost for the federal government to oversee giving these subsidies. We need less government in farming.

I for one want to see the farmer make his fair share, but I don't care to pay my tax dollars for administrative costs to the federal government. This is a no-win proposition for farmers and non-farmers because it increases tax liability for all.

Again, I remind farmers that Kerrey appointed Spire, who is using every means possible to sabotage Initiative 300 which I too, voted for.

Robert Schiebinger
Lincoln

editorial

POLICY

Signed staff editorials represent the official policy of the fall 1988 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board.

Editorials do not necessarily re-

fect the views of the university, its regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.

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