

Daily **Nebraskan**  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Wake up majority

Whites must change to realize DREAM

Although the goal of fair and equal representation for all minorities may never be fully realized, there is one organization at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln that is trying to bring that reality closer to everyone on campus.

**DREAM** — Developing Realistic Educational Activities for Minorities — is a student organization that hopes to unite student minority groups with other students on campus. The organization's goal is to create an awareness among all students, faculty and staff of the unique problems that face minority groups on campus.

But it will take more than the voice of minority groups to bring about change. It will take a willingness by the majority to join in and correct the lack of fair representation.

It is past the time for UNL's status quo, Anglo-Saxon white majority to wake up and realize that they are not the only students who need attention at this university. Several minority groups are represented at UNL and each has its own set of problems and hurdles to face.

The movement for minority awareness is happening on a national level, and DREAM could help UNL to become a leader of that movement. If everyone takes part in the goals of the organization, we will be that much closer to achieving equality for everyone. UNL, sunk in the heart of the conservative Midwest, would be an example of what can happen if all people work together.

But before this can come about, we must take a long look at ourselves to understand what it's like being a minority student on a predominantly white campus. The ideas that DREAM represents and the people that helped bring DREAM to realization should be applauded for their efforts.

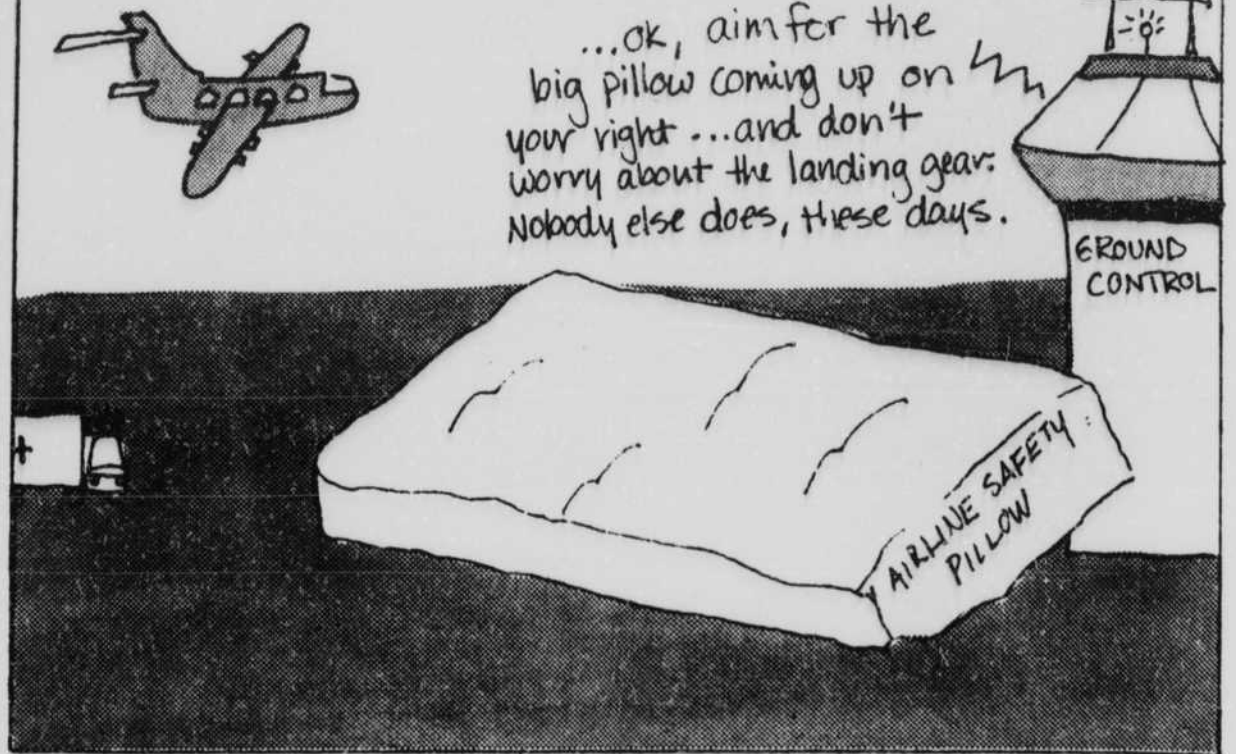
The task ahead of them will not be an easy one. UNL's history of apathy and injustice creates an even greater challenge.

Whether or not the group can have a great impact on the problems facing minorities and can be successful in uniting students for the group's cause is yet to be seen.

But at least it's a giant step in the right direction.

— Darryl Mattox  
for the Daily Nebraskan

The way things are going, it seems as though the Airlines need more effective landing Procedures



Stephanie Cannon/Daily Nebraskan

## Columnist Heckman gets haircut

Says in the real world looks count, not who or what you know

Preconceived notions established by society suck. Nothing further needs to be said. I've always known this, but only recently did it hit home.

You see this picture of me here (not wonderful I admit). Well, I don't look like this any more. I'm currently applying for a respectable job and it was pointed out to me that this hairdo or whatever you call it was completely unacceptable for the real world.

Yeah, I thought, it probably is. But that's not my problem, is it?

Yes it is, I was told. As I now see it society, or at least some of those with say in society, don't see the world in the same light as I and many others do. I guess that in the real world people are judged by their looks, not by what they can do.

I thought about this for a while and realized that Nebraska isn't even the real world. I see pictures of some pretty interesting looking folks with good jobs on either coast. Key words here are on the coast. Good ol' land locked Nebraska just doesn't cut it.

After figuring the whole looks deal out I wrestled with the concept. Do I cut my hair and get the job (hopefully) or do I rebel and remain unemployed. Not much choice, huh? Being a rebel could be fun but it doesn't pay real well. Being employed could be a real drag but I assume it will pay better.

The deeper question here is one of preconceived notions. I'm the same

person no matter how I look so why is it such a big deal? Maybe this is where many of today's problems stem from; not being able to accept those different from ourselves.



Craig Heckman

This doesn't mean everyone, but many people are guilty of this in one form or another. Think how easy it is to see someone and think "greek," or "homosexual," or "engineer," or "weirdo," or... well you get the point. Each time we do this we help continue this concept. It doesn't matter that this first impression may be completely wrong. You will do it again and again.

So why is this? Sometimes I simply cannot figure society out. We are taught to be creative and to express ourselves but we are also taught the conflicting lesson to not deviate too far from the norm. When we do stray too far from this "norm" we are told, or it is hinted, that we must find our way back.

Fortunately college is a great place to experiment with finding our own norm. Unfortunately the real world is not a real good place to show it. What we find in college can easily be found unacceptable to the real world. Then

we are faced with changing back to the accepted.

What really irks me about this whole deal is that the person never changes. We remain the same no matter what we look like. Nobody in college I've talked to thinks twice about looking a bit different but others find this a problem, not everyone but enough to make a difference.

So what do we do? Some people move. Go to California, or New York or any number of other places. They fit right in at these new places. Others decide not to change and challenge these closed minded people to accept them the way they are. These people get my respect. They may not have much luck but at least they tried. Others give in to this social pressure and change their looks. They may have better luck like this.

It's a shame they had to change though. Then some of us change a little, get a hair cut for example. We are still the same, maybe a bit weird but no worse than anyone else out there.

What have I accomplished by all of this? Nothing. I look a bit different, but I haven't changed. I have made it easier to get a respectable job. Crazy world isn't it?

It doesn't matter what or who you know, it's how you look that makes the difference.

Heckman is a senior international affairs major and a Daily Nebraskan editorial columnist.

## opinion

READER

### Student defends 'racist' letter

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to Lonnie Buresh's letter (Daily Nebraskan, Sept. 13).

First of all, it would help if Buresh could read verbatim and not try to make up what I really mean. The statement in question came from a previous letter of mine and read: "A wide number of black students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are involved in athletics." I believe that my statement does carry a degree of ambiguity. Maybe "an accountable percentage" in place of "a wide number" would clarify matters. I in no way meant to say that most of the university's black students were athletes.

The most serious of Buresh's accusations are of my being prejudice and a racist. For the record, in my home state of Minnesota I was part of a school segregation program where I attended a school consisting of an eighty to twenty percent ratio of black students to white. Many, if not a majority, of my friends in Minnesota are black. Also, last semester I volunteered — along with some of my fraternity brothers — to tutor children — minority children with the Lincoln Action Program. Sounds like I've had my share of white robes and cross burnings in my past.

friends at the university — one of which is in a fraternity. As far as racism in the greek system, why doesn't Buresh stop over and talk to members of the Chi Phi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, or Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternities about their racist policies? They all have black member(s).

I myself was once in the engineering college. I saw very few blacks in my classes or around the Walter Scott Engineering Center. Since Buresh seems to be so inclined to accuse people of racism, why doesn't he accuse the engineering department? Maybe because it isn't a valid accusation? I think the same conclusion can be with fraternities.

It all seems too unusual that a bunch of preppy, rich, white, racist, Republican, Protestant snobs like ourselves could ever find the time to organize blood drives and fund raisers for organizations such as the American Lung Association, the March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society, and the American Red Cross — just to name a few — but we do.

As far as intelligence and leadership qualities, why doesn't Buresh check out the number of greases on Mortar Board and Innocents Society?

Luke Schollmeyer  
sophomore  
political science

## editorial

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 to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

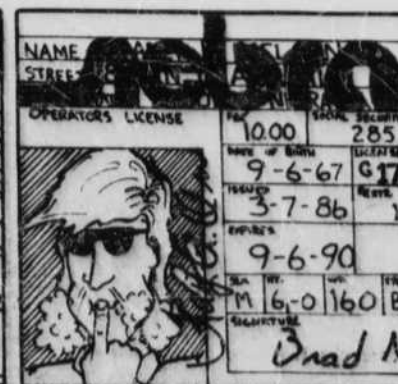
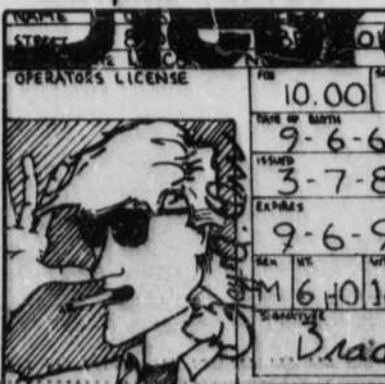
Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

Anonymous submissions will not

be considered for publication. Letters 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.

## Campus Notes



## by Brian Shellito

