

Karnes, Kerrey, vandalism policy under fire

Furgason pleased with support for minorities

I am very pleased to see that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln student body, especially the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, is supporting efforts to increase the number of racial minorities on the faculty and staff, and within the student body.

Opinion READER

It is gratifying to know that they recognize the need for an appropriate representation of all minority groups at UNL and are willing to become active in our recruitment and retention efforts. Such a positive attitude by the student body will help us create an attractive environment for all minority groups. UNL is not alone in recognizing that much needs to be done to bring a better representation of minorities in our faculty, staff and student body. At a recent meeting I attended of the chief academic officers of land-grant universities, this topic was discussed at length and is obviously a shared problem among nearly all major universities.

The UNL administration has not been sitting idly by, unconcerned about the problem. Two years ago, a \$25,000 fund was established to provide resources for ideas and programs that would aid in our recruitment and retention of minority faculty. Additionally, all departments and colleges have been requested to develop specific action plans to address the recruitment of minority faculty and teaching assistants, both ethnic minorities and women. Currently, a project is underway through the Bureau of Sociological Research to identify environmental conditions within the university and community that impede or enhance the recruitment and retention of racial minority people. Additionally, I have been meeting periodically with members of the local community and soliciting

their ideas about what can be done to further our recruitment and retention activities.

The Research and Graduate Office has been successful in obtaining funding to support minority graduate students through the Patricia Roberts Harris Fellowship Program and the University of Nebraska Foundation. The Office of Student Affairs has hired a person to assist with recruitment of minority students.

UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale recently established a Commission on the Status of Minorities which will help all of us identify crucial issues and seek methods to improve our racial mix. We are very hopeful that the University Foundation will be able to identify additional endowments and donors for the scholarship and fellowship assistance for minority students. Additionally, several of our colleges including engineering, home economics, journalism, law and teachers, have dedicated special funding for minority students. These are only some examples of the major activities that have been initiated by UNL recently.

Having the faculty and the student body supportive of our efforts is crucial to success. Your strong voice and actions are needed to help eliminate any vestiges of racism that still linger. Again, I applaud the interest and willingness of ASUN and the student body to help us develop a very positive environment at UNL for all people, regardless of race, religion or sex.

Robert R. Furgason
vice chancellor for academic affairs

Editor's Note:
This letter was submitted Sept. 15.

Dorm resident argues the vandalism policy

One dollar for a hole in the wall?
On Sunday night, a resident of my dorm floor knocked on my door, attempting to collect money to pay for

damages caused by an act of vandalism that occurred on our floor two weeks ago. The person responsible was given 24 hours after the incident occurred to admit his guilt, thereby saving the other floor resident from having to bear financial responsibility for his action. No one came forward as expected.

Two weeks ago, I saw a repairman fixing the hole in the hallway wall, which was caused by the anonymous vandal. Today, the cost of repairs is being levied upon all residents of the dorm floor, instead of the vandal.

Who was the vandal? Was he in fact a resident of the dorm floor in question? Was the vandal present with permission or was he an uninvited guest? These questions are irrelevant, because all residents of the dorm floor are responsible for damages caused by vandalism, even if the act of vandalism is beyond an individual resident's control. The cost of repairs comes out of the floor residents' own pockets.

How much does each resident have to pay in this particular case? One dollar. A single dollar may seem to be an insignificant amount of money, but how much will the repair bill be next time? Is this the last act of vandalism to occur on the given dorm floor this year? How would hall residents react to a repair bill of several hundred dollars to repair the damage from an act of vandalism?

I am adamantly opposed to the current residence hall policy, requiring hall residents to pay for damages due to vandalism occurring on their floor. I totally disagree with the notion that this policy will create informal social controls (peer pressure) to a significant degree, for the purpose of controlling acts of vandalism perpetrated by hall residents.

Concerned students should talk with or write to their residence directors today. Inform your RD that you believe it is unfair for students to pay the price for crimes over which they have no control. Tell your RD that this "share the wealth" policy is unreason-

able and should be reconsidered immediately.

Phillip A. Karle
senior
criminal justice

Don't let Bob Kerrey destroy the state

I applaud James Sennett's astute recognition of the reality of Bob Kerrey (DN, Sept. 21).

I too am concerned with the lack of long-term memories of University of Nebraska-Lincoln students. I for one can't forget what former Gov. Kerrey did to the University. Under his administration, the university's budget was subjected to four mid-year cuts. In 1985, the Daily Nebraskan called those cuts "criminal acts."

Those cuts put the university in the position it finds itself today with low faculty salaries, higher tuition and programs cut dry. How can any UNL student forget "Blue day," when parents, faculty and students wore blue to a Cornhusker football game to show support for education? What about proposals to cut the professional schools such as the pharmacy program and the College of Nursing? It's facts like those that are sometimes overshadowed by personality, vision and dreams. Nebraskans shouldn't be fooled again by Kerrey's promises because the state can't afford to let what happened to the university happen to Nebraska.

Jill Durbin
history
senior

Don't let Dave Karnes destroy the state, either

In James Sennett's column (DN, Sept. 21), he stated that he was impressed with Sen. Dave Karnes' integrity and concern for the people of Nebraska.

Is it his integrity and concern for the people that has led him to have the

highest per capita payroll in the U.S. Senate? A payroll that is so high that he has to put members of his staff on other senators' payrolls? That may be OK in the senate, but should it be done by a man with integrity?

Is it also his integrity and concern for the people that has caused him to send millions of pieces of mail to Nebraskans in the last month? Why didn't I ever receive any mail from this man of integrity until a month ago? Is it also his integrity and concern for the people that has caused him to spend more money on travel than all but three other senators?

Maybe Karnes is not the man of integrity that Sennett thinks he is.

Pat Goff
sophomore
arts and sciences

Reader writes thoughts in poem

WHO KILLED "COCK ROBIN?"

It is evident Sen. Chambers meant only to *harry*, Kerrey when he asked to be included in the debates. I feel Bob then committed *hari-kari* himself when he voluntarily withdrew from the fight before the battle was over.

This is exactly what happened with Commonwealth. When the going got rough, Bob ran away and left us. He no doubt felt, "He who fights, and runs away; will live to fight another day!"

Iris M. Christiansen
Lincoln

Letter to the Editor

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others. Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

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