

Daily Nebraskan University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Look before leaping

Study into Kearney decision suggested

The NU Board of Regents recommended Saturday that the Nebraska Legislature hold further debate on two bills to add Kearney State College to the university.

The regents think that legislators should authorize a 10-month study of restructuring higher education, and wait for the results before they make any decisions.

The Daily Nebraskan thinks so, too.

LB160, introduced by Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly, would make Kearney part of the NU system. LB760, introduced by Sen. Sandra Scofield of Chadron, would make all four state colleges regional universities.

Regent Donald Blank of McCook said he thinks that Kearney State will eventually become part of the university, but that before it does, people should know what the long-range effects of the merger might be.

Blank's prediction about Kearney becoming part of the university seems to be a consensus.

But Regents Kermit Hansen of Elkhorn and John Payne of Kearney opposed the resolution. Hansen said he thinks the resolution is telling people that the regents oppose LB160 and LB760.

"Politically, I think that's unwise," Hansen said.

Whether it's politically unwise or not, a 10-month study is still a good idea. Before everyone jumps willy-nilly into adding Kearney to the university system, they should stop and think about what effects it will have.

The regents want several issues studied, including:

- Which changes, if any, would be best for the state of Nebraska.
  - The financial impact of such changes.
  - The role of the other three state colleges.
- That's not too much to ask when the decisions involved could change Nebraska's entire university system.

-- Amy Edwards  
for the Daily Nebraskan



## Student says signs served their purpose

The signs are down but racism and prejudices still exist.

### opinion READER

On Feb. 8, various individuals posted signs around campus with the goal of stimulating awareness of the prejudices underlying our society. The signs were not posted mindlessly but were the result of thoughtful planning and input from organizations such as Early Warning!, the Afrikan People's Union and members of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

Legislation is not socialization. The fight for equal rights is not over

as long as the biases and prejudices remain. The U.S. Pledge of Allegiance ends "... with liberty and justice for all." Is this truly the American experience? Liberty and justice for all?

Are groups such as Early Warning! righteous because they believe in fighting for equality instead of living in ignorance? Is the dream for equal rights offensive?

Professor Charles Lawrence said, "Racism in America is much more complex than either the conscious conspiracy of a power elite or the simple delusion of a few ignorant bigots. It is a part of our common historical experience and, therefore, a part of our culture. It arises from the

assumptions we have learned to make about the world, ourselves and others, as well as from patterns of our fundamental social activities."

And this is precisely what groups such as Early Warning! are struggling against -- the prejudices ingrained in our culture and social upbringing. If the signs posted Feb. 8 caused any emotion or stimulated any thought, then their purpose has been served. The prejudices that abide in our society are rising to be confronted so that the socialization of racism might end.

Sarah Cada  
sophomore  
English, biology

### opinion READER

#### Objection to funds

This letter is in response to what seems to be an effort by the Daily Nebraskan staff, the University Program Council and the Committee for Fees Allocation to convince the students that the most important issue on this campus is the issue of gay men and lesbians.

The DN has hardly missed a week without having a front page article encouraging the gay/lesbian cause.

Despite overwhelming student disapproval of student fees being used to sponsor gay/lesbian programs, UPC and CFA have either directly or indirectly given the Committee Offering Lesbian And Gay Events or the Gay/Lesbian Student Association money to do whatever they want.

CFA and UPC now want to grant COLAGE \$1,691.25, which comes from student fees, regardless of how much opposition there is. As a student, I feel this is misrepresentation of the students and an irresponsible use of funds. I urge all students to take a little time and energy and go to the Student Activities Financial Services Office, 222 Nebraska Union, and request your Fund A refunds. Tell them why you want your refund. We should also request that UPC and CFA honor this request of the students by not indirectly giving COLAGE the money they want through other committees.

Jim Wiebelhaus  
senior  
mechanical engineering

Editor's Note: CFA presented its Fund A fee recommendation Feb. 5, after granting COLAGE \$746 for 1989-90 programming.

ASUN will review the recommendation Feb. 15.

#### Alumnus lauds fees

In response to "Readers oppose funding of COLAGE" (DN, Feb. 8), I am in total disagreement. The request by the Committee Offering Lesbian And Gay Events for student fees is not a misuse, but a legitimate request for a legitimate programming committee. It is a valuable use of funds for cultural, historical and educational programming about the gay/lesbian community, which is the largest minority group on campus (10 percent of the student body).

Mark Vosika and Christine Lilius, have you ever heard of Harvey Milk, Willa Cather, Leonardo Da Vinci, Liberace, Rock Hudson, The Communards, Lynn Lavner, Phrance or Romanovsky and Phillips? These figures represent the gay/lesbian culture as much as Martin Luther King Jr., Jesse Jackson, Margaret Sanger and Susan B. Anthony are representatives of other minority cultures.

Many services are paid for by student fees, but few students choose to use them. Does everyone care about the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska? Does everyone read the Daily Nebraskan? Do all students attend all University Program Council events, use Student Legal Services or the Student Information Center, or even step inside the Nebraska unions?

As the originator of the proposal to create the Gay/Lesbian Programming Committee, now called COLAGE, I am irked that the "unrepresentative" student government put the COLAGE funding issue on the ballot again! Voting in student elections is not a representative sample of

the student population. ASUN is not an accurate representative sample of the student population. ASUN is not an accurate representation of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's diversity. As a student, I view them as part of a bigoted system of repression of minorities. Twenty years ago, black programming committees would have been put on the ballot. The COLAGE ballot question is the same.

First, I propose that all of the student funded services be put to the vote. Why discriminate? Second, I propose that if COLAGE is denied funds that a discrimination suit be filed on the basis of repression of the U.S. Constitutional rights of freedom of speech and expression. Finally, I am declaring a personal war on homophobia at UNL.

Rodney A. Bell II  
UNL alumnus  
Lincoln

#### Parent favors fees

An open letter to the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, Chancellor Martin Massengale, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen,

Yes, I do want part of my student fees to be used to pay for events sponsored by the Committee Offering Lesbian And Gay Events. And let the record show that the Daily Nebraskan headline, "Readers oppose funding of COLAGE" (DN, Feb. 8), does NOT include all readers as it tends to imply. Why couldn't the letter from Mark Vosika and Christine Lilius have been headed "Some oppose..."

I am the parent of a gay man who

attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln a number of years ago, two straight sons who are currently students, and I am a graduate student here. Not only are 10 percent, or perhaps more, of the student body gay men or lesbians but they have parents, brothers, sisters and friends who care about them.

Any of you reading this may have, as parents now or in the future, a child who will discover that heterosexuality does not define him/her. Will you reject your gay child? Or will you celebrate his or her positive diversity in whatever form?

I have nothing but admiration for the students who are gay and who choose to remain an "invisible minority" when homophobia is as rampant as it is on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. A place of higher learning should be where unbiased learning is the norm instead of a clinging to prejudices and myths. If we were discussing racial, ethnic, or religious issues there would be, rightfully so, precious little tolerance for the bigotry that is expressed against gay and lesbian people. We are all a part of humankind, and if one of us is denied the right to live freely, and without harm to others, then all of us are in danger.

As the parent of a gay man, I speak on behalf of many other such parents who cannot speak out for their own sons and daughters because to do so would endanger them (the children), either to actual physical attack, or the kinds of verbal attacks and harassment I have seen here all too often.

The money being spent by and for COLAGE serves a much greater number of students, who also pay fees, than is visible. The programming is attended in spirit by many (10 percent of the student population plus

family members and friends), and therefore serves them as well. Until discrimination is eliminated it will take the courage of the few gay people who are willing to brave the pain of bigotry to forge the path for others and keep the torch of freedom lit. COLAGE and the Gay/Lesbian Programming Committee that preceded it are important far beyond the visible numbers who attend their events!

Jean Durgin-Clinchard, president  
Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays Cornhusker, Inc.

#### Users should pay

Inspiration struck when first I read about yet another year of tuition surcharges for engineering students and another increase in student fees for the Campus Recreation Center expansion (DN, Feb. 3).

I have a solution for engineering dean Stan Liberty using the same logic that campus rec director Stan Campbell uses. As I interpret his message, Campbell believes that by paying for the rec center we are all improving our health whether we use the facility or not. In a similar vein, why not have everyone pay a surcharge for lab equipment so that everyone can benefit from it? Makes sense, doesn't it?

I don't have any problem with people using the rec center but I do believe that those who use it should be the ones who pay. Why not sell memberships or charge a fee at the door like the "real world" people are so fond of speaking about? But if that happened, I guess the funding wouldn't be there when it was time to expand.

Mark Stark  
senior  
civil engineering