

Daily Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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AIDS bill needed

LB465 fights discrimination, should pass

Morality has once again been used as a political ping pong ball. The Judiciary Committee of the Nebraska Legislature heard testimony Thursday on a bill to allow people with AIDS to bring civil action against anyone who discriminates against them in employment, housing or education.

Don Lienemann of Papillion spoke against LB465, saying the bill was unnecessary. Lienemann said there was "too much of the heavy hand of government" already.

He also questioned the moral issues behind the bill.

Susan Adkisson, a representative of the Mexican-American Commission, said the global proportions of the disease should outweigh any issues of morality.

Adkisson is right. With 100 reported cases of AIDS in Nebraska as of March 1, people have to accept the fact that there is a serious problem.

People who have the AIDS virus are discriminated against. The fatality rate is 100 percent. Why make lives worse than they already are?

People who suspect they have the disease are afraid to get tested, because they are afraid of losing friends, family and jobs.

And nobody can blame them.

If LB465 passes, those people may not be so terrified of losing their jobs at least. Education about the virus can only help.

Virginia Wilkinson, AIDS program director for the Nebraska Department of Health, said the bill is especially necessary for those who test positive for the HIV, but are not affected by the later stages of the AIDS virus.

"Most HIV's are capable of staying in the mainstream of society," she said.

But without this bill, those people may not have the chance to stay in society. Fear is prevalent in every area, and if employers and employees are afraid of working with someone who tests positive for the HIV, that person won't be able to keep their job.

AIDS has not been proven contagious through anything but blood and semen. With precautions, there should be no problems with contamination in the work place or schools.

The Nebraska Department of Health has estimated that anywhere from 800 to 2,000 people in the state may have a form of the disease that shows no symptoms.

Those people deserve the chance to find out if they have the disease while continuing with the rest of their lives.

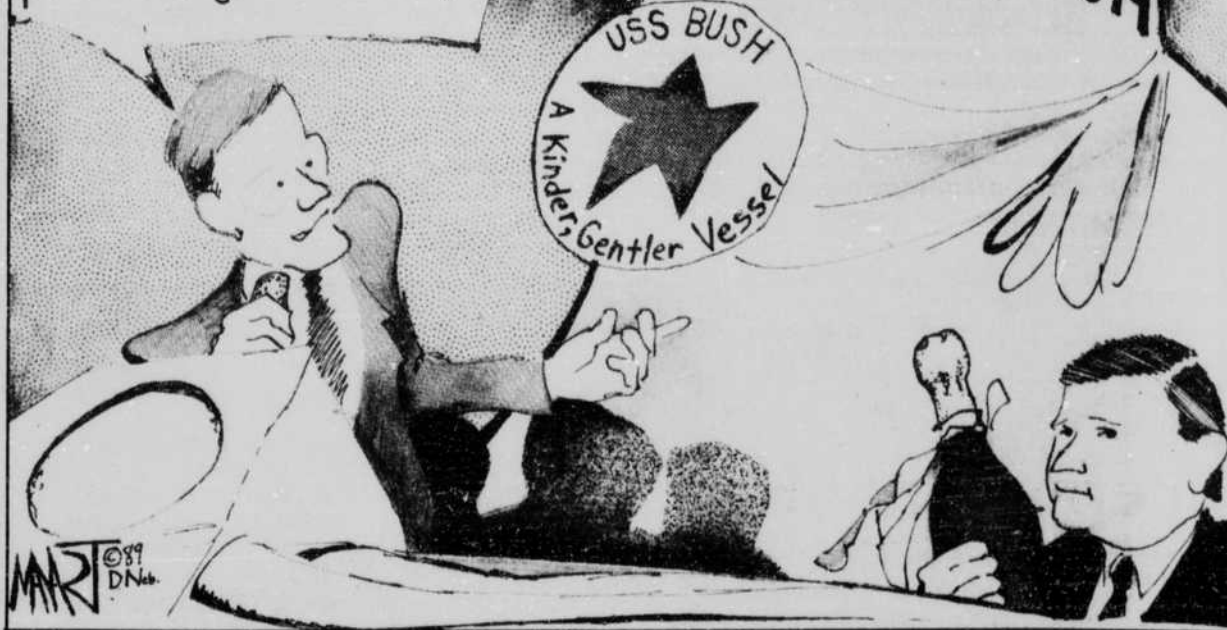
The fact that there is discrimination is not questionable. It is not an issue. Figuring out how to stop the discrimination is an issue. LB465 fights discrimination.

The Nebraska Legislature should pass the bill.

- Amy Edwards
for the Daily Nebraskan

AN EMBARRASSING INCIDENT AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY...

And once Mr. Tower gives up the bottle, we can get these proceedings underway...



Altruists making a difference

Actions in the late '80s show concern for world inequalities

Don't you know we're talking about a revolution.

Poor people going to rise up and take what's theirs.

Don't you know you better run, run, run, run...

Cause finally the tables are starting to turn.

talking about a Revolution...

-- Tracy Chapman

And it's starting to be more than just talk. The romanticism that goes along with the "making-a-difference" chat is about as empty as the pitcher of beer that prompts those sentiments.

The social revolution that seems to be closing out the 1980s is a great time of awareness. But it is also a time of grabbing the horse by the reins and leading it to water.

People are really doing something (and have been for a while) about the social strife and the plummeting human condition.

Many will say, "Oh, but this has been going on for a couple of years now." But this is just the awareness part, the "doing-something-about-it" part is bringing the revolution to full circle.

When I hear about the injustices in third world countries and about racial prejudice, which the United States indirectly supports in South Africa, I realize that it doesn't end with the 6 p.m. newscast.

I also realize that I can make a difference, no matter how small that contribution may be.

I'm tired of picking up the local paper and reading about thousands of homeless making their beds in New York's bus stations or poverty plaguing many Latin American countries.

There is a chance of making the difference.

We can see it in the increased membership in national organizations like Habitat for Humanity, a volunteer organization, which builds homes for the sick and the poor.

Leading the bandwagon on this effort is former President Jimmy Carter.

Speaking of Washington D.C., often considered the harbor of con-

servatism and "get-a-job" ideology, a \$14 million homeless shelter was constructed there recently.

In Nebraska, we can open the paper on any given day and read about a number of bills before the Nebraska Legislature and read about efforts to improve the human condition.

Bills such as LB340, which is concerned about burial sites and burial remains. It makes me sad to think my ancestors took away the land and that, by sins of omission, I take part in stripping these people from their pride.

Closer to home, a group called Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty fasted about a week ago in protest of capital punishment.



Lisa Donovan

Even closer to home, there is a movement -- a change on campus.

During the fall of 1988, Early Warning! organized on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. The group protests, writes letters and tries to inform the masses about societal inequities, both locally and nationally.

Some of the activities include protesting government imposed racial segregation in South Africa, apartheid, in front of the federal building.

Another activity was the construction of a shanty town behind the Nebraska Union. Many students have never seen the slums or the poorly constructed low-income housing.

Some of the students snubbed the scene as they passed by in their heavy coats, but many others stopped and looked at the sight. Either way it made us aware.

Another student organization, Amnesty International, has been re-energized by two UNL students.

The organization basically starts

letter-writing campaigns seeking the release of men and women detained for their beliefs, color, sex, ethnic origin, language or religion, provided these "prisoners of conscience have not used violence."

The organization not only writes to the governments of these prisoners, but writes to the prisoners as well to assure them that something is being done about their imprisonment.

According to one of the organizers, the members may also send food rations, as well as letters, to the prisoners.

Activities such as the movie "The Houses are Full of Smoke" opened my eyes to the horrors going on in Central America.

The film, sponsored by the Latin American Solidarity Committee, was a frightening depiction of the civil war that has been happening off and on in Central American countries since 1950. The turbulence between the have and have-nots is almost as sickening as realizing the role the United States plays in it all.

Another campus activity was "Cry Freedom," a story about South African newspaper editor Donald Woods who is exiled from his country after revealing injustices of the government there, including the killing of anti-apartheid leader Steven Biko.

Woods came and spoke to students at UNL about tapping potential sources that could easily alleviate social injustices -- in particular the U.S. Congress.

Even the music is trying to say something. Michael Stipes of R.E.M. said their music is about questions, not answers. I guess that's true of the revolution. We're questioning right from wrong.

Groups like Rhythm Corps ask "Can we meet on common ground?" I guess nobody knows, but we can try.

Well, my friends and I have finished our pitcher of beer.

And as I pull on my armor, I think about my second grade teacher: "More work, less chat."

Donovan is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan arts and entertainment reporter and editorial columnist.

editorial

Signed staff editorials represent the official policy of the fall 1988 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Curt Wagner, editor; Amy Edwards, editorial page editor; Jane Hirt, managing editor; Lee Rood, associate news editor; Lisa Donovan, columnist; Diana Johnson, wire page editor; and Chuck Green, copy desk chief.

Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper.

According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.

letter

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 to the editor.

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.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R

Engineering student baffled by the surcharge

Perhaps the most frustrating part of the whole engineering surcharge business is not having to pay extra, a possible loss of accreditation or even having to use old equipment. Possibly, it would be that the university

can raise millions of dollars for an indoor practice field which is used by 5 percent of the student body and by the football team to practice for one game, yet cannot generate funds to invest in technical fields that perhaps

deal most directly with one nation's future.

Joel Hoerth
sophomore
electrical engineering