

Daily Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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RHA denounced

Members need to put french fries aside

The Residence Hall Association is beginning to sound like a comedy club with nothing better to do on Thursday nights than complain about trivialities. Stop wasting everyone's time.

Last Thursday night, RHA members met until 11 p.m., when the Nebraska Union closed. The majority of their debate included important and insightful discussion.

Like spending \$13.05 at Burger King.

The Review and Recommendation Committee of RHA went to Burger King last Tuesday for one of their meetings, and Chairman Matt Wickless decided to spend the money as a last gesture as chairman.

RHA President Larry Koubsky said Wickless had asked him if he could bring the committee to Burger King and that Koubsky had approved of it.

The committee receives \$50 from RHA each semester. According to RHA rules, the committee can spend the money as it sees fit.

But Marc Shkolnick, RHA vice president, said he was "furious" when he heard about the incident.

Who really cares?

RHA is supposed to be a form of student government, representing the students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who live in residence halls. How many of the students represented by RHA really care if \$13.05 is spent at Burger King?

RHA should keep inside politics to a minimum. The group has the chance to take stands on important issues and make something of itself.

Instead, it often follows the lead of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, or rehashes old issues that are brought up every year.

Why don't they do something innovative -- like find out what their constituents really care about?

Why don't they take a stand on the rising cost of living in a dormitory, or problems faced by handicapped students on campus?

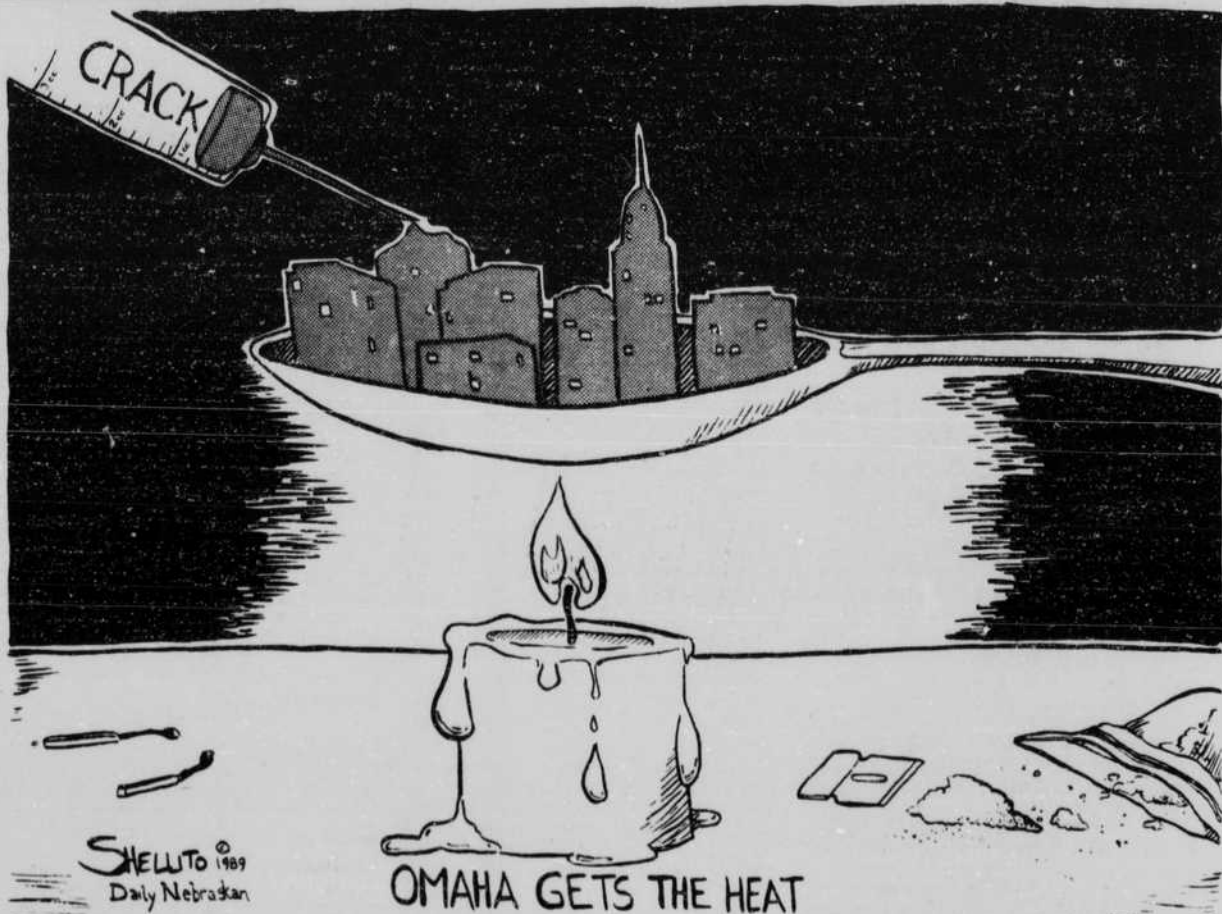
Some RHA members think that they don't have any pull in the system -- that whatever legislation they make won't have any impact.

Well, no wonder.

Discussions like the one Thursday night don't have a lot of meaning for anyone, they just waste people's time. RHA members should resolve petty issues like who ate what at Burger King quickly, and do something important at their weekly meetings. There are a lot of issues that can be addressed.

If RHA would start acting like a student government body, students would start treating it like one.

-- Amy Edwards
for the Daily Nebraskan



Pledging monetary allegiance

Display of Ollie's humiliation catches columnist's eye, repulsion

Ollie and Betsy North Need Your Help Now! Oh really?

Excuse me, what is this? But there it was, THE NORTH DEFENSE TRUST. On the right hand side of page 4 of the Wall Street Journal in black and white... a 2 column x 10 1/2 inch deep advertisement with a photo of Ollie dressed in a suit and tie, his lovely wife looking protectively over his shoulder.

A wave of nausea overtook me. I thought I was going to puke.

But the dynamic display of one man's humiliation in front of an entire nation forced me to read further into the ad.

"After 20 years as a Marine -- a highly decorated hero.

After 5 1/2 years at the National Security Council where he worked so hard to rescue hostages, combat terrorism and fight communism.

Ollie North was thanked for his service by an indictment brought by an Independent Counsel in the District of Columbia.

Official Washington stands idly by to watch North fight this out alone.

His adversary -- an Independent Counsel with unlimited funds, 30 attorneys and 50 investigators.

It's a battle that North will win, but he needs your help now to defray legal costs and to assure that his family is properly guarded and that no harm comes to them.

Help even the odds. Mail your contribution today or call the toll-free number below to make your pledge.

"Visa and MasterCard accepted."

A cut-out coupon was printed at the bottom of the ad for my convenience.

Yes, Ollie and Betsy, I am making a contribution of \$ (fill in the desired amount, preferably with a lot of zeros).

I have enclosed a check or money order.

Please charge my contribution to my Visa or MasterCard.

In small print at the bottom is printed, "This is the only fund authorized by Oliver North to request contributions. Gifts are non-tax deductible."



Diana Johnson

Still struck with incredulosity, I called the toll-free number (Here it is... 1-800-521-0200. Some of you may want to donate).

It was a clearing house. The pleasant-sounding woman at the other end of the line confirmed that the North Defense Trust was a true-blue, bonafide, legitimate organization. But she could only take my money... not my questions.

So I called information, which gave me the number to the North Defense Trust in Washington, D.C.

The woman who answered the phone was also pleasant. Yes, indeed,

the trust's purpose was to help pay Ollie's legal and security expenses. He has seven bodyguards, don't you know.

"Because Mr. North has had to fight this alone," the woman said. "He hasn't had any help... it was just destroying him."

The fund was organized by a group of cadets who had been under our hero's command, she said. They just wanted to help. And she was one of a small staff who worked for the trust.

The fund has been well-received, she said. Most callers are kind. They only want to help poor Ollie, she said.

I told her I was a journalism student from Nebraska.

Her husband graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, she said. My, isn't it a small world.

She said she, too, only wanted to help.

I'm sure that was Ollie's intention too... he just wanted to help.

But best intentions don't necessarily get the best results.

A few things are still sacred, or at the least they should be... such as not being above the law in the nation in which you live.

But, I realize, Ollie just wanted to help.

So this is your opportunity folks. You too can help defend the expenses of a man who had a vision to save hostages who are still hostages with the alleged illegal sale of arms.

You, too, can help.

Johnson is a senior news-editorial major and Daily Nebraskan wire editor, and is an editorial columnist.

opinion READER

Student: HERO's humor failed

"OK," I thought. "We have PRIDE and IMPACT, the serious parties. Why not have BEER for a touch of human and heck, let's throw in SLUMBR too -- all in good fun." HERO (Heterosexual Education Resource Organization), however, crossed the boundary between parties who are kidding and who don't touch the serious issues, and parties who are ridiculing an important campus issue, without a real purpose for doing so.

HERO's attempt at humor has definitely failed! If Hawkins, Mellion and Hall think they are promoting anything other than ignorance they are fooling themselves. And, why bring Dr. Ruth Westheimer into this? She is an established professional who, from what I know, is not afflicted with a serious case of homophobia as they must be. I personally think heterosexuals are very prevalent in student organizations. Compare how many groups are composed of heterosexuals to how many groups are composed of homosexuals. There is absolutely no need for a party

whose whole purpose is to mock COLAGE and their serious attempts at educating UNL's population.

Mellion says "sexuals preference should not allow a group to get student funding." Should it allow them to get elected to student government and decide who does get funding? Rather nice double standard, Rob.

I only hope someday all this ridiculous prejudice toward homosexuals (and all bigotry) is abolished and that members of both sexual preferences can work together to get things done on campus for the benefit of all.

I do commend Hawkins and Hall, however, for having the guts to have their picture printed in the DN. Too bad Mellion couldn't make it.

Gina Dikeman
freshman
undeclared

Kristi Truex
freshman
journalism

letter

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers.

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.

by Brian Shellito

