

Daily **Nebraskan**
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Scholarships needed Legislature should pass minority fund

The Daily Nebraskan urges state legislators to advance from the education committee and pass a bill that would establish a \$1 million endowment for undergraduate minority student scholarships at the University of Nebraska.

The bill, LB453, is needed to increase the scholarship base at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and other colleges so recruiters can attract and retain minority students.

The bill would appropriate \$800,000 in state funds. Private donations would cover the other \$200,000.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, said he originally wrote the bill to include only black students at UNL. But Chambers said Monday that he would be willing to include black, Hispanic and American Indian students at both UNL and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

This is a good move, considering the small numbers of all of these minority groups at both institutions.

As James Griesen, UNL vice chancellor for student affairs, said Monday, universities have been "moving in the wrong direction" in terms of minority enrollment.

A need exists to reverse the trend of decreasing minority enrollment in higher education. For example, Griesen said black students made up 5.5 percent of the college population nationwide in 1976-1977. This dropped to 4.9 percent in 1986-1987.

Enrollment of blacks at UNL in 1988-89 is 1.6 percent, while the total enrollment of the targeted minority groups is only 2.7 percent.

This is dismal, and the Nebraska Legislature needs to address the problem. Legislators must follow the lead of other concerned citizens, who have donated nearly \$90,000 to the cause. Former UNO football player Rick Davis and his family, NU football coach Tom Osborne and athletic director Bob Devaney all realize the problem exists and are fighting for it to end.

Financial restrictions often rob minority students of an education. The Legislature can turn it around.

-- Curt Wagner
for the Daily Nebraskan

Native American students say remains bill a campus concern, should be considered

The attention given LB340 and ASUN Senate Bill 65 have certainly aroused controversy and revealed the ignorance that is still prevalent in this society.

As we were informed; the responsibility of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska is to represent the student body -- their first and foremost concern. In which case every student on campus should be assured of proper representation. Although this should be the case, it seems that some ASUN senators are not aware that Native American students also exist on this campus and are a part of the student body. Does ASUN only represent one group of students and their concerns? With this realization LB340 would definitely qualify as a student issue and does have an effect on this university.

Most anthropologists and archeologists are employed by universities because the profession itself is not economically able to sustain them otherwise. This being the case, we must ask the question, "Who subsidizes their research, who pays their salary? Who provides the forum by which their research is acknowledged?" Primarily the university.

How is the university able to do these things? Partially through funds from student tuition as well as taxes paid as residents of this state.

Therefore, this is even more evidence that LB340 is a student issue, since all students must pay tuition and some pay state taxes.

Furthermore, Indian people do not and never have considered anthropologists as being advocates for our rights or our issues. In fact the exact opposite has more often been true. Anthropologists have done more to exploit our culture and beliefs for purposes of their own tenure than to help indigenous peoples.

This university by its very nature is based on European philosophy and thought, which ignores Native American philosophy, so by indicating a biased representation of the issue, they have totally ignored this fact.

We agree that "ASUN's eye should be turned toward the betterment of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln." Therefore, we suggest that ASUN work for a university that includes Native American knowledge, history and philosophy. This would contribute to excellence at this university.

Incidentally, if ASUN has no impact on the Nebraska Legislature, as ASUN Sen. Jill Durbin suggested, then: 1) Why have a Government Liaison Committee? 2) Why has Durbin taken a position on other government issues?

Gail Spotted Tail
"Sicangu" Lakota

Renee Saunsoci
"Umonha" Tribe

Marcy Gilbert
"Minni Kwo O Jou" Lakota

**WHO
EVER
DIES
WITH
THE
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... IS STILL
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People make excuses not to vote

Royko proposes combination of election day, national lottery

When the votes were counted after Chicago's primary for mayor this week, about one-third of the registered voters were elated. Another one-third were disappointed. And the final third didn't give a hoot.

Those who didn't give a hoot are the half a million or so who didn't vote.

That's about the pattern you'll find in most city, state and national elections. At least a third of the voters sit it out.

Now don't worry, this is not going to be a civics lecture on why people should exercise their precious right to vote.

I've never written such a column and I never will. Actually, it has always been a dream of mine that on election day, everybody decides to stay home -- except me.

Then I would be the only voter and that would make me what politicians call "a king-maker."

If that happened, I'd have candidates flocking to me with offers of big jobs and consulting contracts.

Candidates would tell me: "If you get me elected, you will always have my ear."

Not that I'd want a candidate's car. Even if the car was sealed in plastic or dropped in a jar of embalming fluid, what would I do with such an object? As a knickknack or paperweight, it would be unsightly.

So I never urge people to get out there and exercise their right to vote.

After all, not voting is also a citizen's right, although I've never heard anyone talk about the many brave men who gave their lives for the right not to vote.

Actually, I don't believe many soldiers have laid down their lives for the right of others to vote. If you took a survey of combat troops and asked them about it, I'm sure I know what their answer would be.

"Hi, there, soldier. In about one

minute, you will catch a bullet. That will be the end of you. But because of your sacrifice, future generations will have the right to vote. How do you feel about it?"

Most would respond, "If it's all the same to you, pal, I prefer avoiding that bullet. Can't we skip the voting and just pick our leaders' names out of a hat?"

But to get back to those who don't vote and why.

Some won't vote because they are finicky and don't like any of the candidates. They are waiting for Mr. Perfect to come along. Which means they can live to be 125 and they'll still be waiting.



Mike Royko

Others don't bother because they have become disillusioned. Many of them are poor and live from hand to mouth, rent day to rent day. Some voted in the past, believing that a candidate would make their lives fuller and richer. Instead they are still poor and miserable. So they figure it's a waste of precious shoe leather to get conned again.

Still another group that sits out elections in great numbers is the young. Most studies show that those between the ages of 18 and 25 are most likely to be indifferent to politics. That's because they aren't married, don't own homes, pay no property tax and don't have children of school age. So the candidates seldom address issues that are vital to young voters. Think about it -- when was the last time you heard a candidate say:

"If I am elected, I promise all you young voters that I will do everything in my power to introduce new pro-

grams that will help you get it on."

And there are always some who have the misfortune to be incapacitated on election day. I'm not referring to those who have permanent disabilities, since they can get absentee ballots. I mean those who were hit the night before by a flying grape. If a person has a hangover so severe he can't go to work, it is inhuman to ask him to go to a polling place, when there is probably a bar even closer.

Finally, there is a group, probably the biggest, that doesn't bother to vote because . . . how can I put it diplomatically? Well, I suppose you can say they're just dumb. Chances are, they can't tell you who the candidates are because they don't read anything and watch only soap operas, wrestling and Geraldo. If anything, we're better off if they don't vote. Every voter doesn't have to be a political science graduate. But the least they should know is who they hate and why.

There are those who will disagree with me -- do-gooders who believe it is disgraceful that Americans don't exercise this (they always call it "precious") right.

Maybe they're correct. It's possible that if more people voted, we might have fewer inebriated congressmen and cliché-spouting presidential candidates.

But if they want a big turnout, they won't get it by preaching and yammering about "your responsibilities as a good citizen." Not if they want 98 percent of the eligible voters to go to the polls, I'll tell them how to do it.

Combine election day with a national lottery. Give every voter a chance to make a few million dollars if his lucky number comes up. It would not only bring out the voters, it would be fair.

After all, why should the candidates be the only ones with a chance to hit the big jackpot?

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Student says term 'radical' inappropriately applied by Howell

I would like to know why Michelle Howell, secretary of the Model United Nations, finds it necessary to refer to those of us who protest against the wall of prejudice here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as "radicals." I would think that given her position within the Model United Nations, she would applaud student aspirations to eradicate fear, ignorance and prejudices which are rampant on this campus and throughout the world.

It is a sad reflection on our student body and our society at large that those who strive to facilitate peaceful acceptance and equality for all are

given labels such as "radicals."

This is supposed to be a university, not an exclusive club! The very word university implies that folks from all walks of life, of all cultures, creeds, philosophies and lifestyles are con-

verging in one place with a common goal of higher learning and broader range of thought.

Lorrilyn R. Herd
junior
secondary education

Student blasts writing service

Hard working, ambitious, intelligent -- all of these words describe Mr. James Cannon, president of Independent Writing Service (Daily Nebraskan, March 3). Congratulations on not becoming a drug dealer or a panderer. Most folks who are social outcasts turn to crime, but you have cleverly circumvented the written

law and are now creating another avenue for your fellow Americans to take on our way to lethargy, ignorance and moral decay. You're a great guy. Thanks!

Paul Knopp
senior
English