

opinion

Knowledge lacking in ASUN editorial

"Lacking in knowledge, lacking knowledge about a particular subject or fact." That is the Random House College Dictionary definition of ignorant.

After reading Amy Edwards' "Knock on Doors" editorial, ignorant was the first word to cross my mind.

Edwards stated: "If ASUN members really cared about getting people involved in campus issues, they would be knocking on doors, asking people what issues are most important."

Now Ms. Edwards, a fire doesn't get put out by talking about it. If you really think something is unfair about it don't just moan and groan about everything you dislike.

Now I am a freshman at the university and my knowledge of university politics is limited, but I do know a thing or two about politics. If you don't think the individual will do his job, you don't vote for him.

Edwards stated ASUN members should go out and ask minority students to apply for ASUN. That is ridiculous. People who are interested in something will do more than someone who half-heartedly joins.

For my last rebuttal, I would like to address Edwards' comments about greeks. She stated that greeks join ASUN because "among other things, it makes the house look good."

Greeks do many good things, both for the university and the community, such as blood drives, working with the handicapped and the needy.

Now if I were to understand Ms. Edwards' article correctly, and I apologize if I didn't, she is upset that greeks are involved in campus activities. What gall they have to try to contribute to the university. They should all be rounded up and shot. Come on, Ms. Edwards, it sounds to me that you just dislike greeks and this was the only flaw you could find.

If someone believes an organization is not operating to their advantage and that is ASUN's goal, they would go and join ASUN. Since the opposite is the case, it looks like ASUN is doing fine.

David Codr
freshman
Phi Gamma Delta

Action needed to fight homophobia

While sponsors who planned the vigil last night were trying to respect the family of J. Eric Jones, they diluted the issue of anti-gay/lesbian violence and the motivation -- homophobia.

It is time for people to stand up against crimes against gay/lesbian people. I firmly believe that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln community and the state have ignored social problems of the gay/lesbian community through silence, placation, dilution and distortion. Gay/lesbian people at UNL and the global community are the "trash of the 80s and 90s." I think that the vigil should stand up against violence, but specifically anti-gay/lesbian violence. People are reacting out of homophobia and political pressure to label it otherwise. I have been asked to be silent on this issue, but silence equals death.

UNL can make a difference against the core issue -- homophobia. The following programs, policies and actions should be taken to ease the tension and fight a viable "war on homophobia: a) explicit statement of sexual orientation as a factor for non-discrimination, b) funding for Committee Offering Lesbian and Gay Events and the UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center, c) an AIDS policy that will prohibit discrimination against persons with AIDS and adequate money spent on AIDS education, d) a gay/lesbian scholarship fund, e) a gay/lesbian studies curriculum, f) a needs assessment of gay/lesbian students, g) removal of ROTC, the CIA and discriminatory agencies from the campus that still discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, h) an Office of Gay/Lesbian Affairs (similar to Multi-Cul-

tural Affairs), i) group counseling for students "coming out," j) strengthening of the Student Code of Conduct to penalize homophobic actions and k) establishment of a Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Gays and Lesbians.

I commend ASUN President Bryan Hill for taking some action on this issue, but I think (as many people do) that the vigil Thursday night should be against anti-gay/lesbian violence.

Rodney A. Bell, II
chairman
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Gay and Lesbian Alumnae
Association Inc.

Tax dollars not a censor weapon

Andrew Meyer's argument regarding tax money and the arts (DN Sept. 6) is typical of all those who are behind Sen. Jesse Helms' legislation. Mr. Meyer asked, "Why should my hard-earned tax dollars be used to support something I don't like?"

Hey, if I had a choice, I'd tell the government to take all my tax dollars out of defense because I "don't like it" there, and there's a greater need for it elsewhere. Unfortunately, the government doesn't work that way.

Meyer's argument is flawed because it misses the point of Helms' legislation. It doesn't matter whether or not money should go to the arts! If you happen to believe it should, then the money should not be used as a weapon to censor artistic ideas some people don't have a taste for. The

money should be used to promote creativity in all areas, without stifling it in any way. All artistic ideas should be supported to the fullest without exception, or not at all.

Next, "art" means a lot of different things to a lot of people. Oscar Wilde said, "There is not such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written or badly written. That is all." The same is true for all the arts. Just because you find an artistic idea "sacrilegious and disgusting" doesn't make it any less a work of art than the Mona Lisa. Why? Art is a means by which the artist can express an idea through his or her individual artistic talents. Art also is supposed to provoke thought. Sometimes the ideas may not be all rosy and wonderful, but we can't shield ourselves all our lives from the darker realities that life presents.

Perhaps conservatives should start espousing freedom of expression, rather than freedom of suppression.

Keith Richter
sophomore
anthropology

Reader questions traffic decisions

I wonder who the birdbrain was that thought of installing the three speed bumps and two stop signs in a one-block area at 39th and East Campus Loop west of the Dental College?

Mary Glantz
Agronomy Department

Reader ponders permit sales; parking equations don't work

"Well, isn't it special?" According to the Aug. 28, 1989 edition of the Daily Nebraskan, Lt. John Burke said that around 3,000 parking permits were still available to be purchased, and more than 4,700 permits were already sold. I have a small problem with that, namely, where are these parking stalls?

I am personally aware that more than 700 permits were sold for the gravel lot behind Abel/Sandoz. Let's contemplate this a wee bit: there are six rows of parking stalls with 66 spots per row -- I'm no math major; Math 106 strained my sanity greatly -- but my calculator says 396 cars ought to be able to park there.


Maybe if you use inverse sine theta, or figured the positive integral from X to Y, and differentiated, you might be able to park the other 300 cars -- but I sure can't. And we have to consider that we

are still talking theoretically, because we all know how well people park in the Abel/Sandoz lot -- try really hard and you too can say "double park."

A reminder for people with small cars: always leave the car in gear, park and use the emergency brake because serious parking mongrels will push small cars into the aisle and take the parking stall, also, four average-sized guys can pick up a Volkie Bug or these new Geo Metros and carry them a fair distance. (But in no way is that an admission of guilt.)

One final thought: Where else but UNL can one car receive two tickets from two different parking enforcement agencies on the same day in one hour?

Kelly Wade
sophomore
biology



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