

Daily Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Hot idea cools off

Fixed phone line could have had impact

What a brilliant idea to create student involvement by using the IMPACT campaign to create a new Student Complaint Hot Line.

In August, ASUN Second Vice President Jon Bruning said student government members planned to "crack it up real soon."

Well, it's October, John, and the hot line still hasn't been "cracked up."

First Vice President Devi Boning claims that because money is in short supply, ASUN currently is using one of its office phone lines to take complaint calls.

Students, however, were not informed of this.

What we have here is a common political faux pas — promises made, but not kept.

Now, ASUN members are making promises in the form of parking problem solutions. ASUN President Bryan Hill is calling for students to stand up and be heard if any progress is to be made.

Wasn't this the whole idea behind Hill's previous hot line? Weren't students supposed to be given the opportunity to simply call in and be heard by their "elected" representatives who, in turn, would take concerns and turn them into legislation?

What would have been a great idea has fizzled.

Had the hot line been put into operation as stated in concerns about parking regulations, it not only would have given an outlet for student frustrations, but also could have provided a valuable figure for a budget request.

With documented proof of student complaints, it was proof, but a nice long list of disgruntled citizens who make up the university community.

Facts and figures bear out: waiting any time, just as actions speak louder than words.

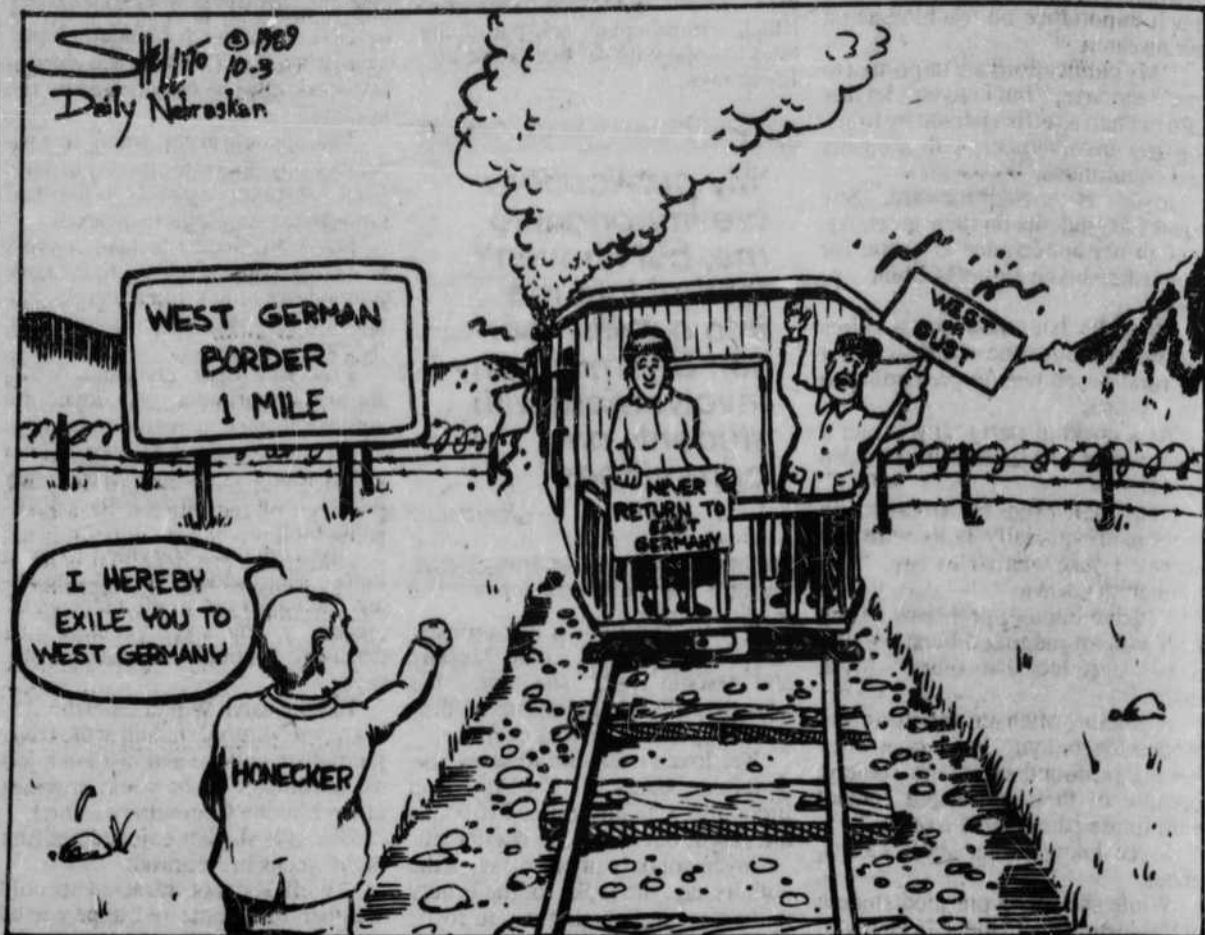
It's past time for the words, and the promises behind them, to be converted into action.

If IMPACT's original hopes for the hotline are to be achieved, the execs have to provide an individual phone line for students, reserved only for student complaints. Easy signal can be an annoying deterrent to criticism.

And saying this extra line is not financially feasible at the moment is just a way to say, "if money was no object, why was Bruning spending all that money that the hot line was on its way?"

So, the ASUN executive body refused to find ways of getting more students involved in campus and even promised them a convenient way to express their views.

Now, with the biggest uproar over parking this campus has seen in recent years, the execs are telling students to head the line.



Intellectual passion goes too far

Sex between student, teacher inevitably leads to disappointment

To find someone who stimulates intellectual curiosity for the first time, or manages to revive a latent academic passion, is an invigorating and flattering experience to both a pupil and a teacher.

But what happens if the intensity of what began as a shared intellectual experience is carried over into the bedroom?

The behind-closed-doors relationships of some students and their instructors may be too taboo for many even to acknowledge. But the fact is, that in any academic community — including the University of Nebraska — such relationships do exist. And the repercussions of those relationships can be too damaging to ignore.

Students and faculty members who find themselves struggling with sexual feelings while pursuing intellectual curiosities shouldn't be criticized. Sharing on such an intense intellectual plane can naturally trigger feelings on the physical plane. But acting on those feelings can complicate matters.

Does life in the intellectual lab go on as usual after a student has sex with a professor or teaching assistant?

Not usually. Perhaps the student and professor know beforehand what a particular encounter means and still feel the same way afterward. But, the best planned emotions often can change when intensified by the heat of the moment.

So the student and faculty member now have this emotional/sexual baggage they are lugging with them into classes, labs and other activities related to their field of study. This baggage can manifest itself through terse exchanges or even an inability to work together. Not only do the student and professor lose out, either

immediately or in the long run, but so do the other students and professors who have to work with them.

This disappointment becomes magnified when compared to the obvious excitement a student feels when fusing both intellectually and emotionally with someone in their chosen field of study. Something clicks inside, and suddenly two people share a particular view of what it means to be an economist, journalist or psychologist.



Chris Carroll

Like any good obsession, the student feeds it, reading the latest books in his or her field and hanging out at the labs where ideas for all the latest research is born. Being a psychology major no longer is a passive experience. The student believes in the research that struck him or her as off-base a few months ago. And then the student develops a hypothesis worth testing.

And when a professor or graduate student takes this hypothesis under advisement, a mutually beneficial experience should begin.

But some undergraduates find themselves having romantic feelings for instructors who reveal to them aspects of the world that also unlock mysteries of the self. After all, college is a time of exploration. These undergraduates now want to act on feelings that were considered taboo only a few years ago.

Sex was one of those taboo experiences. And if someone is acting on

sexual feelings for the first time, and these feelings are coupled with a lot of intense emotional feelings, the student's expectations may include desiring a lasting relationship after sex.

This expectation may not be met, whether one is having sex with a faculty member or another student. It is complicated enough to share intimacy with a peer and then have future advances rejected.

But what happens after the sex, when a student who relies on an instructor indirectly for self-confidence and inspiration, is suddenly rejected? Does the student perceive the rejection strictly in terms of the sexual relationship? Or must the student reclaim the personal and school-related strengths he or she had fostered under the instructor's tutelage?

The situation becomes all too complicated. Unnecessary conflicts brought on by mixing sex and studies may not seem clear until you have seen the pain and confusion it has caused other people.

Rather than face these emotional repercussions, and possibly penalties for violating university rules, these encounters should be avoided.

The best insurance against finding oneself in an educational soon-to-become sexual experience is to acknowledge that sexual feelings may ignite when working so closely with a student or professor.

Prepare yourself not only for sexual feelings, but for that incredible feeling that comes with plugging into the field of study that's right for you.

Both are experiences worth having, and less complicated, if encountered independently.

Chris Carroll is a senior news-editorial major, Daily Nebraskan columnist and supplements editor.

Readers: Gifford perpetuating myth that victims are to blame

We were appalled when we read Mark Gifford's reply to Lisa Donovan and Carol Grell. He states that "... if you are one of the women that have personally been exploited, it cannot have happened without your consent Unfortunately, this sally representative attitude perpetuates the myth that victims are the ones to blame.

Does it matter that the jogger in New York's Central Park did not consent to being raped by a group of teenagers, but was left in a coma for weeks? Does it matter that the eight-year-old Lincoln boy mentioned in the Lincoln Star did not consent to being accosted in his own home by a midnight intruder, but will undoubtedly remember the incident for the rest of his life? Does it matter that the women joggers who were attacked while running through Antelope Park did not consent to being molested, but

will likely be scarred forever? Are the victims really to blame?

It is difficult to comprehend Gifford's (and all too many others') reasoning about exploitation. Women and children throughout history have been exploited in a variety of ways including incest, rape, pornography and prostitution. The "photographs" and "contests" Gifford so proudly speaks of (with or without consent) should be considered for what they are: a simple form of socialized exploitation. We urge Gifford to rethink his outmoded, perpetuating beliefs, especially in light of his future career as an objective journalist.

Carolyn M. Peharlow graduate nursing
Michael K. Coplen undergraduate business

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, original-

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 Amy Edwards, editor; Lee Rood, editorial page editor; Jane

ity, timeliness and space available.

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.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

Hirt, managing editor; Brandon Loomis, associate news editor; Bob Nelson, columnist; Jeff Petersen, columnist; Brian Svoboda, columnist.

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