

Daily Nebraskan
Editorial Board
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Quibbles 'n' bits

KSU policy bans sex in dormitories

A new policy at Kentucky State University bars all first-year students from having members of the opposite sex in their dorm rooms at any time -- including family members.

The rule also prohibits all students from having sex inside the dormitories.

If a freshman wants to visit someone of the opposite sex, he or she must meet that person in the dormitory lounge or in another public meeting place.

Punishment for the offense is suspension from the university -- sometimes indefinitely.

The policy, which took effect at the beginning of the fall semester, was designed to help students academically. Last year, 25 percent of all Kentucky State freshmen were on academic probation.

University officials said students have had no problem with the policy.

-- The Daily Northwestern
Northwestern University

Officials at Louisiana State University are planning to have LSU faculty assist them in recruiting high-quality students and faculty.

"The chancellor wants to let LSU retirees know the university has not forgotten them and that it recognizes and appreciates their dedication and contributions," said Larry Jones, who has been charged by LSU's chancellor to locate former long-time LSU employees.

University officials said contacts many retirees have will be especially helpful in recruiting quality students and faculty.

-- The Reveille
Louisiana State University

Two staff members at Marquette University's student newspaper have been reinstated to their jobs after university officials suspended them for printing a pro-abortion rights advertisement.

Marquette, a Roman Catholic university, had disciplined the paper for printing a pro-abortion rights advertisement about the Nov. 12 rally in Washington D.C. The school has since reviewed its advertising policies with the student editors and reversed its decisions.

-- The Daily Northwestern
Northwestern University

'Jim's Journal' inane drivel

I applaud the recent article by Jim Hanna concerning the critic of comic strips (DN, Dec. 12). I am sure you will receive many letters concerning Mr. Hanna's reviews from indignant fans of the berated strips. I, on the other hand, am concerned that Mr. Hanna did not review "Jim's Journal."

I have been subjected to the inane ramblings of this garbage since the beginning of the semester hoping that it would improve. I have been disappointed. I must apologize to Mr. Hanna as I assumed, when first encountered, that Jim's Journal was a product of his pen. I could not imagine that this offal was syndicated. I assumed that editors, in order to fill space left by the passing of Bloom County and to save some money, had turned to the staff to produce some "home grown" comic strip. This I could stomach as I assumed a suitable replacement would soon be found and I would be free of the mind-numbing drivel that is "Jim's Journal." Imagine my horror to find that this strip was not a temporary replacement and that it had infected several other publications with its

pointless banal stylings. I had assumed that the bland, pointless style of "Family Circus" and the insipid, trite and trivial fluff that Saturday Night Live has mutated into would be enough for those members of our society that could not recognize originality, wit or humor if it were splattered on their windshield. As the networks cater more and more to the lowest common viewers' taste and Hollywood produces movies with a target audience under 13, I see that I am wrong. It is rare now to find original comedy outside of stand-up and British imports.

I have suffered in silence long enough. Sell the office furnishings, reduce the number of pages, get more advertisement or even raise my fees yet again but do what ever is necessary to put Doonesbury in Jim's Journal's place. As for the copies of Jim's Journal you have left, I suggest burial, in an approved toxic waste dump of course.

T.R. Shepherd
graduate student
chemistry

editorial

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.



Cheer-mongers cause blues

Dr. Kookie tells people to fight back, flaunt their gloominess

One of the cherished traditions of Christmas is the newspaper story that seeks to explain why so many people become depressed during the holidays.

Between now and Christmas, just about every newspaper in America will publish at least one story about why so many people become depressed during the Christmas holidays.

These stories usually quote psychiatrists, psychologists and other experts about what makes people feel mopey.

Because I believe in tradition, I decided to ask Dr. I.M. Kookie, an expert on lots of things, if he could explain why the holidays make people glum.

"The biggest cause of Christmas depression is the cheer-monger," he said.

What is a cheer-monger?

"They are the people who go around sticking twinkly lights everywhere, playing 'Deck the Halls,' clanging bells, saying 'ho ho ho' and wishing everybody good cheer. Terrible people. They ought to be locked up until January."

But what's wrong with spreading cheer?

"It is unnatural. For 11 months of the year, people exercise their constitutional right to be gloomy, glum, depressed and miserable without being harassed by cheer-mongers. But then comes December and the cheer-mongers violate this right."

But all they're trying to do is brighten things up a bit.

"Yes, but they don't realize the damage they do."

Such as?

"Well, take someone who is just mildly glum. Suddenly he encounters a cheer-monger who says: 'Well, have you done your Christmas shopping yet?' And instead of being mildly

glum, he becomes outright gloomy. Then he runs into a cheer-monger who says: 'Hi there, have you put up your tree yet?' And he drops down another level, from outright gloomy to total depression. All because of the intrusiveness and insensitivity of those who try to infect others with their cheer."

You sound like a Scrooge.

"Don't bad-mouth Scrooge. He was a perfectly sensible man, who had nothing wrong with him that a



Mike Royko

sleeping pill couldn't have cured. But the cheer-mongers got to him. You know, of course, Dickens wrote a sequel, but it has been suppressed."

I hadn't heard that.

"Yes, Cratchit, a lazy incompetent, made bookkeeping errors that caused Scrooge to be indicted and jailed for tax evasion. And Tiny Tim, who faked being lame to avoid shoveling the sidewalk, turned into a dope dealer."

I find that hard to believe.

"That's because you're a cheer-monger like the rest of them. I'll bet you drink eggnog, right?"

It wouldn't be the same without it.

"Good. I wish all cheer-mongers would drink gallons of eggnog. It's loaded with cholesterol."

All right, assuming that what you say is true, what can be done to alleviate the suffering caused by holiday depression?

"The answer is for people to fight back against the cheer-mongers. And

to do that, they must overcome the guilt they feel because they aren't cheerful. They must let their natural gloominess out. Glory in it. Flaunt it."

How can they do that?

"By following my simple program of gloom-pride."

Which is?

"Rule one: Some cheer-monger says: 'Well, have you done your Christmas shopping yet?' Answer: 'I do not shop. I hate the pushy crowds, the surly clerks, and I'm not going to waste my time and money buying things for ingrates.'

"Rule two: A cheer-monger says: 'Merry Christmas,' or 'Happy holidays.' Proper response: 'Whether I have a Merry Christmas or a happy holiday is my choice. So go roast some chestnuts on an open fire. You'll probably burn down your house.'

"Rule three: You hear the song, 'I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas,' blaring from a loudspeaker, intruding on your right to silence. The proper response is to shout: 'You want a white Christmas? Then when it snows, you come shovel my sidewalk and driveway. You have the wrenched back or the cardiac arrest, you idiot. I'm going to Florida and sit by a pool and stare at scantily clad women. And one more thing. Rudolph had a red nose because he was a hopeless drunk. And you'd get drunk, too, if you had to haul that fat guy from roof to roof.'

And this will make people feel better?

"I don't know, but it makes me feel good. Now I've got to go do some Christmas shopping."

But you said you didn't shop.

"I'm buying one item. A bear trap to put next to my chimney."

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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 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.