

Daily  
**Nebraskan**

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## Good time, bad idea?

Greek T-shirt themes under fire, again

Maybe they ought to stick to Bart Simpson. The second annual greek T-shirt outrage targets Farmhouse, Alpha Chi Omega and Phi Mu's "South of the Border" party.

Last year, Phi Kappa Psi fraternity was banned from selling a racist T-shirt for its annual Phi Psi 500 philanthropy. The Phi Psis were asked to stop Nebraska Union sales of the T-shirts, which negatively depicted a black woman riding a tricycle out of the jungle.

Now, the "South of the Border" T-shirts bearing a sombrero-adorned tequila worm on a background of the Mexican flag have been labeled "a mockery to our ancestry," by one member of the Mexican-American Students Association.

According to Florencio Flores Palomo, the replacement of the flag's eagle and serpent with a worm is offensive.

The Mexican flag, he said, is a very important part of that country's culture.

While he agrees that the fraternities and sororities have the First Amendment rights to print the T-shirt, Palomo said he contacted the various greek houses involved in the party to let them know he thought the shirts were offensive.

By a First Amendment standard, the shirt certainly is not offensive. After all, some Americans respect the right to burn their own flag — the U.S. flag. But most wouldn't.

If Mexicans feel as strongly about their symbol as some Americans do, then it should be up to Mexicans, not Americans, to ridicule that flag.

Most Americans would be equally offended if Mexican-American students replaced the stars on Old Glory with Spuds MacKenzie.

Each shows lack of knowledge and respect about the other cultures.

"Sombreros are not all the Mexican culture is about," Palomo said.

The "South of the Border" party is a prime example.

The party was not organized to boost awareness about the Mexican culture; it was just an excuse to party.

And in this case, at the expense of others.

Perhaps fraternities and sororities should forget themes as an excuse for their parties — before they start offending each other.

— Lisa Donovan  
for the Daily Nebraskan

## Vote for representation

Aid student government, continuing studies

Students have for years complained about not getting the representation they deserve.

Today, there's a chance to do something about it.

Students can vote on an Association of Students of the University of Nebraska referendum to determine the number of credit hours a student in the Division of Continuing Studies must carry to be eligible for a position on the ASUN senate.

About 1,300 students signed petitions to place the issue on a ballot. Now there's one more hurdle to jump — at the polls.

The struggle began in the March ASUN election, when junior business major Sandra Haughton won the DCS senate seat but was unable to serve because she wasn't carrying the required 12 credit hours.

The requirement is ridiculous because fewer than 1 percent of the 795 enrolled DCS students are full time. Most have to work to continue their education through night courses. The requirement effectively bars DCS students from participating in student government.

And student government, as it stands, needs the different perspective of a DCS student as much as DCS students deserve fair representation.

If the referendum passes with a two-thirds majority, Haughton will be eligible for appointment to the ASUN position.

Anyone interested in fair and equal representation should show up at the nearest polling site, student ID card in hand.

— Lisa Donovan  
for the Daily Nebraskan



Hobo Express ; Next Stop Washington D.C.

## Locker room equality needed

Men and women don't belong in each other's shower rooms

A few weeks ago, a few ignorant men made their entire sex look like primitive, subhuman sewage. Since then, the world's surplus of ignorance seems to have gotten bigger.

By now, most everybody has heard at least some of the saga of Boston Herald sportswriter Lisa Olson and her confrontation with New England Patriots football players in their locker room.

Olson, a sportswriter, was interviewing a Patriots player after a Sept. 17 home game in Foxboro, Mass. Tight end Zeke Mowatt and four other players allegedly approached her in the locker room, stood inches from her face and began making sexually suggestive remarks.

Mowatt was fined \$2,000 by the National Football League for sexual harassment and was forced by Patriots management to apologize to Olson. He has consistently denied making lewd comments or gestures.

Patriots owner Victor Kiam added his two cents, allegedly calling Olson a "classic bitch," more or less giving his players the green light to pester reporters when they see fit.

Last Monday, Mowatt underwent a 5 1/2 hour polygraph test in Miami, according to The Boston Globe. His attorney, Robert Fraley, said the test proves his client's innocence, and that Olson now owes Mowatt an apology.

Olson retaliated Saturday, offering to subject herself to a similar test. Shortly after the Patriots locker room incident, Coach Sam Wyche banned a female reporter from his Cincinnati Bengals dressing room.

But the crowning blows came this past weekend.

The Canadian Football League's Winnipeg Blue Bombers barred all reporters from their locker room after a game Friday night. The reason? A woman was among the press corps.

The next day, Karen Crouse, a reporter covering the UCLA-Arizona game in Pasadena, Calif., said she was harassed in the Arizona locker room after the game, while she was

conducting post-game interviews.

Crouse, a reporter with the Orange County Register, said an unclothed Arizona player approached her and said, "What are we, in New England?"

Later, another unclothed player tried to get her attention by calling to her from across the dressing room.



Chuck  
Green

What the hell is going on here?

After each of these incidents, columns and letters have popped up like weeds, lambasting the actions of these dark-age dorks who need a crash course in human relations and 20th century thinking.

Accompanying these letters to the editor usually are demands that female reporters be allowed in the locker rooms, just like their male counterparts.

Having worked at the Daily Nebraskan for a few years as a sportswriter, I've covered dozens of sporting events, including postseason football bowl games, volleyball national championships and various other team sports that require interviews with players after the games. In most cases, female sportswriters and radio and television reporters have been present.

I never gave the problem of possible sexual harassment of sportswriters much thought until now. Obviously, it makes a tough job tougher if you happen to be a female reporter covering a game played by men.

But all of a sudden, it seems that these incidents, as degrading and overwhelmingly asinine as they are, have somehow blocked whatever nerve passages connect the brain's logic banks.

Frankly, women reporters should

not be allowed into a men's locker room after a game. Conversely, men can't be herded into a women's team dressing room, either. But no one should be treated in a condescending manner.

I have covered the Cornhusker women's basketball team and volleyball team several times, and I honestly can't remember being invited into the dressing room to conduct post-game interviews.

The Nebraska athletic department's locker room policy should be used as a national model. After football games in Memorial Stadium, players requested by reporters are brought up to the South Stadium lounge, where they are interviewed by men and women.

The only Husker team I know of that has an open locker room policy is the men's basketball team. Once, though, a female reporter was present for post-game interviews. The sports information department personnel brought players into the conference room and solved the problem.

If women are present and are trying to do a job, it's the responsibility of the team's sports information director or agent to set up interviews with players and coaches elsewhere. The same holds true for men covering women's teams.

Locker rooms aren't the best places to talk, and they sure don't do anything for anyone's sinuses. They're loud, confusing, wet, cramped and otherwise unappealing, unless you happen to be an athlete looking forward to a hot shower.

What happened to Olson, Crouse and other women who have been treated in that manner is inexcusable — inexcusable because of the players who made the comments and gestures.

If it continues to happen, it's inexcusable because sports information departments around the country are insensitive or asleep — or both.

Green is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan night news editor, sportswriter and columnist.

## editorial

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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.

## letter

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

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be

returned. Letters should be typewritten.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affili-

ation, 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.