

Spending lid, T-shirt antics among concerns of readers

Reader confused by greeks' toilet papering rituals

Several times during Homecoming Week I found myself walking down 16th Street in awe of the huge papier-mâché lawn ornaments erected outside many of the greek houses. Being a first-year student, perhaps I'm a little confused about some things. Can't they find something else to spend ridiculous amounts of money on? Also, I'm in the dark about the toilet paper that litters the lawns and trees of numerous greek houses on campus. Although I think I see the symbolism, I'm still wondering one thing. Can't they find a better use for toilet paper?

Jeff Knoedler
freshman
teachers college

Reporters: Give players privacy in locker room

I have just about had it with this garbage about reporters in the locker room. People are going way too far over something so ridiculous, it's absurd.

What started out as a grotesque gesture of male attitude has turned into a battle between professional athletes and the media. There at least two points to be made here: the issue of harassment and the issue of equal access.

First, no athlete, (or any other person for that matter) should be able to do what the New England Patriots ball player apparently did. That act was uncalled for and he should be and was punished. Therefore, I would side for the reporter in the harassment issue.

However, I would say there was even a bigger issue than harassment here. The big issue is access.

Not of whether or not a woman reporter should be allowed in the locker room, but if having the reporters wait until the players are dressed is denial of the press' rights.

Granted if a male reporter is allowed in the locker room, female reporters should be allowed in also. But, do you think for a minute, Gayle Gardner would allow another reporter, let alone a football player, with a TV camera follow her into her dressing room and shower? I think not. Not many reporters, male or female, would like to have a microphone and TV camera shoved in their face either.

Remember Jimmy "The Greek's" reaction when he was being "harassed" for the comments he had made of National TV that cost him his job and career. The "Greek's" statement was ill-advised and even degrading, but have we ever stopped to look at how pathetic the reporters were and how awful they treated him? Ask him how reporters treat the players now.

The problem here has many possible solutions, none are very simple, none are fail safe, but as I have followed this story, the biggest argument from the reporters is that "it's the way it has been done for years," "it's league policy," and so on.

To you reporters that call for status quo, I offer you this. Many years ago (I'm no historian so I won't specify exact dates), the public school systems allowed open prayer in class. This offended SOME parents of children and the government stepped in and passed a law — no prayer in public schools.

Also, more recently for you young reporters, smoking was allowed anywhere and everywhere not too long ago. A few people complained about breathing the smoke and the government stepped in and passed a law — no smoking in public places.

In both instances, the "norm" was not a law but rather the way this nation developed. Since they both received public disapproval, a rule was made to accommodate these few

in protest. I suggest the same trend is (or at least should be) occurring now, in the locker room.

Sure there are those that don't care if they are seen naked. But I also bet there are a FEW that wish to keep their privacy.

Why can't a simple plan be drawn up that satisfies all?

I have yet to read where a reporter says they like to go into the locker room, but yet no reporter wishes to offer (or even accept) a plan that would make their job easier.

Nebraska's locker room policy has NEVER been an issue. I have never heard of a reporter complaining about meeting deadlines after a Nebraska football game, male or female.

While on the subject of deadlines, what happens if the game goes into overtime and lasts until your deadline has gone by, do you not get a story?

What would you (reporters) do if all the athletes refused to talk to you, sue them?

I realize not all football stadiums have current facilities for an interview room, but it has worked at Nebraska and should be given some consideration as an alternative plan if problems continue.

In the words of Bruce Willis in "Die Hard," "If you're not a part of the solution, you're part of the problem."

Reporters and NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, this is the 1990s, quit being a part of the problem and try to be innovative. Try to make your job easier and then give the players their privacy. Just maybe you'll meet all your deadlines and even have a better (non-harassed) story.

Jon Dalton
senior
electrical engineering

Bleak predictions for spending lid would come true

I am writing to comment on ASUN President Phil Gosch's letter (DN, Oct. 10). I realize that since my last letter was not on such a serious matter as the 2 percent lid that I may not be taken entirely seriously, but I am serious now. I totally agree with President Gosch on this issue.

As a UNL student, I am deeply concerned about the impact that this 2 percent spending lid will have on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I have read arguments on both sides of the debate, and it seems to me that the dire predictions from the opponents of the constitutional amendment will come true. Simple logic dictates that if the current inflation rate is 5 percent, and we can only spend 2 percent over what we spent the year before, then problems are going to arise. The only way to raise more funds is to hold a special election, which will also cost money. Where will that money come from? If we can't spend any more, how can we spend more on an election to vote on whether to spend more? It's a Catch-22.

This amendment, Initiative 405, is the wrong thing to do, especially with a national recession coming due to higher gas prices, among other things. The initiative is not well-worded, and some of the language is unclear. Even proponents of 405 don't know if it would apply to certain aspects of the state budget. So, if they don't know for sure, who does?

Also, I'd like to know who appointed Ed Jaksha my spokesman, anyway? He certainly doesn't speak for me in suggesting an unclear constitutional amendment that may increase my tuition while simultaneously reducing my financial aid, which I need in order to be able to go to school here. If this measure passes, I may have to go out of state to complete my education. Ed Jaksha should just go crawl back under whatever rock he crawled out from.

Finally, I would urge all UNL Students to get informed on this issue and VOTE. There are some excellent references available in the ASUN office, showing both sides of the is-

sue. Also, you can fill out forms in the office in order to register to vote, or to obtain an absentee ballot. Do so today, and vote against Initiative 405 on Nov. 6.

John Sweeney
sophomore
general studies

T-shirt messages treated unequally in DN editorials

The hypocrisy expressed by DN editorials continues to amaze me. The statements made regarding the latest fraternity T-shirt episode (DN, Oct. 9) show that staff members simply aren't being fair.

One particular sentence makes this fact clear. According to the editorial, the offense that would be created by mocking a country's flag "shows lack of knowledge and respect about the other cultures."

If that is the case, why was UNL Students for Choice so vehemently supported last year when they created a shirt that many Catholic students found offensive? Why didn't the paper come down so hard on that organization?

Has it become acceptable to make fun of one group of people (Catholics) while at the same time making fun of any other group (Mexicans or blacks) is a sin? If you are going to support one group's right to free expression, I think you have to support every group's right to free expression. And no, I am not Catholic.

Andrew Meyer
"The silly junior"
pre-med

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