

S. African scholarships help UNL, calves treated poorly, readers say

Powell disregards benefits; program won't hurt UNL

This letter is in response to comments made by Dick Powell, a candidate for the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, as reported in the Daily Nebraskan on Oct. 16.

Powell has, on more than one occasion, criticized the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska and regent candidate Charles Wilson for our support of a program that provides academic scholarships for black South Africans. Mr. Powell contends that a program aiding black South Africans will somehow hurt UNL's assistance to Nebraska's minority population. This assertion rests upon an either/or perception that alienates many of the positive aspects of assistance to oppressed international students.

Powell is correct in his assertion that we need to improve UNL's recruitment retention, and financial assistance for persons of color. His claim that helping to develop the minds of black South Africans will somehow hamper the attention paid to Nebraska's minority population ignores the benefits that Nebraska students will attain as their exposure to black South Africans develops.

On Sept. 21, the University of Nebraska Foundation announced its voluntary compliance with the state divestment law following months of student, faculty and community protest. This was only the first step in responsibly addressing the fact that the university and the Foundation maintain sizeable investments in South Africa that are not covered by the law. UNL's role and mission describes our institution as compassionate: that means we cannot ignore the devastation of human rights that apartheid creates. As an educational institution we have the obligation to help prepare South Africa for a post-apartheid society.

Interim President Martin Massengale has established a Special Committee on South Africa to recommend educational means that our university can utilize to responsibly combat apartheid. As a member of this committee I am aware that much of our discussion has been focused on the implementation of such a program and its cost. Proposals have included federal funding, private donations, and programs linked to equal scholarships for Nebraska's minority students.

Helping black South Africans also helps UNL students. A program to bring black South Africans to UNL will not only provide them with better intellectual tools to succeed in a post-apartheid society; it will also expose UNL students to people whose experiences are quite different from our own. This personal exposure to culture, color and history will provide UNL students with an educational experience that no book, lecture, or seminar could ever duplicate. This exposure offers experiences that will undoubtedly open minds and challenge students to think beyond our nation's border.

This is not an either/or situation. UNL students can gain valuable insight as our university takes a responsible step toward combatting apartheid. Scholarships for black South Africans are something that both UNL and the Republic of South Africa need.

Phil Gosch
ASUN President

Calf care cruel, not pardonable; become vegetarian

As Nick Hytrek had problems remaining calm while writing his letter, (letter to the editor DN, Oct. 16) so do I. How can you defend such a cruel practice of raising calves in crates? The size of the crate is a trivial point. The calf is a living being, just like you, but unlike you, he has no voice to protest. How can you justify the torture you put these sweet, trust-

ing beings through?

Your letter sickens me. You claim you take care of your animals, "as if they were your own children." But how many people kill their "children" for "potential profit?" If it really "hurts to see an animal in misery," I suggest that you become a vegetarian!

Farmers who use their land for grain production are making better use of our resources. It takes less land, less water, less misery to produce 10 pounds of grain that it does to produce 10 pounds of beef.

Humans are not made to eat other animals. Do you salivate when you see a cow like a cheetah or lion might? Does your body function better with excess amounts of cholesterol and protein? A cow does not offer his neck up to you with a knife, but a ripe fruit will fall from the trees when it is ready to eat.

Suzanne Noe
junior
anthropology

Student's criticism of DN's writing misguided, petty

Dean Knudsen (letter to the editor, DN Oct. 15) launches a callous assault on the paper's sports editor in particular and writing staff in general.

The sports editor was chastised for a run-on sentence, awkward sentence

structure, meager vocabulary and hackneyed writing style. Knudsen asserts that any dim bulb ought to know that "vision" is a noun, rather than a verb, and that "trepid" is not a word.

Knudsen best be embarrassed. His pettiness and arrogance are outdone only by his apparent penchant for offering misguided criticism. Had he looked beyond the pocket dictionary, he would have found that "vision" can be a verb, albeit a lousy one, and that "trepid" is a word, though rarely used.

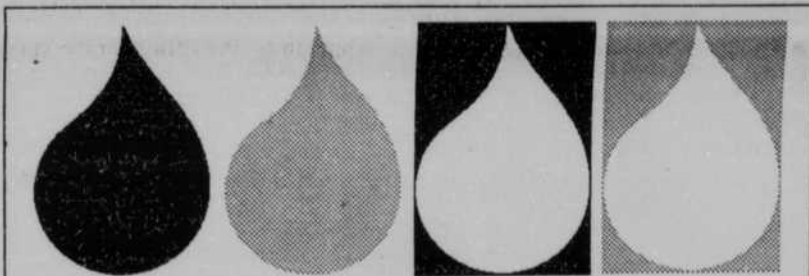
Knudsen then broadens his harangue, asserting that the sports editor is but one of a throng of DN staffers who write poorly and irresponsibly. By letter's end, Knudsen would have us believe that he is a literary demigod, grammarian extraordinaire and the foremost authority on print journalism in the late 20th century.

Respect of the utmost sort is due to those who are experts in their chosen fields. But Knudsen isn't a journalist. He wanders where he ought not go, lambasting reporters and columnists who study at an oft-extolled journalism school.

The next time he feels the urge to tell journalists how to do their job, Knudsen (a museum studies student) should ask himself how he'd feel if a reporter told him how much wax to smear on his Fiberglas dinosaurs.

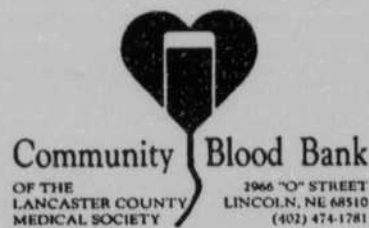
Steve Thomas
first year
law college

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