

Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Vote for 4

Commission would aid higher education

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board endorsements concerning measures and candidates on Tuesday's ballot.

Nebraskans didn't get an ideal proposal to change the governance of higher education, but a "Yes" vote on Amendment 4 would give the state a better system than it currently has.

The proposed amendment, placed on the ballot after some rapid shuffling by the Nebraska Legislature in the spring, would strengthen the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

The commission would be able to integrate the needs of all segments of higher education. Currently, the NU Board of Regents, the State College Board of Trustees and other higher education boards have no common goals. The Legislature's Appropriations Committee is forced to be a sort of ad hoc coordinating commission.

The proposed amendment is not without structural flaws.

The commission's 11 members would be appointed by the governor with approval from the Legislature. Regents — who would lose some power with the addition of another level of government — are elected.

The amendment also contains no provision for a student member on the commission. Students currently are represented on the NU Board of Regents, although student regents' votes are unofficial.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Regent Phil Gosch and the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska have opposed the amendment, saying it would reduce student input into governance.

Gosch and ASUN are right — at least for now. But in the future, there's no reason to think a student member couldn't be added to the commission.

Even without a commission member, students would benefit from better coordination of the state's higher education resources.

The need for better integration was pointed out by the transfer of Keamey State College into the NU system without a comprehensive study of the effects. Amendment 4 would prevent similar blunders in the future.

The Editorial Board — with some reservations — asks Nebraskans to vote "Yes" on Amendment 4.

— The Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board

Human's more complex than the average cow

This letter is in response to those written by Lorrilyn Rennings (letter to the editor, DN, Oct. 22) and Suzanne Noe (letter to the editor, DN, Oct. 23) concerning the treatment of veal calves. These people have obviously never even "met" a member of the species they so strongly defend. As much as we hate to admit it sometimes, we, as humans are much more complex than your average cow. We are able to feel more diverse feelings. Sometimes it's hard to understand that an animal cannot feel the same things we can. Sure they feel pain — physical pain. And warmth — physical warmth. But that is about all they are capable of.

Ms. Rennings suggested that, to solve the damp stall problem, dairy farmers should "muck out their pens daily and put down fresh, dry straw." Perfect solution! Even if there were only, say, 50 pens and even if it could be done in, say, 15 minutes, that would mean he would only have to spend about 12 and one-half hours of his already long day mucking pens. And I'm sure the government would be happy to supply him with enough straw to last him the year!

And Ms. Noe's comment that raising grain "takes less water and less misery" was just as absurd! Farmers do not know what a summer vacation is because they spend 18 hours a day keeping their grain irrigated. And they don't raise just 10 pounds a year!

And by the way, does this mean you two won't be drinking milk anymore, either. I mean, that is why the calf is taken away from its mother. And as far as vegetable farmers go, I suppose you haven't heard of the groups protesting the chemicals they use to make them grow better. These eventually affect both animals and humans.

Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but please don't criticize the doings of the American farmer. We have suffered under this discrimination long enough. And also, if humans were not made to eat other animals, why do we have carnivorous teeth in our mouths?

Cathy Fries
freshman
actuarial science



Sinful temptation = sinful act

Church's betrayal of confidentiality shows hypocrisy at its best

Ever since I asked that question in my seventh-grade religion class, I knew I was going to hell.

"But why is premarital sex a sin?" I imagined my death to be a slow but relatively painless one. Neighbor kids, teachers and family members who had been mean to me would be circled around my death bed, weeping in regret. After I had gasped my last breath, my soul would rise to the sky. Somewhere in my twisted imagination, I thought we all got to chat with God before a decision was made about our final resting place.

In my mind I would reach the gates of heaven, which would look a lot like the lobby of Omaha's Holiday Inn Central transplanted to big puffy marshmallow clouds.

St. Peter would ask me my name, social security number and if I wanted fries with my order.

After filling out the necessary information, St. Paul would lead me to a screening room in which God and I would review the necessary events of my life — my sins.

The video of my life would start from the very beginning. God and I would watch me flipping off the safety patrols as I walked home from school. We would watch me sitting in my bedroom at the age of 11 memorizing the words to the song "Piss On The Wall" by the J. Geils Band. He would find out that I had a crush on my married third-grade math teacher. Sinful temptation may as well be a sinful act.

But my trivial vision of Judgment Day has become a local woman's hell on earth. This week proceedings began in a lawsuit against the disciplinary practices of a Lincoln church.

The Associated Press reported that 29-year-old Beth Hald of Lincoln sued Indian Hills Community Church and its officials, saying they were negli-

gent in announcing to the congregation that her conduct had been immoral.

According to the lawsuit, in late 1986 Hald went to a church counselor regarding a drug addiction problem. During the session she confided to the



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counselor that she was engaged in a homosexual relationship. She also confided in one of the church's elders.

In February 1987, she was told to mend her ways or her evil lifestyle would be revealed to all, her lawsuit alleges. She resigned from the church.

During a March 1987 service, one of the ministers announced to 700 members of the congregation that Hald was engaging in immoral conduct and sinful activities.

So now my vision is updated. No longer do we have 'til Judgment Day for the almighty gavel to be thrust upon our souls.

The soul and spirit can be killed and judged by members of the religious clergy, without anything messy like death. Religious hypocrisy at its finest.

Unfortunately, religious confidentiality is different from that of, say, a psychiatrist's oath of confidentiality. The defense is resting its case on the fact that the church's disciplinary actions toward Hald are part of their religious beliefs and therefore are protected by the U.S. and state constitutions.

In other words, betrayal of confidentiality is part of the religious practice.

According to her suit, however,

Hald contends that she was told the information she exchanged at counseling sessions would remain confidential.

Hald is seeking an unspecified amount of damages, saying she has been publicly humiliated and shunned by friends, has lost faith in God and has suffered permanent psychiatric injury.

But Hald may never receive the reparation she wants from Indian Hills Community Church. Most of the charges she has alleged have been dropped, and more than likely she will lose the case. The First Amendment protects freedom of speech — there is no law against calling a person immoral.

But the church allegedly did break its promise. If the church promised Hald confidential counseling, it should have respected her enough to keep that promise.

Above all else, religion is supposed to be a way of channeling spiritual faith. Individual churches are the physical guides to spiritual happiness, not places of judgment and condemnation.

But most of the time it isn't the religion or church, but the arrogant church leaders, who find themselves playing God, and in this instance, the devil.

We all know what happened to Jimmy Bakker.

Hald and everyone else whom the various religious leaders say deviates from the norm deserves to have faith. Religion, a church, and a religious leader shouldn't be able to take that away. That's not punishment, that's evil.

Oh well, eventually we'll all have to give St. Peter our names, social security numbers and whether we take ketchup with our fries.

Donovan is a senior news-editorial major, the Daily Nebraskan editorial page editor and a columnist.

letter policy

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 sub-

mit 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. 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 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.