

# Readers address abortion, meat, homophobia

## Cultural diversity not necessarily a goal, student urges

In justifying the administration's large-scale recruiting efforts of minority students Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen states (DN, Oct. 23), "The majority students, just like the minority students, need to learn to work in a multicultural world."

This is a tired, old and meaningless cliché. The fact is the world never has been, and probably, the best efforts of the United Nations to the contrary notwithstanding, never will be, unicultural. The real question then is are individual nations in general becoming more multicultural or more culturally rooted and homogeneous. And the most cursory review of political events over the past two years has to show the world trend is toward the latter. Large multi-cultural countries like the Soviet Union are breaking up and all the Nobel Peace prizes and billion-dollar loans from the capitalist nations cannot stem the shift of power away from Moscow. U.S. power is also declining and even Canada is threatening to crack up along cultural fault lines. Where does the vice chancellor see the world becoming more multicultural? Is it in the economic success stories of Germany and Japan? But these are among the most notoriously ethnocentric nations in the world.

This country of course historically always has benefited from its cultural diversity but does this mean we have to go on a blind course of trying to achieve ever more and more of it?

Chas Baylor  
junior  
arts and sciences

## Student redefines coming out stance, denies homophobia

OK, one last time. It seems as if people are reading more into my letter (letter to the editor, DN, Oct. 12) than was there, and then they go play armchair psychologist. They try to delve into my mind and figure me out. What was this prognosis? According to Mr. Keith Richter (letter to the editor, DN, Oct. 24), I'm homophobic. Gee, isn't that just the great argument ender.

When I wrote my letter I wasn't questioning National Coming Out Day. I was simply putting into question the act of support, "wear blue jeans." That's like saying "if you support NCOD, wake up in the morning," or "if you support NCOD, drive your car today." You can't use everyday occurrences for signs of support, for it proves nothing.

Now, to address the issue of Mr. Richter's name-calling. I feel the term "homophobic" is being thrown around too much. It seems as if the situation revolves around the question: Do you support gays and lesbians? If you don't, you're homophobic. Does that mean if I don't like squash, I'm squashophobic? Instead ask the question: Do you understand or accept that gays and lesbians are a part of our society? Non-support doesn't mean lack of understanding or acceptance. Is my point of view not making sense?

Dave Hintz  
senior  
meteorology

## UNL Police should focus on repairs, gas conservation

The 2 percent lid, abortion, the election. Gosh, it seems that only one subject has been left out of the Daily

Nebraskan letters to the editor section recently — parking. Unfortunately, I have a need to discuss the dreaded "P" word. It appears that the U.S. Postal Service isn't working, or maybe the parking police just don't care about student opinions. A few weeks ago I wrote the director of the parking police a letter which, among other things, asked him two questions. First, in one of the area three lots (near Harper-Schramm-Smith residence halls), there is a rather large pothole. Campus Recreation is thinking about using this as a new mud volleyball pit, in fact.

My second question to the director dealt with the parking police themselves. In this age of concern over the environment and the \$1.37 price tag on a gallon of gas, why do the hard-working parking enforcement employees get to drive around in nice cars? If the university wants to save a few dollars, make the parking police ride bikes or walk.

Parking fees keep going up every year, and maybe I'm crazy, but I would prefer to have our parking facilities kept in repair rather than buying a new stereo for my favorite needy parking police enforcement officer's car.

R. Dennis Rieke Jr.  
junior  
architecture

## Right to choose belongs to women, not bureaucrats

Andrew Meyer, intellectual dilettante extraordinaire, once again reveals that he has a mind like a steel colander. Mr. Meyer, your labyrinthine logic concerning potential women in the womb (letter to the editor, DN, Oct. 30) only serves to trivialize an important issue that already has been hijacked by demagoguery and exploited by people who needn't fear any responsibility for its outcome.

Abortion may very well be morally wrong. (Then again, maybe not. Morality is relative, something is moral or immoral only if enough of us say so.) However, whatever your beliefs about abortion happen to be, they are only one part of your argument. My problem with your position is that you wish to use the legal system to enforce your beliefs. By enacting anti-abortion legislation, you do not eliminate choice, you are only abdicating your right to choose (at the moment, legally, it is a right) to someone else. In fact, you are handing over that right to a small group of opportunists whose interest lies not in what is morally right or wrong, but in that which will further their political careers.

Personally, I feel capable of policing myself morally; I don't need the government to do it for me any more than they already do. (And, since you did ask, yes, we do have state-sanctioned murder of innocent human beings. It's called war. Our elected officials have already managed to dispatch at least a dozen innocent people in the gulf.)

As for your advocacy of abstinence, that's dandy. Please control your junior-high logic for one moment to look at another point of view. Suppose I took your advice and went home this afternoon and told my husband that our sex life has gone the way of the buffalo, because I don't desire to procreate at this particular time. Can you say divorce, Mr. Meyer? Can you say infidelity? (My guy isn't such a creep, but some are.)

You tell me — what court in this good old United States of America would protect a woman's emotional and economic investment in her marriage in a case like this? (Not to mention her physical health!) You tell me, please, why should she be forced to defend herself in the first place? You contend that control and self-restraint should be exercised before exposing one's body to pregnancy, and you wish to impose this control through legislation. How will self-restraint for men be legally enforced?

The consequences of an unwanted pregnancy are ultimately borne by the woman alone, and we do have a right to decide.

Lauri Morris  
junior  
art

## Let women retain the few choices they are allowed

We have been reading letters written by men about abortion. We find this rather ridiculous, as the people that his issue does affect, women, have not had the same equal voice.

We would like to speak up as members of that group. Many times, a woman does not have the choice of whether to have sex or not. That choice is unfairly taken from her. Isn't she allowed to retain the one choice she still does have?

Our country is supposed to be founded on the separation of church and state. Bringing God and Christianity into the legal dispute makes a mockery of that principle, and is insulting to people with other beliefs.

The term pro-choice means exactly what it implies, the right of women to control their own bodies. Each person has the right to make their own decisions, and no one has the right to force their own views upon another. Many of those supposed facts about abortion are actually opinions.

For 200 years, our country has been run by white males, who have made laws affecting other groups of people, of which they neither consulted nor seemed to care about. It is time for that to end, and for those groups to make their own decisions.

Finally, we have yet one thing to say. In the infamous words of Dennis Miller, "one penis, no vote."

Beth Mutschallat  
freshman  
international affairs

Misty Dishman  
freshman  
management

Tami Smith  
freshman  
fashion merchandising

## Professor poses abortion question to letter-writer

"Apart from abortion," asks Andrew Meyer (letter to the editor, DN, Oct. 30), "where else may a woman . . . have the legal right to kill an innocent, defenseless human being?"

Let me propose an alternative

question for Mr. Meyer to consider: Apart from the compulsory continuation of a pregnancy, where else may a human being have the legal right to use the various organs of another person's body against her will, thus subjecting her to an extended period of physical dysfunction, psychological trauma and medical risk?

David Moshman  
professor  
educational psychology

## Vegetarians: Leave more meat for happy student carnivore

Every day now, for the past couple of weeks, I have been reading letters from all of these people who are never going to eat meat because it is morally, ethically, spiritually, and for whatever other reasons, wrong. My only response to these people is "Good, more meat for me!"

Hans Erickson  
freshman  
advertising

## Raising meat is not ethically, morally correct for humans

This letter is in response to Cathy Fries' letter on veal production. I agree that animals are obviously less intelligent than man. Does this give us the right to take them from their mothers right after birth, or to intentionally feed them an inadequate diet? Does this give us the right to make them stand for weeks on end in a pen too small to move around in?

I am not discriminating against the farmer when I say this is a cruel practice. I am stating a fact.

Why does intelligence make us superior? So far intelligence has managed to damage the ozone layer, wipe out thousands of species, destroy the majority of the rainforests, and raise the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, causing global warming. The list goes on.

Cathy claims that animals can only feel physical pain or warmth. I see no evidence indicating that animals can't feel a lot of the same feelings man does. Psychological studies on animals have shown that social deprivation has a very adverse effect on them.

Ms. Fries says Ms. Noes' comment, raising grain "takes less work and misery" is absurd. She also claims "Farmers don't know what a summer vacation is because they spend 18 hours a day irrigating their grain." The sad part about the farmer using all that water and time is the 80 percent of all agricultural water used in this country is used for livestock production. Of all the crops in this country, 66 percent are fed to livestock. Ninety percent of all agricultural land is devoted to grain for its livestock that its soil resources are being rapidly depleted. This is a very sad waste considering that very little of the plant protein consumed is converted to animal protein.

Is it moral that we continue to use such a large portion of our land and water resources on such an inefficient, luxurious food source when thousands starve to death daily on this planet? Millions of people on this planet live on healthy vegetarian diets, despite the carnivorous teeth in their mouths.

Why should I consume meat knowing about its adverse effects on the environment, its harmful effects on my body, and the cruelty the animal experiences? Because it tastes good?

Paul Koester  
sophomore  
natural resources

### Free Microcomputer Classes

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IBM seminars will be held in the Sandoz micro-computer lab.

WordPerfect on the IBM

Wed., November 7 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
Wed., November 7 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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