

# Students address draft, protesters, DN editing

## Professor finds political tolerance in Midwest

I enjoyed David Dalton's recent attack on Political Correctness and would like to add a few thoughts from my own perspective.

First, I have to tell him that P.C. is not just "another fad in the constantly sifting mass of Americana." It is a new term to describe a range of related attitudes and assumptions that have dominated the academy for several decades and which remain deeply entrenched. When I came here in 1967 from graduate study in the East, however, I did find and still find a markedly greater degree of intellectual tolerance. Although I have taken "politically incorrect" positions on both political and academic issues, I have generally been tolerated if sometimes condescended to (the Lincoln Journal once described me as an "articulate conservative"—the same adjective that P.C. now tells us we cannot apply to minorities).

We are indeed better off here in this respect than are such places as Oberlin, Duke or Stanford, though I don't know whether this is simply because we are behind the times, as Dalton argues, or because the heartland is less susceptible to ideological fanaticism and bigotry. It may be we are just phlegmatic—but, after all, that is one of the reasons the British were spared a revolution on the French scale! There are times when apathy is a virtue and lack of commitment an act of courage.

In any case, people who value intellectual freedom and forthright speech must remain on the alert, for even here there are teachers who use their authority in the classroom less for educating than for consciousness-raising (i.e., brainwashing). Until recently, "P.C." was used mainly as an abbreviation for Police Constable. Perhaps the new meaning is not so very different from the old after all.

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## Ample reserves make draft fears unwarranted

Once and for all, your readers should accept the basic reality that there will be no restoration of the draft.

The president made this clear as recently as Feb. 5 at a news conference.

Please note that the only people who have a stake in the draft, who stand to benefit from a fear of the draft, are Nebraskans for Peace and other anti-war elements. They are using this fear to gain recruits.

But the reality is this: We have two million trained men and women in uniform in the active forces. We have one million trained personnel in the Guard and Reserves. Moreover, we have an additional 500,000 trained men and women in the Individual Ready Reserve.

With about 530,000 Americans now in the Middle East, only 15 percent of our trained personnel are participating in the war. This leaves 85 percent of our armed forces in reserve! With so many people upon whom we can call should they be needed, it would make no sense to activate the draft and put in uniform thousands of untrained draftees. Besides, by the time any draftees were adequately trained, the war in the Middle East would be over.

The all-volunteer force is working quite well, thank you. So we neither want nor need the draft, the propagandizing of the anti-war crowd notwithstanding!

Joseph W. Johnson, Jr.  
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## Peace protesters blinded to reality of nuclear threat

It seems ironic that the same people who have protested nuclear weapons

for years are protesting the U.S. war effort against Saddam Hussein. This madman vigorously has sought nuclear weapons for years and probably would use them as terrorist weapons against civilians if he ever acquired them. With launch capability, he could start a nuclear war. Maybe these peace protesters cannot comprehend the future threat to world peace Saddam Hussein would pose without U.S. intervention because of their passion for "peace at any price." Maybe they think Saddam Hussein will just go away if we ignore him.

It is also ironic that these same people who have blind faith for the "peace at any price" philosophy criticize supporters of the troops as having blind patriotism. Maybe these so-called peace protesters should reconsider who is blinding themselves to reality. Using simplistic slogans like "no blood for oil" is a slap in the face to our brave soldiers who have shed their blood in Operation Desert Storm fighting to protect all of us from the threat of a would-be nuclear terrorist such as Saddam Hussein.

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## Reader sees irony in gender-biased 'He Said' headline

As I read the review of "He Said, She Said," I found it interesting that the continuation heading for that article was simply, "He Said." Ah, the irony. Once again, half of the human race was taken out of the picture because someone, somewhere deemed her side as less important, or for that matter, non-existent. Would this have happened if a woman had chosen the title? Perhaps, but probably not. Have you anything to say for yourself, MR. Editor?

J.M. MacMillan  
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MR. Editor's note: Ah, the irony. MS. Julie Naughton, the Daily Nebraskan arts and entertainment editor, wrote the "He Said" jump headline. MS. Naughton does not believe women are non-existent, very possibly because she is one.

## People can find ways to avoid taking part in war

Since Richard Schmidt has dared me, I will gladly pick up his gauntlet. "You are stupid." Not only are you stupid, but you are irresponsible, impudent and narrow-minded as well.

Mr. Schmidt pretends to "educate" us and Lisa Donovan in particular, who had written an article claiming she couldn't support the troops since they were instruments of an unjust policy, by saying that "It is GOVERNMENT that determines . . . policy." The troops merely carry it out, and therefore are blameless.

Mr. Schmidt, I hope that one day you may live in a totalitarian state, because your creed of unquestioning obedience to authority will be richly rewarded there. This is the same creed asserted by Nazi officers at the Nuremberg trials. They were merely "following orders." Unfortunately, it is becoming alarmingly widespread in our democratic society. We want to blame the government, blame society, blame our environment, blame anyone but ourselves for our mistakes. There is now even "no-fault" car insurance.

However, in real life, there are ways to avoid these mistakes, just as there are ways, even for a soldier in the army, to avoid becoming an instrument of an unjust policy. No, Colin Powell never asked George Bush if he could go to war. But, he could have quietly protested and perhaps have gotten a command in the Far East or in Central America, perhaps with a small demotion. Last fall, an Air Force

general leaked some of the Pentagon's war plans to the press and was quickly relieved of his duties in the Middle East. His hands are clean of the bloodshed that has followed. Closer to home, Guardsman Gary Hanna applied for conscientious objector status. Although subjected to withering public ridicule, Hanna's courage has resulted in his maintaining a clear conscience.

Of course, it is hard not to sympathize with the poor and middle-class soldiers who joined the Reserves or Guards in order to be able to go to college and get a chance at the American Dream. But our sympathy must not blind us to the reality that they are pawns of a contemptible foreign policy to foist our will upon a country and region that posed no threat to us.

Chas Baylor  
junior  
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## Crank calls to foreign students un-American

When I read the article by Tabitha Hiner (DN, Feb. 18) about the threatening phone calls being made to Zafar Abrass and Nadeem Yousef, I was shocked. How can one man be so cruel to another man who is merely practicing his given right to the freedom of speech? Abrass and Yousef may or may not be American citizens (and it is not important in relation to the phone calls), but they live and study in America, making them subject to American laws as well as American freedoms. Foreign students from all over the world add cultural enhancement and diversity to America, not criticism.

I will admit that I do not know all that was said by all parties involved, but I do know that no one person has the right to condemn another for expressing their personal opinions and beliefs in a public place, no matter who they are or where they are from. After all, this is America, and we do not do that here; that is what is supposed to make this such a great country to live in. Threatening phone calls made to a total stranger are not only idiotic, but also childish.

To whomever made the threatening phone calls: Why don't you come forward? Express your opinions personally, don't call these two people and remain anonymous like a coward. If you are an American citizen, then I feel ashamed for you, because America does not spawn cowards.

Tracy Mohrbacher  
junior  
cultural anthropology

## Support, protest reasons not based in clear-cut logic

Lisa Donovan's article delineating two ways she thinks people may feel about the war (DN, Feb. 19) is an example of what I've found myself fondly referring to in recent years as "runaway logic." To so strictly prescribe such a complexity as war is, well, "illogical" to use a term Donovan may appreciate.

I think that supporting the troops, yet not the war, is an alternative, however palatable or not that may seem to Donovan or others. This is not to say this option for viewing the war is a third and final option, or that it is as simplistic as any other alternative may appear in a quick reference to it, as in this letter to the editor.

While Donovan calls for feelings "for or against the war without qualifications," I think discussing almost anything in life cannot be considered only in such linear ways. Can we really think that a parent of someone who died in the war thinks only in such a black-or-white fashion? That he or she feels only in such a way? That anyone lives this way?

To speak, write, or live in only the kind of "logical" ways Donovan looks for, is like thinking or feeling in a

room without any windows. Or doors. As long as you never leave the room, everything makes sense.

Pamela Moravec  
Nebraska legislative employee  
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## Female students applauded for courage to speak

As women students at this university, we would like to applaud Carey Nesmith and Jo Falkenburg, first-year medical students at UNMC, on their courageous outcry about the atrocities of institutionalized sexism within their academic program.

It is so wonderful to hear intelligent young women standing up for themselves, instead of behaving like lemmings, as so many young people do. Unfortunately, there are probably many people who feel these two young women are "stepping out of line." Is it out of line to ask to be treated as the competent person one is assumed to be, when one is admitted to a graduate medical program? Is it out of line to ask for proper instruction for administering breast examinations, when breast cancer is a leading cause of death for over half the population of the United States? Is it out of line to demand the quality education you are paying for and donating years of your

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English and math

Robyn Larsen  
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