

## ASUN failure

*Sexual orientation issues suffer*

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska decided Wednesday night that racial rednecking is a worse form of oppression than gay-bashing.

The senate approved two unequal levels of representation to deal with separate but equally serious minority issues. It passed bylaws for a Racial Affairs standing committee, while approving only a subcommittee for gay/lesbian/bisexual affairs.

In doing so, ASUN tacitly asserted that issues of racial discrimination are more serious than discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Several weeks ago, the senate started placing discrimination into different tiers based on the group that's being discriminated against. It created subcommittees for disabled students and international students, while senators still pushed for standing committees for racial and sexual discrimination.

In effect, the senate is discriminating in its non-discrimination.

Until Wednesday, that didn't pose much of a problem. Sticklers for form might argue that all groups, down to one-eyed Ukrainian war veterans, deserve the same representation.

But realistically, racial and sexual minorities face much more serious discrimination than do any other groups on campus. And at ASUN meetings, international and disabled students have been relatively quiet about the discrimination they faced, compared to the active and vocal lobbying by racial and sexual minorities.

There is no justification for giving those two groups different levels of representation. In its quest to extend minority representation — a seemingly cursed proposition since it came up in the fall — ASUN once again has failed.

The senate's legislation is on tenuous footing, at best. ASUN President Phil Gosch reaffirmed Wednesday his vow to veto any standing committees that included recommendations of minority membership. But he doesn't even need to go that far. If he doesn't act on the bill before the new members of ASUN are installed April 3, the bylaw change will die on its own.

If both standing committees had passed, Gosch's position would be deplorable because of its opposition to Affirmative Action. But now, it makes sense. The only reasonable and fair choice is to veto the Racial Affairs Committee.

The Daily Nebraskan supports the idea of minority representation in ASUN. Throughout the debate on the committees, we have called for approval of standing racial affairs and gay/lesbian/bisexual committees. But those committees — or, if necessary, subcommittees — must not be on different governmental levels.

Gosch's veto should come not because of fears that the Student Court would declare the bylaw unconstitutional, but because the new committee would defeat its declared purpose. Instead of fighting discrimination, it would institutionalize discrimination in the ASUN hierarchy.

— E.F.P.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Ribbon message of support

As a student rapidly approaching the end of my academic career and nearing the world of resumes, portfolios and regular paychecks, the world often seems to go by me in a blur. However, although I may not understand or have knowledge of all current world events, I do try to stay informed about any issues I may discuss in public. Obviously, this is not the case with James Zank in his letter (DN, March 19).

Please, Mr. Zank, get a clue on what's happening. First, you speak against expressing oneself on public property. If this is your real opinion, why should we allow peace marches on the grounds of our state capitol? Obviously this is an expression of a particular political view — yet you fail to cite this as an example. Couldn't these marches be equally interpreted (and I quote you in part) as "a biased and unfair representation" of the people who work and live in the state? Shame on you for ignoring this side in your "unbiased" letter, Mr. Zank.

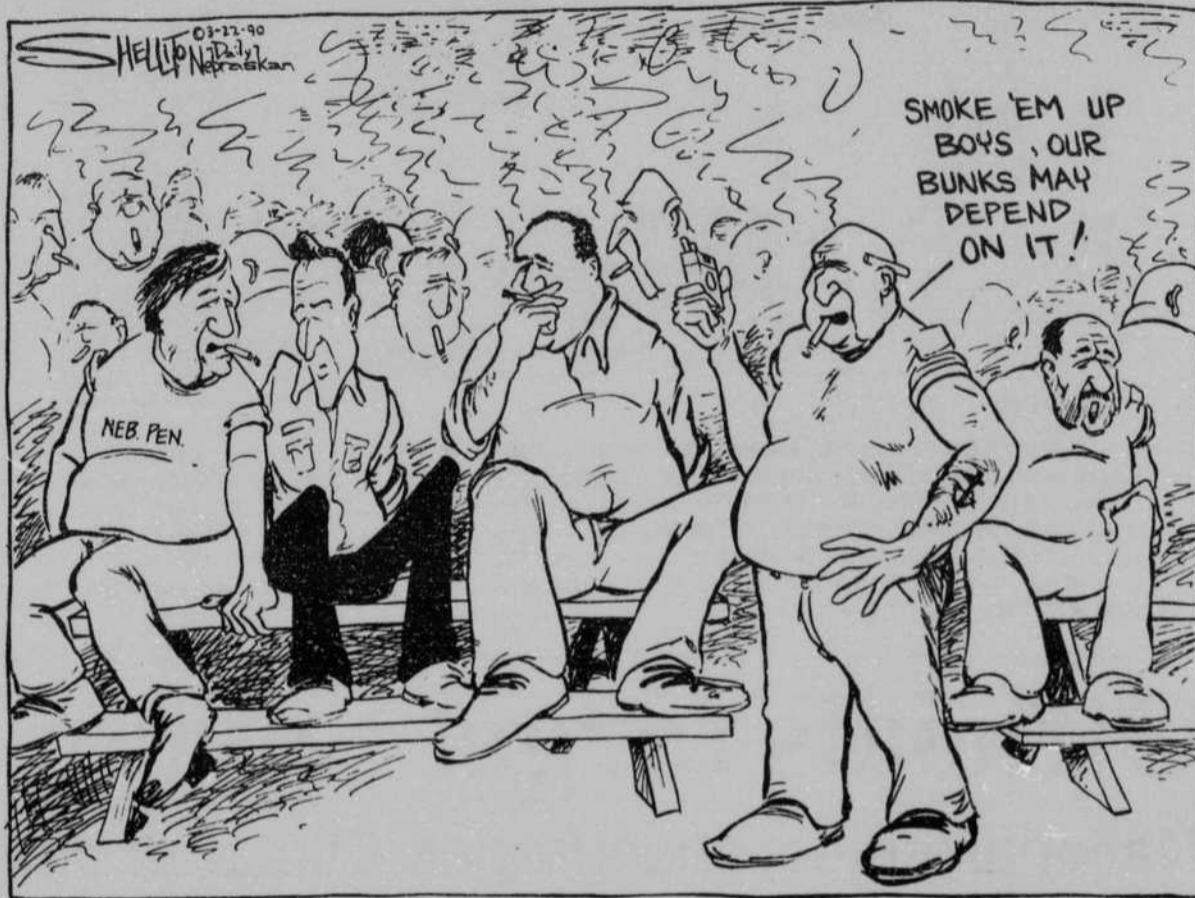
Secondly, the yellow ribbon in our link (which you must have made a special tour to see) symbolizes our support and remembrance of the six students from our college that were called to duty. You misinterpret our intentions by twisting them into some kind of illogical political statement/George Bush commentary. In addition, I'm disappointed, Mr. Zank, in your "pointing fingers" at our depart-

ment's approval of the ribbon. Why shouldn't they approve of support aimed at the students that they dedicate their lives to? Perhaps if you were more informed about these issues, you would not be so quick to look for scapegoats in order to attempt to support your "unbiased" letter.

And third, you timing leaves much to be desired. The war is over — obviously nobody told you. Our ribbon has been displayed at least one or two months now. Why the sudden attack? Our ribbon appeared on the fronts of both the Daily Nebraskan and the Lincoln paper weeks ago. Were you on vacation (i.e. Canada) at the time? And what was your public opinion prior to the war? You realize, of course, that President Bush just didn't wake up one day and decide to go to war. Why has it taken you so long to speak up?

Please, get better informed on the issues you discuss in public. The ribbon will stay until the return of our troops. Perhaps now — after learning its real meaning — you will have greater respect for it. However, if you haven't learned anything, Mr. Zank, and you still wish to use something "to blindfold justice," perhaps you could start by using a copy of your own article.

Michelle A. Cook  
graduate student  
architecture



GOVERNOR NELSON PLANS TO USE CIGARETTE TAXES FOR MORE PRISON SPACE

MIKE ROYKO

## Saddam is gay, sources say

This isn't meant to be a criticism of the man. That would violate today's standards of sensitivity and political correctness. But can it be that Saddam Hussein is gay?

I raise the question only because a nationally circulated newspaper recently ran a story with the headline, "Saddam's Gay Lover Tells All!" as well as another headline that said: "Iraqi Madman Wore Ladies' Undies In His Baghdad Bunker, Says Limp-Wristed Playmate."

Before I go into further detail, I must concede that the paper, the Weekly World News, is not considered one of the nation's more reputable publications.

It is distributed through supermarkets and usually carries stories about new sightings of UFOs, sex-crazed hippos trying to make love to swimmers in Africa and other fascinating but little-known events.

For example, the current issue has a story headlined: "Did Idi Amin Eat His Lawyer?; 'My husband was barbecued and served on a buffet,' charges attorney's wife."

And this issue's UFO sighting was out of the ordinary. It concerned a pretty North Carolina woman who insists that handsome space creatures took her aboard their UFO and made love to her so enthusiastically that she has since kicked her inadequate husband out of their home.

I should also mention that Weekly World News is not to be confused with the National Enquirer, which is always being sued for telling scurrilous lies about movie stars getting drunk and being unfaithful or fat. As far as I know, the Weekly World News has never been sued and probably won't be, especially if Idi Amin ate his lawyer.

But to get back to the allegation that Saddam is gay. (I pass the story along only because many of you are too inhibited to buy the paper when you are in a supermarket. I am too, so I have my wife pick it up).

The story says the "shocking revelations were made by Saddam's gay playmate, Terry Hammell, who spent four weeks holed up in the dictator's swanky private bunker before escap-



**Saddam believes he is a great Chinese checker player and always wins "because his pals know anybody who beats him will be shot on the spot." . . . It shows that you just can't trust anybody.**

ing to France in late February."

This fellow Hammell, 26, supposedly alleged that Saddam often wears women's garments and "has a mad, passionate crush on Cuban kingpin Fidel Castro, whom he calls the most handsome and brilliant man of our time. . . . He admitted to me more than once that he is madly in love with the man."

The story was accompanied by two photos of a man who looks like Saddam hugging a scantily clad young man identified as the kiss-and-tell Hammell. The pictures, the paper says, were snapped many months ago at Saddam's hideaway in Greece.

And these photos are the reason Terry had to flee to France, Terry says.

It seems that they were first published by the Weekly World News

four months ago (I missed that issue), but they were eventually seen by Saddam's wife, Sagida, who has a jealous nature.

As Terry is quoted: "After the pictures came out, things started getting a little too hot for me in Baghdad."

"When Saddam's wife found out, she was very upset, particularly after the war started and he took me into the bunker to live with him while she stayed at home."

"Finally, Sagida got word to me that she would help me get out of the bunker safely and return to my home in France. If I refused to leave, she said she would see to it that I was shot dead."

(Saddam may have his faults, but this would indicate that wife Sagida is the spunky sort who will not tolerate a home-wrecker.)

The story goes on to say: "Trembling Terry arrived in Paris Feb. 21 and immediately agreed to spill the beans on his lethal former lover."

"I loved Saddam," Terry said, "but I lived in constant terror when I was around him because he is so totally crazy."

And he revealed this shocker: Saddam believes he is a great Chinese checker player and always wins "because his pals know anybody who beats him will be shot on the spot."

A Chinese checker cheat — and to think that we once gave him military and financial aid. It shows that you just can't trust anybody.

There's more, but the details are too shocking for me to repeat here. You'll have to send your wife to the supermarket to get a copy.

As for why Idi Amin ate his lawyer, the circumstances are believable. Amin, the former dictator of Uganda, now lives in Bahrain, a Persian Gulf state.

Amin retained the lawyer to represent him in a camel custody fight with a neighbor and, it appears, the lawyer did a poor job.

So Amin got angry and . . . well, you'll have to read the rest yourself. I don't publish recipes. People get angry if they don't turn our right.