

## In limbo

*New ASUN can avoid earlier errors*

Over the last few weeks, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska has been recruiting students to fill openings in its governing bodies for next year. The hodgepodge of boards, committees, subcommittees and panels contains several new additions. Included in those are three subcommittees designed specifically to increase representation for international, gay/lesbian/bisexual and handicapped students in ASUN.

Unfortunately, one group of minority students is missing on the list of openings at ASUN. Ironically, it's the same group — racial minorities — that began the push for minority representation last fall.

Now the new ASUN senate gets to deal with the issue for the first time since coming into office several weeks ago. Wednesday night it will consider a new bill to create a subcommittee for racial affairs.

The solution to the the lack of representation sounds simple. All ASUN would have to do is pass the new proposal and start recruiting subcommittee members.

It may sound simple, but it's not. Some senators tried to pass a similar proposal under the last administration but a mixture of polemics and stubbornness kept ASUN from making any headway. Constituents often proved to be as contentious as senators and executives in stonewalling progress.

First, a standing ASUN Racial Affairs Committee was in place. Then it was gone. When a compromise — a subcommittee — was suggested, it was scorned.

The entire debate is rooted not in substance but in words. While the cantankerous wrangle goes on, nothing gets done, ASUN gets a bad name and racial minority students go home from meetings angry at their student government.

The results of that process are clear. Three minority subcommittees have been established, while a critical one is still in limbo. The status quo must not continue into next year.

This year's new senators would serve their constituents best by passing the subcommittee proposal quickly — before the ridiculous debate is renewed and this year's senate gets the unfortunate stigma of the last. ASUN's list of openings must be made complete.

—E.F.P.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Writers condemn too quickly

I too would like to address Daniel P. Thibodeau's letter in the April 25 Daily Nebraskan. What he has done here is done quite often in the letters to the editor.

Everyone seems so caught up in writing something condemning a certain and specific group of people who may do, or are involved in things other than what the all-knowing letter writer is involved in. They are too quick to pass judgment on others' actions to attempt to get the facts first.

This I feel can be related to the incident at Sigma Chi Fight Night as well. The fact that it was a philanthropic event is not an excuse for the altercations occurring. I feel that only

bringing up the down side of the event was in poor taste, not only on the part of the Daily Nebraskan, but also letter writers specifically attacking the Sigma Chi house for hosting the event.

Whether the members of fraternities and sororities are "elite" or one of the "privileged" (words used often in describing both groups in the April 26 issue), should not be entered into any debate of our worth on campus. Regardless of where we may live, we, as students, all have our own niche to fill in this university community.

Craig Lytle  
junior  
secondary education

### Shirts much ado about nothing

This letter is in response to the letter to the DN on April 25 regarding Mr. Thibodeau's lambasting of the TRIAD T-shirts. I don't think he understands the big picture. There are far too many things he should be concerned with other than T-shirts. He is making much ado about nothing. The TRIAD party has been a tradition at UNL for many years. It has never been regarded as anything more than a social event.

As a former fraternity member, I can say it was a privilege to attend a TRIAD party. However, I do not utilize this fact on my resume.

There is nothing wrong with group promotion or commercialization of an event. Mr. Thibodeau has implied too much.

Mark Wilgus  
graduate student  
dentistry

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Initialed editorials represent official policy of the spring 1991 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the editorial board.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the NU Board of Regents, who

established the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Publications Board to supervise daily production of the paper. According to the regents' policy, responsibility for the editorial content lies solely in the hands of the newspaper's student editors.



JANA PEDERSEN

## Dead Week alive, hectic

Welcome to Dead Week, or maybe you'd forgotten. Once again, most students' schedules prove that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Dead Week policy is a joke. Between the final project I have due Tuesday and the final exam I have Friday, this week for me is significantly less than dead.

Actually, the project and the test don't really bother me. Both were discussed many moons ago, so I knew they were coming. During a truly dead week, I would have had plenty of time to prepare for them and for finals next week.

I guess I forgot that UNL doesn't really have a Dead Week.

According to the 1991-92 Schedule of Classes, UNL's Dead Week policy prohibits instructors from scheduling projects, papers and speeches, unless they are assigned before mid-term. The policy disallows any tests except for makeups or for self-paced or lab sections.

The key element UNL's Dead Week policy doesn't cover is the presentation of new material or any less-than-major assignments.

In class Friday, a student asked our professor if the material she would be delivering in lecture this week would be included in our final exam.

"Of course," she said.



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Typical reasons for not having such a policy are that it encourages last-minute preparation, discourages students from organizing their time more efficiently and allows many students who don't have heavy workloads a whole week to sluff off.

But let's look at the pro side.

First of all, a free week would mean instructors could present no new material students would have to learn for finals. That would encourage early preparation for exams by ensuring that students have all the material they need to know more than a week before the test.

No last-minute assignments would save students the stress of trying to

find extra minutes in which to complete them during an already over-booked week.

A week free of classes also would provide leeway for projects that involve equipment shared by large groups of students. Even if students are organized well in advance for final projects, last-minute hitches are inevitable. When there only are limited number of computers that students are able to use to finish projects, Dead Week is especially hectic. More free time would allow students more freedom in scheduling equipment time.

Most importantly, a free Dead Week would provide ample time for students to review for final tests. Trying to remember 15 weeks worth of information deserves at least a week's attention. But with everything else UNL's Dead Week involves, students can ill afford to devote that much time to studying for exams.

Many instructors probably realize the difficulty students have in preparing for finals. Many of my instructors make their "finals" non-comprehensive, meaning I only have to review as far back as the last test.

But finals should be what they're called. Making them non-comprehensive to compensate for students' lack of time is kind of a cop-out, although I wouldn't get angry at any of my instructors for doing so.

The only solution to UNL's current Dead Week policy is to eliminate it and the whole week together.

The current policy does nothing. Instructors who want to schedule major assignments for Dead Week do so well enough in advance. That would happen with or without a policy. The smaller assignments and new material are presented anyway.

For students, the only solution to the Dead Week problem is to also make it what it's called — dead.

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## LETTER POLICY

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers. Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space availability. The Daily Nebraskan

retains the right to edit letters. Letters should be typewritten and less than 500 words. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Letters should include the author's name, address, phone

number, year in school and group affiliation, if any.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.