

LINDA KAY MORGAN

Clubs can ease minority pressures

How do you cope with the pressures of having no one who looks like you, no one to share your most confused feelings and emotions with, no one who knows the burden and agony you bear when you stand out in a crowd?

You walk to class with these emotions because you are surrounded by people who don't understand you as an individual. They have never had to worry about who is judging them without getting to know them as a human being.

The only closeness you often feel is the shadow that lurks as you continue your brisk walk to class. Although you may encounter and speak to many students on the way to class, you still are the only one who has the face everyone seems to remember. Could it be because of your witty charm? Or is it your ethnicity?

Do you find yourself feeling as though you have no one to whom you can turn when you find yourself standing around lost? You do not stand alone.

Then you see another face that shares your characteristics and burdens. You do not walk alone in this enclosed environment of the majority. There are other racial groups on this campus, but they are scattered among the enormous population.

Many of the universities in this country are predominantly white. That makes it quite difficult for a minority student to adjust without having any-



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one of his or her ethnicity to turn to. After entering any establishment, before we feel comfortable enough to take a seat, we often look for someone with whom we may have something in common.

We Americans are not quick to converse with anyone, unless we can relate to where the person is coming from. Therefore, we are more likely to seek shelter with our own people than with someone who doesn't share our obvious qualities.

Now, don't get me wrong. This also holds true for whites. White students choosing to attend a university consisting predominantly of minorities more than likely find comfort in those who share their characteristics, those who know where they are coming from. It is OK to do so. We all must find comfort before we can find relaxation.

But some people pose the question, "If minorities feel lost or unaccepted, why don't they attend a university where they feel a little more comfortable?"

To that, I say, "Many of the minorities attend predominately white universities because of scholarships and financial assistance. Many do not have the funds it takes to attend a university outside their state."

Minorities should have the option of attending any institution of higher learning that meets their needs.

However, predominantly white universities do provide clubs and organizations for minorities. At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, there are a number of organizations that work for the support of minorities:

- The Afrikan People's Union.
- The Mexican American Student Association.

- The University of Nebraska International Tribal Exchange.
- The Vietnamese Student Association.

Several other organizations deal with minorities by their academic area. Students interested in seeing whether such an organization exists for their academic areas can consult their advisers.

Minorities, as well as white students, have the opportunity to get out and explore these groups. They give them a place to find strength among students who are like them and white students the opportunity to understand the world minorities live in.

By joining a campus organization, you get the opportunity to speak out on issues that need to be taken care of. Also, you have the opportunity to plan social events that will keep you together as a family instead of separated as strangers.

What you put forth is what you get back. You must not allow your ethnicity to diminish because of the scarcity of minorities that are around you. You must stand tall and firm on beliefs and share them with your peers. Do not allow yourself to get caught up in a world that only sees things as a one-way street. You are a human being, and you, too, have the right of way.

Morgan is a sophomore broadcasting and advertising major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Education or athletics?

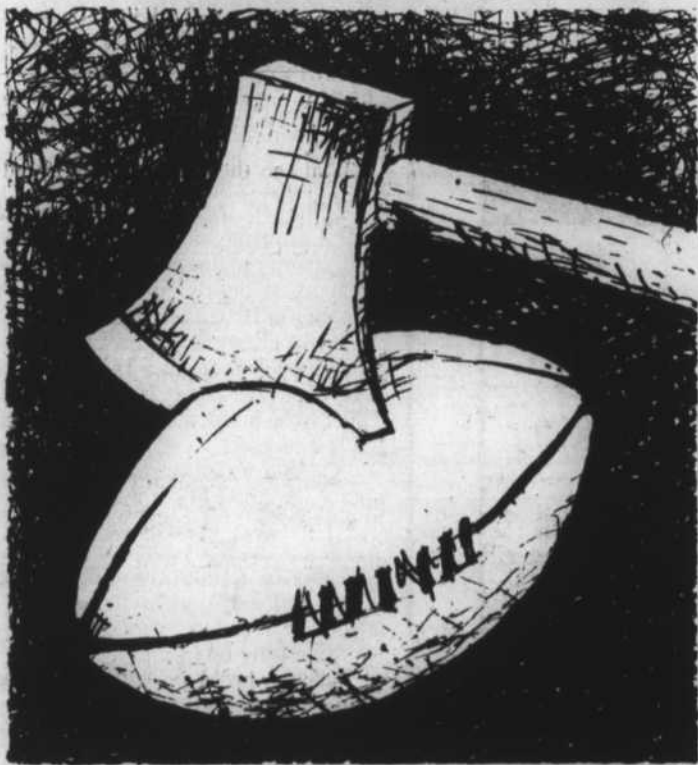
'Phase out' athletics first

It is truly a shame that a university, supposedly geared toward education, would "phase out" two academic departments, yet cut nothing from its athletic budget. I believe there is something severely wrong when football takes precedence over learning. In fact, it's downright disgusting.

When I pay my tuition, I'd like to think I'm paying for all the academic departments to do their jobs, not for the football program, which I couldn't care less for if someone paid me. If the budget needs cutting, don't punish the speech communication and classics departments; take money out of the athletic department. Heck, why don't you just "phase it out."

Kristin Kroeger
sophomore
secondary education

Editor's note: The Nebraska athletic department is financially self-supporting.



Tom Towater/DN

Cutting classics would be like axing football

Cutting the classics department to pare the University of Nebraska-Lincoln budget is like cutting football to pare the athletic budget.

Football, as everyone knows, pays the bills for the minor sports. Classics courses cost \$25.63 per student credit hour. Tuition is \$57.25 per student credit hour. Every classics credit hour is therefore a markup of \$31.62 that the university can spend elsewhere. Chemistry costs \$107.87 per student credit hour, a minus of \$50.62.

What does this mean?

For every five students in Latin, Greek or classical mythology, the university can pay to teach three students chemistry and break even. If there is no football program, there might be no money to support wrestling. If there is no classics program (with 2,200 students per year) what other programs would, in Homer's phrase, "bite the dust"?

Tom Winter
associate professor
classics

LETTER POLICY

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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.

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.

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