

LINDA KAY MORGAN

Contraception should be taught

In today's advanced society, we need to quit hiding the truth from our children. If children aren't learning about life from their parents, you can be sure they are learning it from someone else. Possibly the wrong person.

The plan to teach about contraception in Omaha schools is the best thing that could happen to education, given the increase in teen-age birth rates and sexual diseases. Such programs give students the opportunity to learn about themselves and the individual they may want to become one with.

The Omaha School Board voted last week to approve for use in schools a contraceptive kit — birth-control devices and a model of the female reproductive system — and an eighth-grade sex-education textbook and video. But they may not be used in the schools until next semester. Several board members still say they prefer abstinence programs over the contraceptive kits.

The thought of sex causes many adults to clam up and put a clothes pin on young, inquiring minds, leaving knowledge of a very important part of their lives in the hands of other individuals.

Those people are usually the ones who would like to make love to them, who only tell them what they want to hear and not the extent of what they



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need to hear.

I understand parents' concern with having other people teaching their children about contraceptives and sex, but if they will not let professionals teach them and are not taking the initiative to do so themselves, they should take time out to think about who may be doing so.

Contraceptives in the school system, supported with knowledge, only help students become more aware of the protection they need to use when they decide to take that major step in their lives.

Parents must stop for a moment and ask their children what they know about sex. They know a great deal. But often they are uneducated or lacking very important information about it. On the other hand, many of them probably could educate their parents.

We can't hide reality from young adults and expect them to grow up balanced. How can they become well-rounded when a valuable part of their lives is being sheltered?

No matter how hard parents try to instill in their children the fact that premarital sex is a sin, once they leave parents' clutches for the day, they are faced with a vital decision: Should I be celibate even though I love this young man or woman?

Education is not an invitation for young people to go out and have sex. That is something that must be made clear to them. It is, however, an opportunity for young people to enhance their knowledge and be a little more careful in their decision-making.

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

Athletic department all wet

I note from the Daily Nebraskan that, "Sports Center's roof repair hurt by budget cuts (DN, Sept. 19, 1991)."

of the professors. Now, I know why — the roof leaked on them, and their brains rusted.

I always thought the athletic department was all wet in raising the coach's salary when it was already nearly double that of some

Is it any wonder that Nebraska's teams rate in the Top 25, while our other students don't?

Lester Christiansen
Lincoln

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public wants its 'bad' type of rap



Tom Towater/DN

In response to Walter Gholson's column ("Rap industry promotes violence," DN, Sept. 25, 1991): Do people also conspire to make a culture? Do minorities also conspire to differentiate their language from the de facto American standard? Do students conspire against you to fill every available stall in all of the metered lots on campus? Of course not.

Movie theaters are not failing because of a consumer conspiracy to rent videos any more than a hat blows from your head because the gas molecules are in cahoots.

The disproportionate amount of sexism and violence in well-marketed rap music is not the result of a super-secret diabolical plot (by rich, white males?) to infuse negative messages into socio-economically disadvantaged peoples.

Successful rap possesses these characteristics because there is a large consumer base that wants it — apparently because it identifies with it. While it may not be ethical to feed this market, the responsibility ultimately lies in the hands of the consumer.

I agree that the situation Gholson described is unfortunate, but the conspiracy theory is absurd.

Furthermore, Gholson's implied prescription is frightening: to replace mass-marketed (bad) art with socially healthy propaganda encourages youths to think happy thoughts.

We would be better off simply encouraging our youths to think. Gholson's conspiracy theory sets a bad example. It teaches that all blame can be affixed externally if you can spin tales of an invisible fiendish plot to hold you down.

Pohl Longsine
senior
computer science and mathematics

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Group gives reasons for floor's secession

We want to clarify the issues that were improperly mentioned or omitted from the article about the secession of Selleck 5300 from the Residence Hall Association. The main reasons for our secession are as follows:

- The constitution for the Selleck Hall government is arbitrarily enforced and ignored when it does not suit its needs.

- There are voting discrepancies within the last Selleck executive election. For example, in the case of a tie for an elected office, according to our copy of the constitution, the president is responsible for tie-breaking. The executive board may not poll an unelected floor representative to vote on a tied issue.

- We have officially asked to view the financial records. We would like to see where our money has been spent. We have yet to view these records.

- Housing discrepancies. Suitable

drinking water is required to be close to each room by state law, but no drinking fountains are found on our floor. We do not consider bathroom sink water drinkable.

- The floor receives an insignificant amount of funds from RHA to do with as it wishes.

Twenty-five of 26 students agreed to secede from RHA, with one abstention. We did not secede from the university or from the housing department, just from RHA. Most graduate and non-traditional students live here year-round. We pay our own bills. Most can't go home on the weekends because this is our home, and often home is four or five thousand miles away.

The idea that residents are raising these issues because we have nothing better to do is totally ludicrous and shows the insensitivity of the Selleck student government. Not one resident on our floor bears malice toward any member of RHA or the Selleck ex-

ecutive board. We will not tolerate these injustices.

As we recall, all students are involuntarily members of RHA, because a portion of our housing payment goes to it. This does not require that we participate.

Until RHA representatives recognize our secession publicly, we will not be intimidated into negotiations.

Kurtis Halvorson
junior
electrical engineering

Amy Manbeck
graduate student
agronomy

David Raymond
graduate student
biology

Stefany Moran
junior
psychology