

RAINBOW COALITION

Group offers students support

By Robert Christensen

I would like to thank the Rainbow Coalition for inviting the Adult Student Network to participate in the guest columns for the Daily Nebraskan. These columns give the entire student body a chance to learn some of the thoughts of a less well-known part of the student body.

The Adult Student Network is a group of non-traditional students who meet weekly (or as often as our schedules allow). Our goal is twofold: to help us assimilate into the University of Nebraska-Lincoln community and to expand our educational experience by sharing our successes and difficulties.

We discuss concerns that we have about life at UNL. But our primary focus is to adapt our lives to fit the educational experience at UNL.

From time to time we identify problems that we feel should be brought to the attention of the administration or campus leaders. One area we discussed at a recent meeting was the lack of a comprehensive schedule of UNL events in the Daily Nebraskan.

Part of a newspaper's responsibility is to keep its readers informed of area events. Because student fees help support the Daily Nebraskan, we can

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expect that the DN will realize this obligation.

There have been some signs that the administration is more responsive to students. Chancellor Graham Spanier has made it clear that decisions affecting the student body must be open to student input. The recent parking proposals and the meeting that was called to find a solution is one example of this new forthright style.

This openness is a welcome change from past administrations. But we must realize this change carries with it some responsibilities. We must be willing to participate even if the events don't seem all that important.

In the past, we have invited various speakers to attend our meetings. This is primarily to help us get information that is not readily available to students who enter the university outside the traditional path. These speakers have included representatives from the scholarships and financial aid office, the health center, the ombudsman, the rec center, Career Planning and Placement, Student Legal Services and many others.

We also have offered support to fellow students facing class difficulties, family problems or other problems related to our lives as students. Many times the solutions to our problems can be found by discussing them with our peers.

A traditional student who lives in the dorms or greek houses has a ready supply of peers just down the hall. For the non-traditional student, our peers probably don't live down the hall or even across the street. The Adult Student Network is one way for non-traditional students to meet their peers and discuss their difficulties and success in a non-threatening environment.

Our goal is to help adult students assimilate into UNL and have a successful educational experience.

Christensen is a junior education major.

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Affirmative action frustrates the qualified

I am glad Jim Burrows ("Affirmative Action unwarranted target," DN, April 23) acknowledges that "Affirmative action can be misused to hire unqualified people." Jim also believes that there is a "false perception that jobs are going to unqualified people due to affirmative action." Make up your mind, Jim.

I believe there is no false perception that affirmative action creates reverse discrimination because I am a white male who has been discriminated against in the past.

In 1989, I applied for a forest service job in Wyoming. The hiring supervisor told me that he was interested in hiring me, but that first needed to fill his affirmative action quota. If there was enough money left in his budget,

he would hire me.

Needless to say, he did fill his affirmative action quota (somewhat against his will), and he did not have enough money left to hire me. To add insult to injury, not one of the quota fillers had any college experience and probably had little interest in the job.

This actually happened to me, Jim, and it was not the last time that it happened to me.

Furthermore, I saw it happen time and again to other people when I worked for the soil conservation service during college.

Almost every white male I know in the fisheries and wildlife fields could tell you, Jim, about how they have lost out on jobs because of affirmative action policies.

I find it hard to believe that a person can spend years earning a degree in a field they are interested in, and then get beat out for jobs in that field by persons with no experience or interest.

What can I do about it? Absolutely nothing. If I try to fight it, I will be labeled a bigot. Merely expressing my views and experiences in this letter will probably get me labeled as some sort of white supremacist.

The only thing I can do, Jim, is sit in the dugout and wait for my chance to swing at the ball with a broken bat.

Erik Wagner
graduate
wildlife management

Date rape exists; divorce not women's fault

In response to Chris Halligan's column ("Feminism robs masculinity," DN, April 15), we would like to raise a few questions. First, are you suggesting that there is no such thing as "date" and "friend" rape? The suggestion seems to be that there has never been a case of nonconsensual sex during a date — or when two people are alone in a room. You state, "The destiny of a man's life lies in the hands of a woman he had sex with." Perhaps you mean to say that the destiny of a rapist lies in the willing-

ness of the victim to report the rape.

We further question your conclusion that the women's movement is the direct cause of the increased divorce rate. Perhaps you don't realize that correlation doesn't entail causation. (Maybe a logic course would be in order.) The suggestion you make is that women are to blame. This overlooks the fact that many men choose to leave marriages as well.

Finally, you say, "At one time, men could depend on women for complete support and recognition of

their maleness." Why should one's self-concept be formed by attention from only one gender? Wouldn't that be unhealthy? Isn't it the case that people form their "maleness" and "femaleness" as a result of contact with role models of the same gender?

T.A. Scholl
C.M. Bohner
B.J. Huschle
J.A. Lazier
R.H. Cooper
graduate students
philosophy

Visitors greeted with hospitality despite snow

Patrick Hobbs, a prospective freshman from Rochester, N.Y., and his parents were at UNL for a campus visit on Tuesday, April 21, our now-historic "snow day," during which UNL canceled classes and closed most offices. Patrick and his parents drove to Lincoln from Rochester, a 21-hour drive one-way. Another prospective student, Ian Worcester, is in the military and stationed in Germany, and was home on leave with family in Bellevue, and also scheduled a visit to UNL on April 21.

To the people in telecommunica-

tions, who were staffing the phones so our campus visitors could call and make sure we would be here when they arrived (telecommunications, by the way, answered more than 9,500 telephone calls that day); to Brian Wilcox, a UNL senior, who gave up his free morning to come into High School and College Relations, meet with our visitors and give them a tour of the campus; to Campus Recreation, for providing a tour of the rec center; and to the staff in university housing, who met with Ian and allowed him to submit his housing

contract while he was on campus.

The Worcesters drove back to Bellevue after their visit and the Hobbs family climbed back into their car for the 21-hour return trip to New York. Both families appreciated very much the service, hospitality and information they received and complimented each university person with whom they came in contact. Thank you to everyone who helped create such a positive impression of our campus.

Lisa L. Schmidt
director
High School and College Relations

Bashing others' beliefs threatens freedom

In response to Mr. Blomstedt's letter ("Half-Asskin, films shame UNL," DN, April 22), I find his comments to be very narrow-minded. His letter gives me feelings of anger and confusion. Mr. Blomstedt needs to realize that this country is founded on many rights to all of its citizens. Among those rights are the freedom of speech and freedom of religion. These are two very distinct freedoms that Mr. Blomstedt is attacking in his letter. While Mr. Blomstedt may find the Half-Asskin obscene, it is obvi-

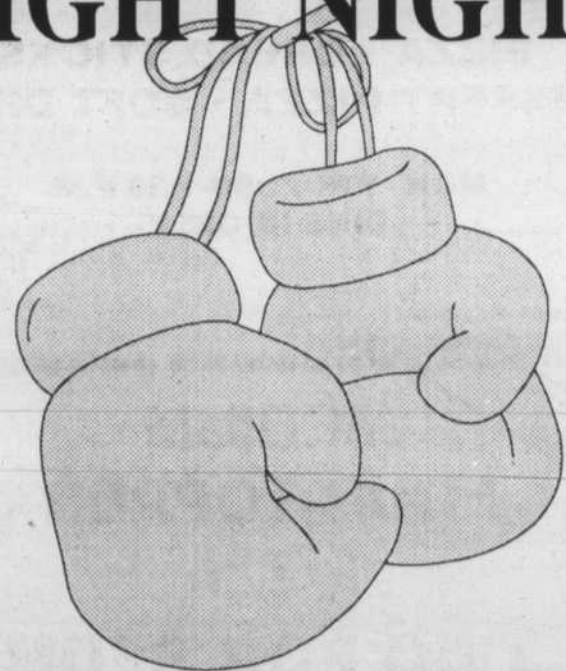
ous that that is not the case. The Half-Asskin was not a "secret" publication. The state and the university both knew of its contents. Obviously if the issue was obscene, the State of Nebraska would have prosecuted on obscenity violations. This is simply a case of "if you don't like the issue, don't read it!"

Mr. Blomstedt also stated in his letter that we "should be concerned about the dishonor brought upon our university and state..." This is outright narrow-mindedness! His claims

of dishonor are such acts as the, in his view, obscene and anti-Christian films and the gay/lesbian/bisexual film festival. Mr. Blomstedt finishes his letter by throwing in a bit of gospel. Why? This man is pushing for censorship of our religions and religious beliefs that do not equal his, and he is putting down the gay/lesbian/bisexual lifestyle because it is not equal to his.

William E. Winsor II
senior
computer science and engineering

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