

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

Hypocrisy

ASUN bill supports discrimination at UNL

Once again, ASUN senators have failed to draw a line in their sandbox.

UNL's student leaders Wednesday night had the opportunity to choose between supporting or closing the door on diversity campuswide.

"Either way we as senators are making a statement, a statement for the student body," general studies senator Narroyl Parker said.

The statement ASUN made sent the message that UNL students support discrimination on the basis of sexual preference.

By approving a measure that supports ROTC at UNL and asks UNL's Academic Senate to soften its stance against the program, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska has refused to take a true stand against discrimination.

Senators claimed that a vote against the bill would punish students who were using ROTC to gain an education.

The senators ignore the homosexual students shut out by ROTC's door.

Although the bill manages to condemn discrimination, it affirms the presence of ROTC — a discriminatory institution — at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

ASUN's effort to do both is hypocritical when the military's ban on homosexuals, including ROTC cadets, remains unchanged.

At UNL, only the Academic Senate has taken a firm stand against the policy and discrimination.

An Academic Senate resolution, passed in April 1991, states that if the Department of Defense's policy is not changed by Jan. 1, 1993, the senate will urge the chancellor to "renegotiate the contracts of the three branches of ROTC at UNL in order to eliminate credit for all ROTC courses."

Students enrolled as of Jan. 1, 1993, would not be affected by the change.

But UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier pulled some of the measure's sharpest teeth last spring when he said he agreed with the spirit of the bill, but did not believe in the idea of a deadline.

The university's student senators likewise have tackled the issue before.

Last year's senate passed a similar bill, but former ASUN President Andy Massey wisely vetoed it on the grounds that the bill violated the NU Board of Regents' anti-discrimination policy.

It was a shame last year's measure passed. It was fortunate Massey was there to nip it in the bud.

This year's president of ASUN does not have the same good sense.

Before last night's debate, ASUN President Andrew Sigerson came out in support of the bill.

Sigerson and many of the rest of this year's student leaders think one university cannot make a change.

"Whether or not we kick ROTC off campus is not going to make a difference to the Department of Defense," Sigerson said.

UNL is already lagging in the movement to eliminate ROTC's archaic policy.

Only by joining the nations' other campuses that have begun to protest can the university help lead a revolution.

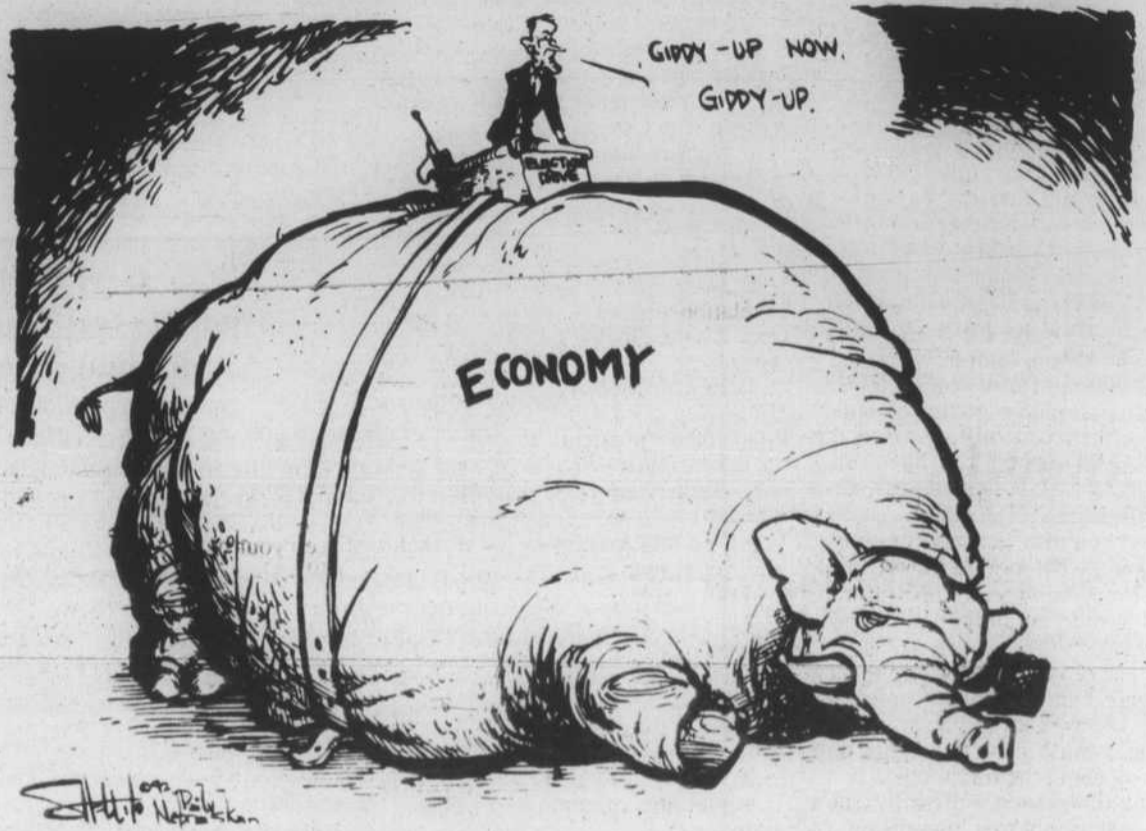
But as long as student senators continue to bury their heads in the sand, the U.S. military will overlook the wide opposition to this policy.

LETTER POLICY

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others. Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted. Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1992 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents. Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Political process

This may seem like an absurd letter to most Daily Nebraskan readers, as it involves talking about the columns in the opinion section of the Daily Nebraskan, largely in response to Jeremy Fitzpatrick's column about the rest of life outside of politics ("There's more to life than politics," DN, Sept. 1).

It's interesting that Fitzpatrick chose to write about the whole situation revolving around what he would write or not write about in his column. Politics is often the subject of many columns on the opinion page, and Fitzpatrick chose not to write about it, and yet he still did.

No, he didn't write a scathing review of Dan Quayle's spelling ability, nor did he write about Gov. Bill Clinton's bad breath. Fitzpatrick wrote about what he could write about instead of presidential candidates' shortcomings. He, however, did end up talking about politics, the real politics, if I dare be so presumptuous as to call my definition "real."

When all is said and done, politics can be summarized by one question: "What do you think?" Whether you are talking about presidential candidates, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents' concern (or lack of the same) for the Apollo space capsule rotting in a barn, or just whether or not you think the Huskers will win Saturday, you are participating, in some small way, in the process of thinking.

Expressing opinions in our culture has steadily become more and more a political process, especially given the many factions in society that would rather you just shut up. This may be the case of the writer who didn't sign his name on the letter to Fitzpatrick. We may never know because this individual didn't seem to value his (or her opinion, for that matter) enough to sign his letter.

No matter how hard it is for people to accept, there are many sides to everything. Despite the best efforts of our culture to create two sides to every issue, if culture allows that much dissent, the world is not black and white, nor two-dimensional; there are certainly almost an infinite number of perspectives to view the world in which we live.

Thus it is not accurate to have labeled Fitzpatrick a "left-wing, liberal, a boy wet behind the ears." Having met Jeremy in my dealings with the DN, I've seen him and near as I can tell, his anatomy doesn't appear to include wings, left or right. Nor could I determine whether the rear areas of his audio sense organs pos-

sessed any unusual moisture. But the letter writer couldn't have known: All they see is a cropped photo of Fitzpatrick's head.

All fun aside, my point is the DN serves a function larger than finding out what new bands are playing this weekend or delivering some mid-lecture boredom with its crossword puzzle.

It serves as a place where students and others can express themselves. Where people can learn, debate, argue and hopefully think about what goes on around them. In short, it gives people a taste of the "real" world that many consider their post-college career challenge.

Having spent a semester trying to come up with a column a week, I appreciate the efforts of those who do it, even if I don't agree with them. Even if I think their writing style is poor, I still read them all. You never can tell what you may learn. By the way, Jeremy, good column.

James A. Zank
senior
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Punk rockers

I am writing to thank you for your unbiased report on those crazy "punk rockers" and "frat rats." I must admit I have not heard the term "punk rocker" since perhaps 1983 out of the mouth of some tired old sitcom character, but your wise words moved me.

It is good to know that we have someone so insightful on the editorial staff. I am glad that you judge yourself above those two judgmental crowds, yet remain so humble that you would stoop so low as to talk to them enough to decide that you would rather hang out with punk rockers than greeks. After all, even Hitler preferred Slavs to the Jews.

Maybe if you stepped outside your sheltered little world and met a few greeks or punk rockers or even dared to party with them, you might discover that they are not the clones you are convinced they are.

Maybe then you would realize that both "dormies" and greeks are just people who have friends with similar interests. I am not writing to condemn anyone for dressing how or living where they want, but to point out your own judgmental hypocrisy.

Christopher Banks
sophomore
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international affairs

Truth, knowledge

There used to be a belief that college was a place to seek truth and knowledge. It's not so in many classes and obviously not in the DN. When people like Jeremy Fitzpatrick write garbage ("There's more to life than politics," DN, Sept. 1) that naive readers may be willing to believe, the future of this university and country is in question.

Well, we're not naive, and Fitzpatrick, you are "wet behind the ears." You slam country music. You slam conservatism. You slam Republicans. You don't know enough about the military to insult hundreds of thousands of soldiers who fought in the last war to protect your freedom to slam them.

Have you no dignity for yourself? No respect for others? No desire for the truth? Are you feebly trying to get your foothold to someday be a media pundit like your liberal mentors? You laugh with your friends; they don't think you're very liberal. Sounds like your friends don't know you very well.

You are not your grandfather who was in the military, and you have little respect for it. They are men, not boys. They are also women. These men and women have children and families they love dearly. These people are dedicated to the constitutional ideology that America is free. That freedom isn't free, and you should think about the things before you endorse Woodrow Wilson and advertise the fact that you are a fool.

The junior officers lead from the front. They lead by example. They are no safer than the men they lead. I know you'll find any quality officer will not have his men do anything he wouldn't do himself. You are an insult to the university. You are an insult to the DN. They should reconsider why they employ you and have you understand you are not irreplaceable.

I'm not your precious pen pal you speak of so highly. I do read the campus paper hoping to find educated ideas and opinions. I believe you, like many liberals, hide behind the Bill of Rights whenever you are challenged on issues you write about but know very little.

I come to UNL seeking truth and knowledge; maybe some of the writers at the DN need to educate themselves and leave their egotistical status out and just try to report facts. Your opinions are unappreciated. DN, clean up your paper.

Dan Rezac
senior
finance