

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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No use

Parking problems will never be solved

For years, parking has topped the platform of candidates for the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The NU Board of Regents have discussed and re-discussed parking issues. The UNL Residence Hall Association often frets about open lots. Already this fall, issues have ranged from arguments about remote-lot parking to spaces available on football days. Last spring students were upset about the monitoring of metered spaces.

It's fair to say every student for one reason or another has been dissatisfied with parking on campus.

The name Ray Coffey, former member of the UNL parking committee, used to be a household dirty word.

Now Mike Cacak, interim parking administrator, is working to figure out a way to make students and their cars happy.

Fact is, the parking problems of the university will never be solved.

Try as Andrew Sigerson may, there is no way to please everyone.

Sigerson, ASUN president, and the rest of the clan tonight struck down a proposal to ban first-year students from parking on campus.

The plan would have prevented freshmen from buying parking permits.

Many large universities have installed such a ban.

Granted, the proposal would have freed up numerous parking spaces behind the residence halls, but first-year students at UNL probably would have complained about the plan. And the proposal would have done little to ease the congestion of lots used by commuter students — who, by definition at UNL, are not supposed to be freshmen.

RHA voted unanimously Monday to withhold support from the ASUN resolution to ban freshman parking.

Sigerson has said a better solution would be to build a large, off-campus lot where every student, faculty and staff member could park.

But the plan doesn't seem all too likely to come into effect in a year plagued by a shortage of funds. The university is not so anxiously awaiting budget cuts from the Legislature.

Sigerson, RHA and parking officials will keep dreaming. UNL campus police will keep ticketing. Students will keep circling the lots, hoping to find a spot to park their gas-guzzling, environment-damaging vehicles.

In the meantime, the tickets will continue to stack up in the back seats of students' cars until graduation when they must pay the fines before they drive away with a degree in hand.

There is no happy ending.

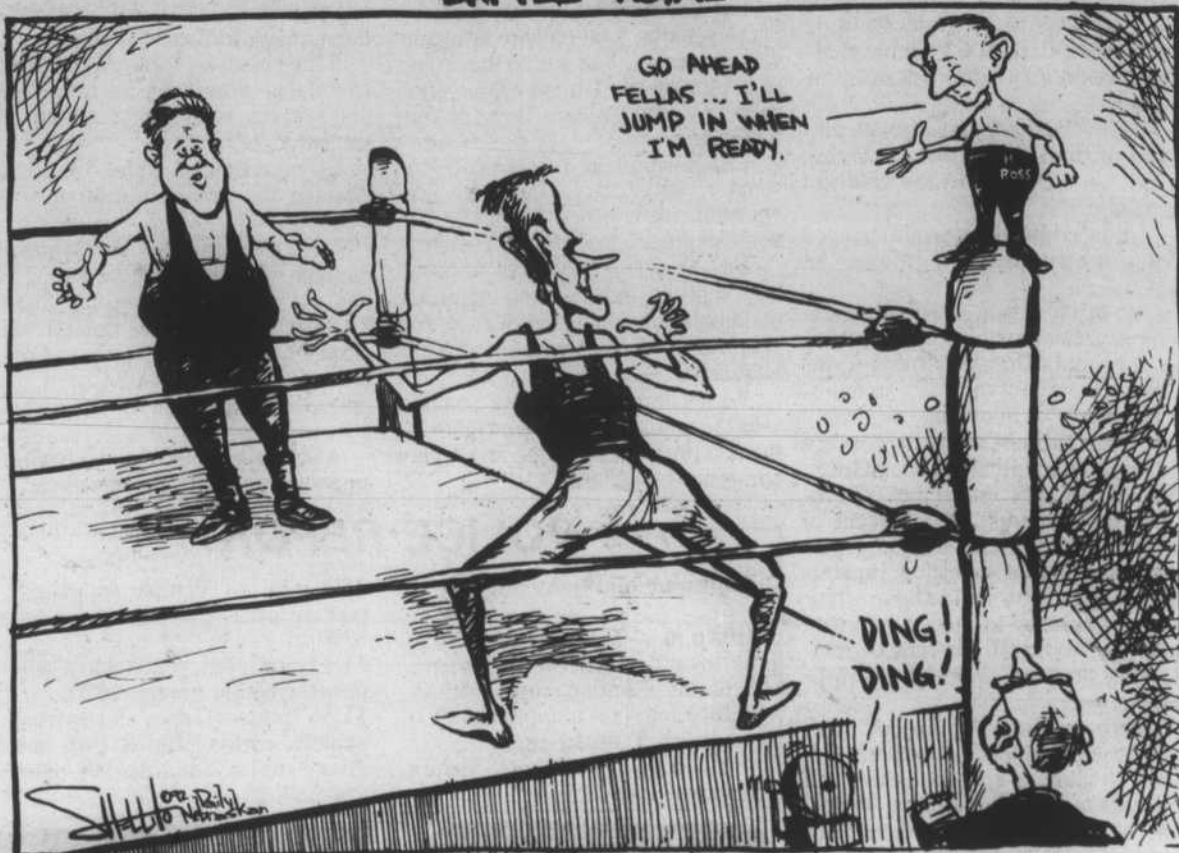
EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

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.

BATTLE ROYAL



KIM SPURLOCK

Minority discontent no surprise

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Racial Climate Survey that was conducted last spring strongly indicates that minorities, especially African-Americans, are not pleased with UNL.

Really. The front page of a January issue of the Daily Nebraskan showed a picture of a former football player, Scott Baldwin, naked and hog-tied as a result of a mental outbreak. Seventy-five to 100 African-American students met with Daily Nebraskan representatives (with media coverage) and discussed the unethical picture.

During a rally protesting the acquittal of four Los Angeles police officers, African-American students called out the names of many people whom they thought perpetuated the racial problems on campus.

High-ranking UNL officials have spoken at several African People's Union meetings in the past years and listened to African-American concerns about racism and discrimination at UNL.

And 40 percent of African-Americans are not satisfied with the university?

Surprise. Surprise. I can't believe the university took the time to conduct such a confidential survey when they knew of many, many African-American students who wouldn't hesitate to tell the university or anyone who would listen to their stories.

Officials now say multicultural education is needed at UNL. Why are so many people a day late and a dollar short?

When I first realized I was going to UNL and saw the requirements for my major, I was disgusted when I saw Western Civilization.

Western Civilization. Why the hell was I taking a course that was going to say nothing about the contributions of my people and would not benefit me in the future?

Western Civilization is about black people, but many students do not know that.

Maybe if the professors who taught these courses spoke about the contributions of other cultures besides the European culture, or maybe if these professors knew of the contributions of other cultures that were a part of Western civilization, or even maybe if these professors knew who was black and who was white in Western civilization, minorities wouldn't mind taking such a course.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska president Andrew Sigerson said in his State of the Campus address that UNL should not require incoming students to take multicultural courses. He said those students would be upset in being forced to take such a course.

Oh my! Are you telling me African-Americans and other minorities aren't being forced to listen to so much stuff that they know is lies? And I have yet to see any changes to get me out of taking Western Civilization.

UNL needs more than just a multicultural curriculum. Actually, if professors incorporated the contributions made by minorities into their classes, a multicultural curriculum would not be needed — it would already be taken care of in the manner that it should be.

Separate courses are not going to do any good if students in the sciences can't associate Dr. Charles Drew (a black man who developed blood plasma for transfusions) with health.

Separate courses are not going to do any good if English students do not know that Othello was a black man.

For that matter, separate courses are not going to do any good if all students don't know that some contributions supposedly made by white men and women were actually made by black men and women.

When people don't see contributions in this world made by other races or cultures, they will look down on those races and cultures.

And when minorities don't know of contributions made by people who look like them, they will have no respect for themselves or others.

Professors should not be rewarded a thing for integrating information about minorities into their lectures. They should have been doing it a long time ago.

That is an insult to me, my people and everyone else whose culture or race has contributed so much to a nation that doesn't even acknowledge our presence.

If anything, professors should be penalized for NOT integrating the information. That way, they would have to find the information themselves, if they have no clue whatsoever about contributions made by minorities.

Back to the Racial Climate Survey.

African-Americans don't care about this survey. The questions were already answered years ago when those students set foot on this campus.

Another question on the survey finds that more than 40 percent of African-American students think UNL

recruiting brochures do not honestly describe the university.

One year I saw a brochure that went to incoming students. The brochure had two or three black students on the cover. Less than 2 percent of UNL's students are African-Americans!

The brochures tend to make minority students think there are more people who look like them on campus than there really are.

More than 60 percent of minority students said that if they could do it all over again, they would choose a different university.

Don't be surprised after listening to officials say they were going to make a change and do something about the race problem on campus and ain't nuttin' changed. Why bother to stay at a university that doesn't appreciate or respect you or your culture?

I'm in my third year here, and the only changes I've seen are more issues being raised about the needed diversity on campus and racial problems that minorities face at UNL.

Nothing has changed. Many African-Americans and other minorities don't see anything happening anytime soon.

Officials tell us it takes time. They tell us to be patient. If Rosa Parks were patient, we would probably still be sitting in the back of the bus.

The time to do something is now. Not tomorrow. African-Americans and other minorities wouldn't be here today if they waited for tomorrow to come.

What extreme will it take to make a change on this campus and other campuses across the United States?

To sit back and watch the L.A. riots, to see a picture of a naked, hog-tied black man (depicting slavery in the minds of many black people) and to listen to so much rhetoric going on — it's frustrating and upsetting for black people, especially young black adults.

We sit here and watch what's going on. We sit here and listen to what's going on. And we think about our parents and our grandparents. We think about Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. We see their struggle. We know of their struggle.

And we know that if we don't do something about it today, we will be doomed tomorrow.

We think about the past and remember it. We remember it so that we can say to ourselves, "Never again."

Spurlock is a junior news-editorial and broadcasting major, a Daily Nebraskan night news editor and a columnist.