

Daily
Nebraskan
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EDITORIAL

About-face

Military forced to reinstate homosexual

Maybe the U.S. military is finally ready to do an about-face on its ban on homosexuals.

Some time this morning the U.S. Navy will reinstate a sailor who was honorably discharged in August after he announced that he was gay on national television.

The reinstatement comes after a court battle. Friday, U.S. District Judge Terry J. Hatter Jr. issued a temporary order that Keith Meinhold be reinstated. But when Meinhold showed up for work Monday, he was turned away.

Hatter fired back, and the Pentagon changed its stance Tuesday.

"This is not a military dictatorship. It is not the former Soviet socialist republic. Here, the rule of law applies to the military... even to the commander-in-chief," Hatter said.

"The real implication is that by 8 a.m. Thursday... Keith Meinhold will be the first admittedly homosexual in the armed forces," attorney Christopher L. Rudd said.

The real crime now is that anyone has been fighting to keep Meinhold out of the military.

Court papers filed by the Justice Department on Tuesday said Meinhold was no longer in the Navy and the judge lacked the authority to reinstate him.

The reinstatement order, lawyers said, "flies in the face of present military policy, rules and regulations designed to promote military order and discipline, morale and combat effectiveness."

But if it requires a court order to change the archaic policies, rules and regulations banning homosexuals from the military, so be it.

OTHERS' VIEWS

Tradition reigns

Women still judged by homemaking skills

The election of Bill Clinton and the subsequent acceptance of his wife as first lady would seemingly point to a growing trend in American feminism, a reassessment of women in the workplace.

If, as political analysts say, the country has taken a Rorschach test of sorts on its attitudes toward women, then it could be argued that we deserve an "A" for effort. Yet to what degree was Clinton elected with support of, and not in spite of, Hillary Clinton's accomplishment?

Hillary Clinton was viewed by many conservatives and liberals alike as the sort of career-obsessed feminist of Pat Robertson's nightmares. While throughout the election Barbara Bush remained noncommittal about the issues, even seeming at times to be non-partisan, Hillary Clinton was criticized for the stand she took on such issues as legalized abortion and children's legal rights.

Hillary Clinton was denied a voice in the Democratic convention, and was instead encouraged to project the image at the opposite end of the polarized ideologies: that of the "good mother." It is only after she then softened her image that she acquired increased public acceptance.

Even though 1992 was labeled the Year of the Woman with an increase of 50 percent in the women nominees in the House alone, the main focus remained on the same tired issue of family raising capabilities. Undoubtedly, an improvement in the attitude of women in politics is apparent. However, the old attitudes are still prevalent, as women are still assessed by their performance at home.

--The Daily Iowan

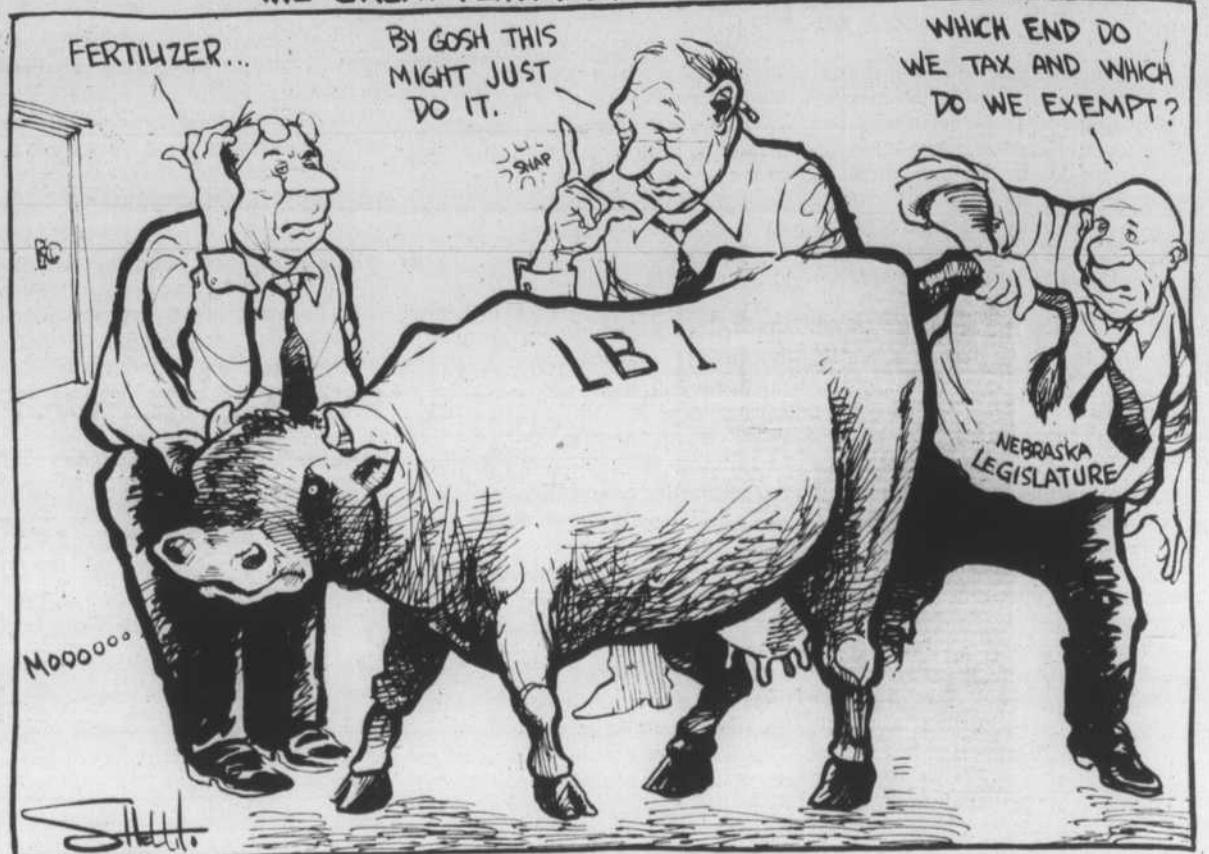
EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

THE GREAT FERTILIZER COMPROMISE.



JEFF HANKINS

Liberals should listen and learn

The fact that we have two ears and one mouth suggests that we should listen twice as much as we speak.

Listening is the key to learning and understanding.

Of all the advice I have received in my short lifetime, the best has always come from my parents.

One thing my father has always told me is that you rarely learn anything by speaking. Keep your mouth shut and listen to what others have to say. It is especially important to listen, read and learn from those you disagree with.

I disagree with liberals. But I don't dislike them, and I am more than willing to listen to their point of view.

In turn, I hope that those who disagree with me will at least sit down and read my columns. I also hope that people don't hate me simply because of my beliefs.

Judging from some of the letters I get, it seems that I may be expecting too much.

That's OK. The purpose of my columns is not to convert people into card-carrying Republicans. I am not trying to change anyone's mind.

I realize that liberals who disagree with me will not be swayed by any column I write. They are firmly entrenched in their own beliefs. Therefore, I have never aimed to convert their opinions.

My only purpose is to help satisfy the demand for conservative viewpoints. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is a liberal campus, but there are many conservatives here who are fed up with the liberal slant in the Daily Nebraskan.

You conservatives are the owners of my columns. I am your servant. I only write these columns to give you something to do when Rush Limbaugh is not on the air.

Liberals are more than welcome to

read along. But they should understand that I couldn't care less about changing their minds.

When I began writing for the DN, I expected piles of hate mail and a great deal of criticism. I knew that I would step on some toes.

To my surprise, there has been an unbelievable amount of support. But the criticism I have received demands some attention.

I believe very strongly about conservative Republican ideology and am opposed to liberalism.

But my columns never consist of personal attacks. While I take on liberal policies, I never resort to name-calling and personal insults. I don't dislike people simply because their opinions differ from my own.

Many of the critical letters I get are nothing more than shallow criticism followed by ridiculous insults. I have been called many things. The list of insults includes words like ignorant, ugly, selfish, racist, liar and communist, to name a few.

I love it when people call me names. It simply proves their inability to engage in a substantive debate.

Liberals can say that my columns are unconvincing and condescending. They can choose to hate me if it makes them feel good. Frankly, I don't care if liberals ever change their views. They can sit around waiting for the government to solve all their problems as long as they want to.

Conservatives know that hard work and self-reliance are the keys to success. While liberals are waiting for someone else to make life fair, conservatives are doing everything possible to make things happen on their own.

If you liberals are unswayed by my columns, that's OK. I'm not trying to change your way of life. The more liberals there are, the better my chances for success.

The negative response that my opinions attract points out the hypocrisy of liberalism. Liberals profess to be open-minded, tolerant, kind and

understanding of others. But these standards only apply to those who agree with liberalism.

Most politically correct liberals are completely intolerant of conservative viewpoints. They are not open-minded toward their political opponents. Liberals live by a double standard when it comes to freedom of speech and thought.

Along with the letters of criticism that I receive, there are a couple of UNL instructors who address my columns in class. These teachers are quick to oppose my views, but are often intolerant of any conservative rebuttal. Are they afraid of a substantive debate? It seems that they would rather force their opinions on others rather than promote an environment for understanding and learning.

Americans are conditioned from an early age to frown upon conservatism. This is accomplished through indoctrination and social intimidation.

It is no surprise that the DN is primarily liberal. Very few conservatives are confident enough in their beliefs to even bother applying at the paper. Not many people are willing to go through the hell associated with exposing their conservative beliefs.

Most of the views coming out of the DN are liberal because writers holding these beliefs are not condemned by society. But the DN should be commended for allowing those conservatives who do come forward to contribute.

The United States would be better off if we were all willing to take a deep breath and listen to each other. Readers who attack me personally can't possibly be concerned with learning from what I have to say.

Disagreement will always exist. But listening, understanding and opening our minds will at least dampen the hatefulness spreading through American society.

Hankins is a senior business student majoring in finance, management and economics and is a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Waste

The people of Boyd County are about to vote on whether they want a nuclear waste facility in their backyard. If they vote against it, Gov. Nelson said he would try to stop the process because community consent was one of the stipulations.

Community consent should be looked at as a tool to help protect small communities and encourage big business to work with the people. Allowing the people a voice in the process for multi-million dollar waste

projects would be beneficial for both parties.

Dallas Miller
Stanton

Admission

The proposed new admission standards imply that the powers that be at this university consider NU to be worthy of expecting a higher caliber of students.

Here is my list of inconsistencies that suggest this is not the case. Officials plan to take away parking and build a park. Desks are crammed in classrooms exceeding maximum ca-

capacity. Temperatures in Burnett Hall are hot enough to induce fainting. The appearance of additional behemoth sculptures on campus while Richards Hall continues to deteriorate.

I would challenge those who are running this university by remote control to re-examine their priorities and make this place truly worthy, not only of students eligible to enter in the future under increasingly stringent admission standards, but also those of us who are already here.

Ann Alberico
senior
university studies