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EDITORIAL

Good idea

Spanier encourages worldwide business

Nebraska — the state and the university both — stand to gain from UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier's proposed corporation to help state businesses make their way into international markets.

Compared to the rest of the United States, Nebraska has been able to avoid the more serious drawbacks of the ongoing recession. The state has been able to keep negative statistics, such as unemployment, low partially because of its agriculture-based economy.

But Nebraska can't afford to be satisfied with its comfortable position. It needs to be aggressive and search out whatever avenues of business improvement it can find.

That is what Spanier's proposal would do.

The corporation, which would be run by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, would help state businesses make their way into international business markets. They could tap into the university's resources in specific programs and areas of study.

Spanier said the university's programs in modern languages, international affairs, agriculture, trade, cultural exchange and study abroad would work into the creation of the corporation.

The proposal isn't designed to help the university as much as state businesses, but students interested in international business or studies would directly benefit from whatever organization is set up.

Hopefully, the committee examining Spanier's proposal, state businesses and the university will see what they stand to gain and come together to support the idea.

Two-faced comments

Kerrey's view of military ban wishy-washy

Sen. Bob Kerrey has revealed a new side of himself to women and homosexuals.

Kerrey said Thursday that President-elect Clinton should lift the ban on homosexuals in the military. Then he gave a two-faced statement that neither homosexuals nor women should be allowed in combat.

That's just weird.

His wishy-washy response comes as a shock to many liberal Democrats who look to Kerrey as a young leader in the Senate who will fight to represent their views. These are the same Democrats who pushed for Kerrey to become president hoping he would back civil rights in this country.

Kerrey justified his response by saying those sex-starved homosexuals and women would just mess things up in combat.

"Military commanders in the armed forces have not had to think about sexual issues, not in the combat situation," Kerrey said. "Am I going to get somebody to do something as a consequence of saying, 'OK, you'll do it if you do something for me,' that sort of thing."

Sounds like that's where the problem lies. Men, homosexuals and women who would consider bringing those attitudes to work with them don't deserve to hold a job anywhere.

This issue must be viewed in an individual sense. If someone causes problems in combat, kick them out. Don't collectively ban entire groups. Keeping homosexuals and women from serving in combat simply because they are homosexuals and women is wrong.

Kerrey should have kept his mouth shut. The United States doesn't need a compromise. Women and homosexuals shouldn't have to be forced to settle for one.

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.



GUEST OPINION

Sigerson responds to attacks

What has the state of this campus come to in our lives? As we follow these incredibly turbulent times, we wonder where our future lies, and if we can survive in a world of misunderstanding and hatred.

College, for many of us, is our dream. Our generation is the first to require a college degree to even compete in life. We come to a university to open our eyes to new ideas and to receive an education on things that will help us be productive members of the community. College shapes our attitudes and opinions in everything from politics to sex and all things in between. Those experiences we have that are negative or hurtful are the experiences we will remember the most.

For the last week, myself, Jim Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, and scores of others have been accused of blatant racism. The accusations come from a limited number of students who have rejected the system and working within it. These students present their side of the circumstances, expecting others to take it as fact. They quote great leaders from our country's past, forgetting even the thrust or reasoning behind these leaders' actions. They preach division and hatred as their vehicle of attention, all the while knowing that only by working together can we bring about positive change.

Two years ago I was a young, 19-year-old student senator from Omaha. In second and ninth grade I was part of the now-defunct integration of races through the school districts. I played and lived with students of different cultures and races. It all seemed so simple then as we could treat one another as friends, not separate people with diverse backgrounds.

All my life I have talked openly with people who I hang out with. If I was ignorant or unsure about something, I could ask an honest question without violating politically correct language or offending someone. Those people and I realized that education begins with honesty and trust. When I arrived on campus, I did not change these feelings of openness and honesty because I wanted to continue to educate myself as much as possible.

When Florencio Palomo and I had our talk that Sunday night at the Culture Center, the talk that has been reported on two occasions now, I made an analogy. I asked him if he was calling me a white racist, and was that the same as me referring to him with a racial slur. Needless to say, the story has gained many other details as time has passed, but I realized something that will always be valuable to me.

Different people are sensitive to different things. It hurts me greatly that Palomo believes the only way to rectify this situation is to criticize and defame others in a form of retribution.

I have explained my side of the story several times to those who believe that someone is innocent until proven guilty, and that you treat others as you would like to be treated. Was the comment I made to Palomo insensitive? Sure. Was it an honest question in an effort to understand his perspective? Absolutely. I wanted his background and experiences shared with me so I could educate myself and those around me about his opinions and attitudes.

Unfortunately, the happenings over the last week have probably ended any hope I had of reconciliation.

I believe I have represented all student on his campus in the betterment of this university. We cannot agree on everything, but student gov-

ernment does the best it can in the situations presented. I referred earlier to the notion that those experiences that have a negative impact on our campus are the ones that stick in our minds. In my position you learn to forgive, forget and hope in the future your paths will cross in a more positive manner.

It's my greatest fear that you, the students who watch and read in the perimeter, will give up hope of working to make this campus better for all students. That you will not take the time to befriend a racial minority and talk openly about prejudice and stereotypes. That you will see only the negatives and not the many positives that happen every day, but go unreported.

As to Palomo, my comment two years ago may have seemed to you like racism, no matter what context you portray it in, but it was an honest question. In your own way, you educated me far beyond the negative consequences of your malicious remarks over the last few days.

It is obvious that we will never concur on what happened that night. However, as we agreed several weeks ago, working to make this campus a better place for all students should be a goal we can accomplish independent of each other.

It is a goal that can only be won through cooperation, honesty and mutual understanding. You, the students, are the only ones who can make it happen, because as brothers and sisters, we are one.

Andrew Sigerson is the president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a senior economics major.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sculpture

I am so glad to see the University of Nebraska-Lincoln put its money to good use. The sculpture being erected is what this university has needed and is essential for the quality of life here in Nebraska. There has always been something missing in that vast space between Love Library, Morrill, Andrews and Burnett halls.

I am absolutely convinced that regents or whoever makes these ultra-significant decisions have considered how essentially wonderful this "art" will be. They have also taken into consideration the new classic surroundings, which will complement, no, enhance this little, but not insignificant, corner of campus.

Happiness fills my soul to think our facilities are so perfect and our

economy so strong that money used to make our library better is not needed. Who would read those dusty old books anyway? It would be a blatant misuse of Nebraska's tax dollars. Give me a good million-dollar statue any day. Spare no expense. I know every patriot agrees.

Simeon S. Magliveras
graduate student
anthropology

Choice

This is in response to a column by Jennifer Ernisse ("Choice key to sustaining rights," DN, Nov. 4).

Ernisse said in her piece that her body was her property, and therefore she should have the right to do with it what she pleased. She makes it sound like the right to life side wants to take

over her body and force her to do things she does not want to do.

That is not true.

What the right to life side wants her to do is take responsibility for her body and her actions. By this I mean that a woman needs to make her choices before she becomes pregnant, before she even has sex. The choice comes when she is contemplating having sex with someone. If the woman chooses to go ahead then she should be ready for all of the consequences. If she is not ready to have a baby, then she needs to prevent that from happening. After she is pregnant it is too late. She already made her choice when she decided to go ahead and have sex.

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