

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

Red flag

Economic interest shouldn't cloud decisions

The United States spent over 40 years fighting communism to win the Cold War. Now, ironically, we are doing little to fight China, the last major communist nation.

We have even partly supported the Chinese regime by providing it with most-favored-nation trade status. That status is aiding a government that commits atrocities against its own people.

Chai Ling, a leader in China's 1989 student democratic movement, spoke Friday in the Nebraska Union. Ling, who has fled her country, said the United States could help bring democracy to China by putting pressure on the Chinese government. She expressed optimism President Clinton would provide that pressure.

China is an excellent test of America's resolve to help people wishing to be free everywhere — not simply where it is beneficial to us.

We were willing to help Kuwait because our vital interests were threatened. If we really believe in freedom, we should be willing to help the people of China as well.

China is a powerful nation, and it will not simply be made to change because of pressure from the United States. But we can do our part to push the Chinese closer to democratic reform.

We can at the very least not prop up the Chinese by providing them with most-favored-nation trading status.

A nation is defined by its actions, not its words. The United States say it wants freedom in China. If we really do, we should make it clear by not trading or dealing with the Chinese government, no matter how much that might be in our economic interest.

Search still on

Clinton administration takes easy way out

Hopefully the Clinton administration's next candidate for attorney general won't have any children.

Judge Kimba Wood, the once-apparent replacement for Zoe Baird, was told by White House officials to withdraw her name from consideration Friday because she hired an immigrant from Trinidad as a baby sitter seven years ago.

The situation was reminiscent of the Baird case, which caused a good deal of public outcry. But significant differences remain. Wood hired the baby sitter in March 1986, months before the federal law that would have made it illegal. Wood also filed the proper documents and paid the proper taxes during the time she employed the baby sitter.

Clearly something went wrong in the selection process. But the mistake was not Wood's. She did nothing wrong. The mistake was made by the Clinton administration.

Instead of explaining the differences between the two cases, the administration decided to duck the issue. Instead of telling the American public that Wood didn't break any laws, the administration decided to cloud the circumstances before anyone could get a clear picture. Instead of pushing to fill the attorney general position with an obviously qualified candidate, the administration is heading back to the résumés.

Obviously the administration wants to avoid the same sort of controversy that surrounded the Baird case, but they should not assume the American public can't understand the differences in Wood's case.

More importantly, they shouldn't force out a clearly qualified candidate because of the public's attention to a non-issue.

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.



SURE AM SORRY 'BOUT THIS MRS. WOOD. I THANK YA' FOR HELPIN' OUT THOUGH.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bikes

The passage of the resolution which would consolidate the bike racks on campus to five main areas has confirmed the long-standing fear that ASUN is completely apathetic and uncompassionate to the concerns and needs of students who live in off-campus housing. The quick passage of this resolution indicates a clear unwillingness to examine the impact of policy decisions upon students who live outside the walls of UNL's fraternities, sororities and residence halls.

Considering every biker on campus translates to one more available parking place, the student government should seek to facilitate bicycle riding. If bikers are not allowed to park in the area of their choice, no real incentive exists not to drive to campus.

Another clear problem of the resolution is that of the five proposed areas none offer sheltered parking to bikers. Under the resolution the bike racks under Love Library would be removed. This action would force bikers to leave their bikes in areas which are never protected from adverse weather. The bright glow offered by the night lights underneath the library also offer most secure night parking on campus. Why does ASUN insist on offering new solutions to non-existent problems?

Tom Stritikus
senior
English

Harmony

Hey! A Wendy Mott column that doesn't inspire obscenities (DN, Feb. 1, 1993). But still, I think she missed part of the point of the sharp reaction to her blind attack on certain professions, and still might not get it, despite her eloquent addition to the racial harmony dialogue.

I say this based on the very words she used in defending the greek system as a bastion of diversity. I am not one for blind-sided attacks against sororities and frats — well, maybe I am — but I have noticed about the same level of tolerance and intolerance from other sectors of the university population — dormies and off-campus dwellers.

The only real assertion that I question is about her house's effort to "diversify." When the house does this, do they simply try to recruit "others," to entice them to join, or do they make an effort to change house structures to be attractive to groups other than Midwestern Euro-Americans? If a house wants African- or Asian-American members, do they start by demanding attention or by bringing their own members to the other groups existing organizations and activities?

The question for all of us is, should we expect someone to bend over backward for us or do we do some of the bending ourselves? That is one of the most important parts of this whole idea of opening diversity's doors: learning how much we — defined by race, sex, age, ethnicity or nationality — can learn from them — defined however you please.

I write this not as a criticism, but as a refinement. It is something we all — dormies, greeks and snide record store clerks — need to work on.

Trevor McArthur
senior
teacher's college

Sigerson

Andrew Sigerson's most recent comment regarding the funding of the homosexual group, COLAGE; "They're not a protected minority because, in my eyes, at least, being gay or lesbian is nothing but a choice," could be simplified to say, "They're not a protected minority in my eyes because I am intolerant and ignorant about homosexuals." This intolerance is not only demonstrated by this comment, but by the recent abolishment of funding for the COLAGE group.

Homosexuals do not choose to live a life that will result in persecution from a judgmental society. To tell a homosexual to be a heterosexual is like telling a heterosexual to choose homosexuality; it just doesn't work that way.

I hope our next student president will be more educated and tolerant of minority groups on campus.

Paul Koester
senior
agronomy

never has been in the military, has she?

If she had, she would have known that the time in the foxhole is not the time that soldiers have a problem with homosexuals in the military. It's the time in the barracks where soldiers learn to trust each other. This is where the bonds of friendship are formed that are tighter than marriage. This is where the problems of having homosexuals in the military show up.

The soldiers, male and female, need to bond without the pressure of possible sexual encounters. Without this bonding the soldiers will not totally trust each other, and that will lead to additional deaths on the battlefield. It's that trust and close friendship that allow the soldiers to perform at the level needed to survive combat. It's not because soldiers are worried in the foxhole, but because soldiers are worried in the barracks that there is a problem with homosexuals in the military.

Jed Marshall
senior
history

Kepfield

I am writing to you in regard to Sam Kepfield's Jan. 21, 1993 Diversions article.

I wish to address a possible misrepresentation in a comment that appeared at the end of Kepfield's article. The comment identified him as "a Diversions contributor who has published several articles in legal journals on the issue of drug use and pregnancy." I think it is important to tell you that a check of three computer databases, Lexis, Westlaw and LegalTrac, as well as the Index of Legal Periodicals and the indices of the Nebraska Law Review back through 1982, has failed to reveal one, much less several, articles authored by Kepfield.

I expect you or Kepfield to provide a list of his "articles in legal journals" or, in the alternative, print a retraction. As Kepfield has been known to cast aspersions on the veracity of attorneys, I feel it necessary and fair for him and the Daily Nebraskan to set the record straight.

Sarah Brashears-Mactee
third-year law student



Military

I would like to respond to the Feb. 3, 1993 editorial about the gay and lesbian ban in the military. The writer

Editor's note: Kepfield co-authored an article in "Perinatal Substance Abuse: Research Findings and Clinical Implications," published in 1992 by Johns Hopkins University Press. He has signed consent-to-publish forms for two articles to appear in the Cardozo Women's Law Journal.