

Daily Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

No bigotry

ASUN should reverse CFA's decision

Mark your calendars. Feb. 17 is the official date of ASUN's tolerance test. Feb. 17 is the date of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska's meeting when it will have the opportunity to overturn the recent denial of funds to the Committee Offering Lesbian And Gay Events.

COLAGE's funding was denied at a Committee for Fees Allocation appeal hearing Feb. 4. The reasons for the removal of the funding were largely political.

ASUN has the opportunity on Feb. 17 to make up for CFA's error. Our student representatives can decide at that meeting to restore COLAGE funding.

Or they can choose to go along with a decision that was made largely as an attack on homosexuals. The choice they make will say a lot about what kind of leaders they are.

The issue that ASUN senators face is whether they are going to treat all of the students they are supposed to represent equally. If ASUN does not reverse the removal of COLAGE's funding, the message they will be sending is that they choose to represent everyone but homosexual students.

ASUN President Andrew Sigerson said he had political objections to COLAGE because he thought homosexuality was merely a personal choice. If ASUN goes along with the removal of COLAGE funding, then they will be supporting the belief that it is OK to discriminate against students because they have personal differences with them.

Bigotry in any form is ugly and should be stopped. Whether ASUN deserves that label will be made clear by its decision.

Not all bad

Housing department filling students' needs

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students have little to argue about with the proposed 2.8 percent increase in the price of university housing next year. In fact, students who live on campus this year can't complain about the increase at all.

As part of a plan to fight declining occupancy in the residence halls, students who return to live on campus next year won't have to pay the increase.

That is a nice change for students who are used to nothing but tuition increases and rising costs. It may also prove to be a major attraction for university housing, a business that needs all the help it can get.

Students throughout the Big Eight are moving off campus. But while other conference schools have closed residence halls in response to declining occupancy, UNL's housing department has fought rising costs as well as looked into student needs and desires to improve the halls.

In the past, the housing department has responded to students by installing cable television in every room, offering a variety of meal plans and initiating 24-hour visitation. This year is no different; the new plan includes ideas that go beyond the price increase, points that would benefit both students and the housing department.

In accordance with current residents' wishes for more privacy, Cather Residence Hall could be converted into housing exclusively for upperclassmen. The plan would allow for additional single-occupancy rooms, computer rooms on each floor and 24-hour visitation.

The housing department should be commended for looking beyond just its financial interests and into the needs of students. It is a refreshing change.

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 WASHINGTON ALIEN CAPER



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Betrayal

I joined the Army out of high school, during Vietnam: a volunteer. I've served eight years under four presidents, as an enlisted man and later as an officer, in the infantry and in armor.

Let me tell you something about the Army. The finest aspect of my service has been the diversity of the soldiers encountered. I was a cadet at West Point just before women were let in. It didn't hurt the Army. Not a bit. I'm proud to have served with all these people. I am grateful for having had the opportunity.

The new president appears on the verge of integrating homosexuals into the service. Fine thing, as I see it. Welcome any new group. I'd like to see an Army "that looks like America." The Army stands today as the most integrated organization in America.

I support the president. Any soldier who doesn't, outside of his own vote, is worthy only of the citizens' contempt. Soldiers serve the civil authorities. Anything less is dangerous impudence and a betrayal of the trust of the Republic (God bless it!).

Robert J. Tobin
graduate student
geology

their commencement as well? Shouldn't they be allowed to freely participate without fear of being excluded?

Our commitment to the legality and morality of democracy are the rules we should go by here, not our self-interest. If we want to pray, let us do it in houses of worship. Let the campus churches celebrate commencement as well as the administration. Let this be a sign to all students not to be harassed. I could apply this to all the issues. But why don't you do it for a mental exercise?

Two personal, private thoughts I want to share: Your freedoms end at my rights and when you restrict others rights-you restrict your own.

JL Meier
senior
teachers college

becoming more common and meeting much resistance.

Melodie Primrose
junior
sociology

Action

My political science class this week was unable to decide whether or not it is a good thing that the concept of Affirmative Action may in fact solicit claims of minority status from groups that do not yet have such status, such as gays and lesbians.

I am appalled and frustrated at the attitude expressed by some classmates that gays and lesbians should not be granted any special status on the basis of their sexual orientation because they "choose to be gay." I am also disgusted that this backward, fundamentalist, arch-conservative attitude is allowed to persist in an educational environment, as it was in my class.

To claim that homosexuals choose to be so is also to call every homosexual an idiot. Inherent in the verb "to choose" is the reasonable, free selection of one thing rather than another, less desirable thing. But this is not what any homosexual does if he or she "chooses" homosexuality; a homosexual would be "choosing" the worst possible option.

In our society gays and lesbians can be discriminated against on the basis of their homosexuality, they are the object of hatred as well as hate crimes, they are in decidedly greater danger of contracting AIDS, and they are labeled queers and fags, among other derogatory terms. If a homosexual declares his or her homosexuality, he or she often faces the loss of friends and family. On the other hand, to be heterosexual is to be healthy and "straight," in short, "normal." Why would any intelligent, reasonable human being choose to be gay?



David Badders/DN

Prayer

Advocates of prayer at graduation aren't just satisfied with a silent moment for all beliefs to reflect or pray. They claim that the religious denomination of the preacher doesn't matter long as there is an actual prayer at the ceremony. It makes no sense to me that a group of predominantly Christians would prefer having a Jewish or a Buddhist preacher giving a prayer to a God very different from the God they believe in over having a moment of silence when they can pray undisturbed to the God they truly believe in. This is very illogical. This whole matter sounds more like a control issue to me.

Paul Koester
senior
agronomy

Dating

Bravo Kirby Moss!

Finally a person willing to explain to the rest of the world that interracial dating has nothing to do with race. Maybe now people will get beyond the stereotypes of athletes on campus. News flash: Not all black students on campus are here on scholarship. And not all mixed couples are dating for shock effect or recognition.

The hypocrisy that most people express toward interracial couples is getting old. How long is it going to be before we can get beyond skin color? The person under the skin is what we should be worried about, not appearance.

Thank you Kirby for taking the time to write on a topic which is

Time out

Time out people! I keep hearing, "My side is right because that's how I want it." I, too, have knee-jerk reactions to all the important issues of the day: public prayer, smoking, abortion and ethnic diversity to mention a few. Those are my private thoughts and I won't bore you with them.

Are we willing to restrict the assumed majority — say those wanting prayer at commencement — for the assumed minority — say those offended by a denominational prayer — so they will be able to be equally participating in their commencement too? Haven't the dissenters earned

Try to recall the day when you were 12 years old, that day on which your parents sat down with you to discuss your imminent decision on whether to be gay or straight. I don't remember such a day in my life, and neither does President Clinton in his life. If prohibitions against gays and lesbians are codified, then so, too, are the ignorant attitudes of homophobics codified. And this would truly be a tragedy. I commend President Clinton for taking action on this issue and I hope that people will look closely at their own attitudes toward homosexuality.

Frederick Skretta
junior
history, Spanish and coaching