

Daily Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

Misled protection

Wesleyan condom debate flares up again

Last week, Nebraska Wesleyan University's Student Senate sent school officials an overwhelming message for the second time in less than a year. But the chances for a positive response from school leaders don't sound any better this time than the last if you listen to NWU President John White.

The senate has twice unanimously approved a measure requesting condom machines be installed in the university's residence halls. White says the new bill could face the same fate as the one that was vetoed earlier.

John Heckman, who wrote and proposed both bills, said he modeled the original proposal after the program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

But UNL's plan, which received some resistance, was approved and enacted after it was agreed the condoms would be accompanied by educational materials.

That apparently isn't enough for Wesleyan officials because White says the question surrounding the issue is one of personal responsibility and education.

By using that excuse, however, White is dodging the issue of the school's responsibility to help protect its students. He is ignoring the dangers and diseases that can stem from unprotected sex.

White even went so far as to say that having condoms more easily available could lead to students having sexual encounters on the spur of the moment. But that kind of thinking is backward. In some situations, students are going to have sex — condom or not. Having them easily available is just one extra measure of protection against sexually transmitted diseases.

Space unity

Russia, U.S. should do mission together

In an attempt to cut its ballooning debt and address increasing social programs at home, the United States should not abandon its efforts at space exploration.

Specifically, the long-discussed manned mission to Mars should not be eliminated in the current search to trim our deficit.

Critics of the proposed Mars mission point out that it is an expensive program to attempt when the United States has many pressing domestic problems to deal with. They are right to question such a huge expenditure when our budget needs to be cut.

But it would be a mistake for the United States to give up on a Mars mission entirely. The exploration of space will yield benefits in technology that will benefit our society in ways we cannot even imagine today.

Instead of abandoning the expensive but important mission, the United States should join its resources with Russia — another country struggling to find the money to go to Mars. Financial restraints may prevent either the United States or Russia from going to Mars alone, but the two countries could make it together.

Some efforts are already underway. The Associated Press reported last week that scientists from both the Russian space program and from NASA are saying that joint efforts are the answer to a Mars mission.

One of the scientists, Dr. Louis D. Friedman of the Planetary society, said Mars explorations "are going to be done internationally or they are not going to be done at all."

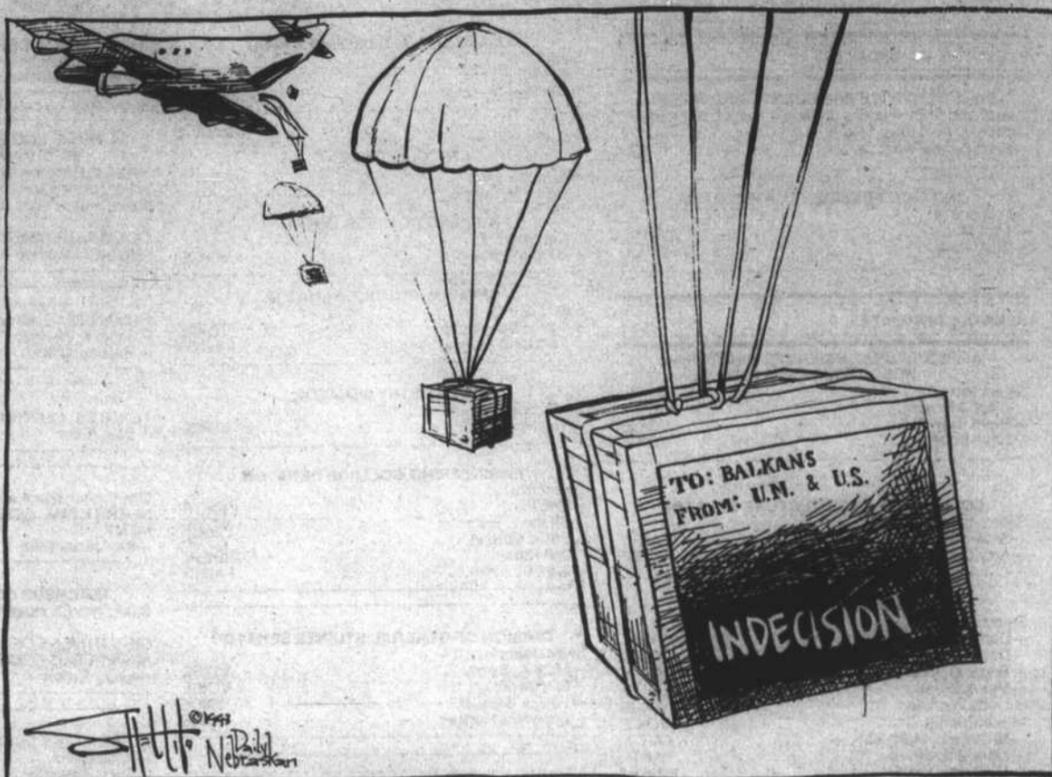
The United States and Russia should take advantage of their newfound friendship and combine their resources to save a Mars mission that would probably be eliminated otherwise.

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Ignorance'

I am replying to Kirk Goings' letter (DN, Feb 19, 1993) in which he stated his opinion on gays in the military. The point I want to make isn't whether or not gays should be in the military. This is quickly becoming a dead issue, and in 10 years, people are probably going to look back and laugh, wondering why we made such a big deal out of it.

What concerns me is the ignorance Goings showed on the matter of homosexuality itself, and the divisive effect such ignorance is having on America. Goings stated that homosexuality is merely a lifestyle or choice, and that "there is no conclusive evidence to prove that one is a homosexual from birth." Maybe the term neuroscience doesn't ring a bell, Kirk, but there is strong, mounting scientific evidence to support the claim that much of a person's sexuality is determined when he or she is born. I am not qualified to answer that question. But statements such as Goings' show that many people's opinions on homosexuality are just plain ignorant.

Goings, next time before you feel so qualified to speak out, why don't you check the facts? This will at least give your argument some credibility in the eyes of people who let science, not emotion, guide them in their opinions.

Geoff Friesen
freshman
mathematics

'Choice'

I'd like to debate a few issues concerning homosexuality. First on my list is the issue of choice. As far as I'm concerned, you have made a choice if you are a homosexual. Your actions have shown what your choice was. I didn't make you do the act — no one did. You made a choice to. In addition to this, you also make your homosexuality a public issue. I don't want to hear about what you do. Keep it to yourselves.

I have other concerns involving the admittance of gays into the military and the Amendment Two controversy in Colorado. It seems to me that the main point behind these two issues is the homosexuals' desire to introduce homosexuality as a natural and normal part of society and at the same time expect special treatment. Neither should be allowed. Homosexuality is not normal and should not be introduced, particularly to children, as such.

As for the military, I'd like to ask a few questions. Who has the most powerful military in the world? Who is the only remaining superpower? Finally, have you heard the phrase, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it?" It's been argued that the military should be a

"fair and accurate representation of society." I don't want "fair" protecting me and my family, I want the best military we can have.

huge budget cuts.

Christopher A. Burkland
freshman
general studies

As a final thought, I want you to think about the health issue concerning gays in the military. The government provides for the health of its military personnel and pays it through our taxes. Now I ask you — do we want to be paying lifetime health benefits for the group most likely to contract AIDS? I don't.

Dallas Beshaler
freshman
broadcasting

Abortion

Paul Koester's pro-abortion arguments are so fundamentally flawed that it is difficult to know where to begin.

Koester asks us to believe that, after realizing the hypocrisy of his Christian upbringing, he was able to look at humanity in a new light and realize what an utterly loathsome world we all live in. He questions why pro-lifers don't support Planned Parenthood because they are the ones most likely to reduce abortions. He states that he agrees we are talking about life, but that the world is exceeding its ability to contain any "glutinous humans like ourselves." Finally he wants to know why the "anti-choice" crowd doesn't rally around the distribution of contraceptives and sex education in the public schools.

Mr. Koester, I can only hope that the rest of the pro-abortion crowd doesn't have it as wrong as you do.

First off, Planned Parenthood has clinics which perform abortions. That is why they will never get an ounce of support from the pro-life movement. Secondly, if you think the world is such a bad place to live, ask yourself if you are glad to be alive. You have the right to decide that for yourself. But who speaks for the unborn? Also, have you ever considered the thought that maybe you were a dreaded "unwanted baby?" If so, do you think that you would have wanted someone like you on your side?

Finally, with regard to why pro-lifers don't avidly support sex education and distribution of contraceptives in our public schools, the answer is simple. It does not work. Take New York City, for example. There, sex education begins as early as the fourth grade. Condom distribution is at an all-time high. And with that, the teen pregnancy rate has never been higher. You make the connection.

Mr. Koester, the pro-life movement is not about denying women the right to choose. It is about preserving the sanctity of human life. It is about guaranteeing an unborn child the right to live. Have you ever heard the saying about right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? Read those words and try to understand them. When an unborn human life can cavalierly be destroyed out of mere inconvenience, it is no doubt that equal disrespect for the rest of us is sure to follow.

Thomas K. Eads
junior
chemistry



Cuts

Sam Kepfield's article (DN, Feb 24, 1993) was one of the best to appear in the Daily Nebraskan this year. Other than his attack on the football team, he had a very informative article that every legislator and regent should read.

It is about time the board of regents woke up and realized what a disgrace they are. Bickering among themselves and jousting out presidents may be their idea of a good time, but we students and our parents are fed up with it.

I wish our legislators would realize that a \$14 million budget cut is not very good for the university system. If they just keep trimming off the budget the university will end up offering about as many classes as a school half its size.

The university is an institution that needs support throughout the state. What we definitely don't need or want is a terrible board of regents and