

Daily Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

Sad day for some

Columbus Day a symbol of wrongdoing

Today thousands of state and federal employees get the day off to celebrate Columbus Day. Schools likely will teach children that today is the day that Christopher Columbus discovered America.

Today and Tuesday, many will demonstrate against this holiday, which they likely will say celebrates a symbol of the oppression many Native Americans and indigenous people experienced after whites settled on this continent.

Columbus himself did not cause this oppression. We know now that he simply wandered upon a land that had not been discovered by Europeans yet. It was years later that thousands became slaves and had their land taken away from them by white settlers.

Native Americans and others have every right to protest observing this day in honor of Columbus, who has come to symbolize this oppression and slavery. They had something — the land — taken away from it by people who thought they earned the right to it by finding it.

The United States has outgrown recognizing Columbus Day as a holiday. Instead, we should consider acknowledging the wrongdoings that happened after white settlers came to America and forced Native Americans off the land.

We should recognize Columbus Day as a day acknowledging America's history as it truly is: a history combining Native-American, African-American and European history.

As a country, we need to evolve and realize that what we're celebrating today is not necessary a happy holiday for all Americans.

Who needs him?

NU must decide if president is necessary

The NU presidential search committee has taken several steps to reduce the cost of selecting a new president for the University of Nebraska.

The committee has hired an advertising firm for \$25,000. The last selection committee, which eventually hired then-UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale, spent \$39,000.

Committee members also are trying to organize their schedules to cut down on the amount of traveling they will have to do to interview finalists.

NU Corporation Secretary J.B. Milliken said the result of these steps could be a search process that costs less than the \$65,000 search used to hire Massengale in 1989-1990.

"We could very well spend less than the last search," Milliken said.

The committee should be congratulated for spending less than the \$65,000 the last committee used to hire someone already at UNL. But the amount of time and money they are spending to hire a president could probably be put to better use elsewhere.

It is not clear that NU needs a president. The university system is already governed by the NU Board of Regents and the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Higher Education. In addition, each campus is run by a chancellor.

Before rushing ahead and spending the money to hire a president, the regents and the people of Nebraska should decide if one is needed. The regents should be capable of governing the university system and working with the university chancellors. If they aren't, then perhaps the whole NU system needs to be reformed.

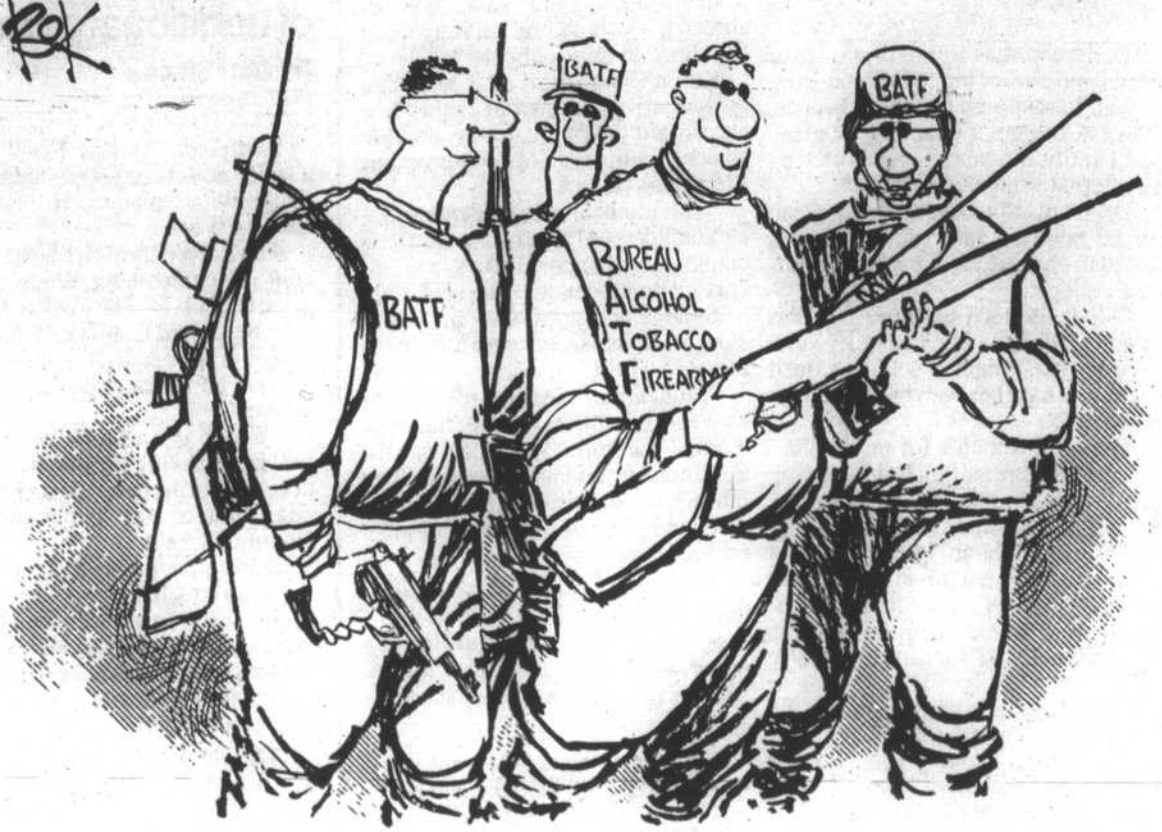
EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1993 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.

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YET ANOTHER DANGEROUS SECT TO BE DISARMED

GUEST OPINION

Come out against hatred today

In my role as director of the university's Office for Affirmative Action and Diversity, I am routinely called upon by the press and many public organizations to address the issues and trials faced by women, people of color and people with disabilities within our community. The stories associated with such struggles make for good copy and provide a forum for many to display publicly their passion for justice, equality and desire for human harmony.

However, I am not routinely called upon to address similar struggles faced by the gay and lesbian members of our community. Silence and inaction can be a powerful ally of oppression. So rather than wait for a reporter to develop a curiosity on these topics, I thought I would use this brief column

and the timeliness of National Coming-Out Day to report on a few of these issues.

In rude humor or in callous remarks, there are members of our community who are willing to contribute to an atmosphere of hate, misunderstanding and injustice. They don't offer educated opinion — only a highly personalized denigration. The Gay and Lesbian Student Association is a frequent target for obscene and threatening phone calls. My office received venomous, often unpublishable, letters attacking the university policy of nondiscrimination based upon sexual orientation, and complaints of harassment due to sexual orientation are on the rise.

Although the struggles of every disaffected group are unique, the tools

of oppression seem strikingly similar. They rob the individual of dignity and opportunity and select targets without reason or cause. These are the same struggles being faced by the gay and lesbian community at UNL and across this state. It is a struggle for justice, a struggle that should concern us all. We will not be able to take pride in our achievements as a pluralistic society so long as we accept the cultivation of hatred, denigrating or threatening behavior within our community. We should recognize the damage that such bigotry and injustice brings to our community and stand against it in any form it takes.

Eric Jolly is assistant to the chancellor and Director for Affirmative Action and Diversity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

opportunity to appreciate it firsthand.
Jerry Schmidt
department of
agricultural meteorology



James Mehling/DN

Apollo 009

There has been much misinformation speculation in letters to the editor that the Apollo 009 spacecraft is rapidly rusting away in storage. One recent example of the confusion about the makeup of the vehicle is a letter by Ron Synowicki (DN, Sept. 22). I can understand why Ron might think that the Apollo command module outer shell is constructed of titanium since titanium is used in some very high speed aircraft, but the metal was not used in the Apollo command vehicle.

The outer shell of Apollo 009 is constructed of stainless steel honeycomb between stainless steel sheets. This structure is covered by an ablative phenolic resin heat shield, which carried away the heat of reentry. Stainless steel, by itself, does not rust away under prolonged exposure to moisture. The ablative heat shield also will not corrode and would not be damaged by anything in the environment except long-term exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Protected inside, it should last indefinitely.

Many individuals and organizations today beautifully restore neglected or abandoned aluminum aircraft manufactured as far back as the 1930s to flying condition. The Apollo spacecraft should not pose any special restoration problems and much more is known about its construction and design than many restored aircraft.

It is interesting that some Nebraskans believe that we do not have the resources to restore and display this valuable piece of history, and therefore, the solution is to give it to someone in Kansas. I applaud the regents who had the foresight to hold onto this wonderful artifact from man's first exploration of space, and I hope that in the future Nebraskans will have the

high-risk areas, but what you also did was inform thieves of areas that are easy. Maybe you should continue this article with some information that people want to hear, such as what is going to be done about the problem?
Joshlyn R. White
freshman
architecture

Somalia

Why are we in Somalia? To protect huge, American-based, multinational petroleum investments as well as strategic military positions in the region. Why don't we mount an Operation Restore Hope in Sudan, Ethiopia or Mozambique? No oil, no money, no immediate strategic military value.

Why is Sam Kepfield (DN, Oct. 6) allowed to suggest such "modest proposals" for Somalia as "level(ing) their cities, scatter(ing) the inhabitants to the winds ... and coat(ing) the whole area with Agent Orange or plutonium" in the DN? Because under the guise of "balance" the DN publishes two kinds of opinions — far right and center. Furthermore, and this is the real answer to the question, it is because not enough readers and advertisers are sufficiently incensed by the bad taste that the DN editorial staff exhibits when it publishes such garbage to threaten it with an immediate boycott for allowing such ethically irresponsible and morally reprehensible opinions to be published. If, as a joke, Kepfield proposes the elimination of all Jews, blacks or indigenous Americans, will the DN publish it as a valid opinion? Why then when it concerns Somalians?

Bikes

I am writing in response to the article on stolen bikes (DN, Oct. 5). Don't you think that you could have just reported about the number of bikes being stolen and some ideas on how to prevent it from happening, instead of giving people ideas to take just the accessories, "if thieves can't steal the whole bike." I realize that this is not something new, but when you tell people where and what to steal, I have a problem.

Maybe you could have said something about getting more security in those areas of high risk, but nothing was said or done about the problem. On Oct. 7, two seats were stolen before 11:30 a.m. in the areas that were mentioned in your article. Maybe you did mean to make people aware of the

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