

Daily Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

Food for thought

Athletes should eat with other students

The NCAA is considering a proposal that would require student-athletes to spend more time with other students, and it should be approved.

The proposal would limit student athletes to one meal a day at athletic training-table facilities. It is intended to help smaller schools that have a hard time financing training tables.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's training table, located in the Hewitt Center, provides all student-athletes with two high-calorie, low-fat meals daily. UNL has written a letter to the NCAA opposing the proposed change.

George Sullivan, UNL's head athletic trainer, said student-athletes require more calories than other students and could not get proper nutrition by eating only one meal at the training table.

Sullivan has a good point. Student-athletes do need to eat properly and get enough calories. But they can be taught to do that without the need for two meals a day at a special facility. And if UNL's residence halls are serving high-fat, low-calorie meals, then that problem needs to be addressed.

Eating at the training table further separates athletes from other students. Freshman athletes in the residence halls who eat at the training table miss the opportunity to interact with other students and become part of the UNL community.

It is a mistake to isolate student athletes from the rest of the university. Reducing meals at the training table to one a day would be a step in the right direction.

OTHERS' VIEW

From Madison Avenue to Hollywood, images of lesbianism are pouring out into mainstream America, enticing the public to embrace the "new lesbians."

Gone are the days of "macho-looking" lesbians who hate men; now lesbians, according to the media, are sexy beings who tempt both men and women.

But the fact remains that under the guise of acceptance and assimilation, the media are just exploiting lesbian sexuality.

Since it's Hollywood, naturally all of these lesbian characters are attractive, well-dressed and worried about their looks.

And because these women have no other characteristics besides their sexual orientation, mainstream America will undoubtedly think all lesbians must be obsessed with sex.

But they're not.

In the politically correct '90s, advertisers and the media are jumping on the multicultural bandwagon, stressing their so-called openness and acceptance of all lifestyles and ideals. Under the PC umbrella, lesbians are popping up everywhere in the media, but their bodies are still the focal point of every appearance.

Ads, from Banana Republic to New York's Cafe Tabac are using lesbian sexual images to grab attention — and buyers. Nothing else.

Until lesbians are made into well-rounded characters in screenplays and not used as sex objects in print, these new lesbian stereotypes will flourish and become ingrained into the minds of men and women as to what lesbianism is all about.

— The Daily
The University of Washington

EDITORIAL POLICY

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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

Homecoming

In a front-page article (DN, Oct. 8), a headline implied that this year's Homecoming would "pale" against its expectations since there is again a mostly white, mostly greek Homecoming court. Linda Kay Morgan questioned the theme because no ethnic minorities were on the royalty court, since she interpreted the theme, "United Colors of UNL," to specially mean ethnic diversity.

My question is, exactly why are there no ethnic minorities on the royalty court? The process for selection of the 1993 Homecoming royalty court consisted of campus and community involvement, awards, scholarships and honors received, an individual response to essay questions regarding personal experience at UNL, as well as an interview with a racially diverse panel of administrators, faculty members and students. As president of the Afrikan People's Union, Linda Kay Morgan and other student leaders like her must have the opportunity to interact with students of diverse ethnic backgrounds who are as involved on campus as the students selected for the Homecoming royalty court. Why did they not apply?

Homecoming co-chairwoman Karen Freimund stated she thought the makeup of the court was skewed, although only two minority female students applied. It has been proven time and again that you can't be selected for, nor make an impact on, anything — a job, a scholarship, a volunteer position — unless you apply.

Jennifer Putensén
senior
business administration, psychology

Green space

I am very annoyed with Chancellor Spanier's idea to change the parking area 17C in front of the union into a green space.

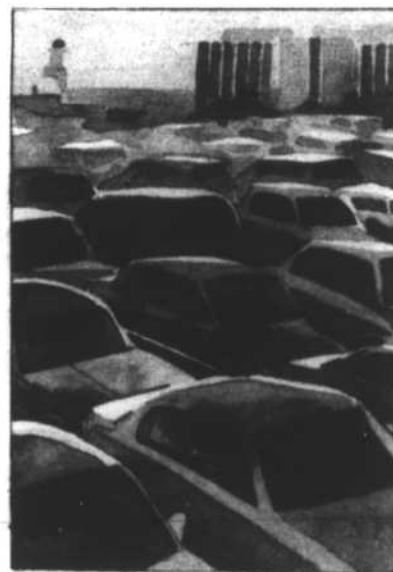
Weren't there already plans to change the block over by the Temple Building into a park? Why do we need to change the area in front of the union into a park, also? Couldn't the money earmarked for this project be used for something else? For example, it could be spent on the programs that were cut during the budget cuts. Also, if we let Chancellor Spanier have his way now, then who is to say he will stop there? Maybe in a year or two, his next target may be something else besides a parking lot. Instead of actually fixing Richards Hall, he could just tear it down and make a park there. Or he could target Memorial Stadium or something else just as meaningful.

I'm sure many proponents of the "green space" will tell me to walk, ride the bus or bike to class. That is not a viable option for me. My class and work schedules do not permit me enough time to do so. I work all the way across town, and riding my bike to work will not get me there in time.

The buses are usually late and are not a reliable source of transportation for me.

I know my opinion will have little or no effect on the decision. I needed to voice my opinion to the bigwigs who run this university. In the event that Chancellor Spanier actually reads this, I hope he will realize that there are many people opposed to his idea.

Melanie Chin
junior
elementary education, early child development



David Badders/DN

'Greenpoint East'

I have a suggestion for a win-win situation. All that needs to be done is to declare the parking lot immediately north of the student union Greenpoint East. The merits for this idea are many. Some consider it ugly. As a mobile (ever-changing in appearance) piece of art, it would provide the other end of the spectrum to the set-in-concrete rigidity of Greenpoint. Considering the vintage of many of the cars in the lot, there would be ample hint of the dead-car color, rust, that is so popular in art on this campus. It would reflect the daily struggles of the masses to eke out a living as contrasted with reaching for higher ideals. And finally, it would put UNL in the forefront for a new art form.

I realize the simplicity of the idea may not be acceptable to all, so I suggest an alternate if needed. The artist with the most creative ideas of how to park cars in Greenpoint East would win \$10,000. An example might be combinations of various colors of cars in sometimes conflicting and sometimes complementary arrangements of geometric designs that make use of a multicolor parking surface. This design would have to be apparent from ground level since not all people would be able to fit in the chancellor's office for viewing. Even-

tually, glassed-in viewing areas for dignitaries may be required as the idea catches on in the art world and the general public.

There may be such an abundance of ideas that more parking lots on campus may be needed to fully develop the art form. Fortunately, there are still green spaces left for upgrading.

Darryll T. Pederson
professor
geology

Punishment

When I read Mark D. Mercer's letter on the death penalty (DN, Oct. 7), I literally started cackling like Beavis. One has to laugh when someone mentions God and morality and still supports the death penalty all in the same paragraph. Obviously, Mercer forgets the fifth commandment clearly states, "Thou Shalt Not Kill."

First he brings up the old "deterrent" argument. If the death penalty is a deterrent, then why have murder and other violent crimes become more prolific since its reinstatement in 1976? Ironically enough, statistics suggest that states with capital punishment on the average have higher violent crime rates than those that don't. Therefore, the argument that the death penalty deters violent crime is a myth.

Then Mercer is concerned about the cost of keeping these criminals imprisoned. The appeals process that every death row inmate goes through, and has a constitutional right to, eventually costs us taxpayers six times what it would to incarcerate them for life.

The death penalty is dished out unfairly. Minorities are more likely to get the death penalty than are whites. Obviously, the criminal justice system thinks whites, the well-to-do and police officers count more than anybody else when their lives are taken.

No, I don't condone in any way the despicable actions of people such as Harold Otey, John Joubert or Michael Ryan. I also don't condone the way their lawyers are making a mockery of the appeals process. These murderers should be punished appropriately. Unfortunately, the majority of people in this state feel that jolting 2,200 volts of electricity through their bodies will justify what they did. Life sentences without parole would be much more humane and fair if not economical in the long run.

Although many Nebraskans are sickened that we haven't fired up the chair in more than 34 years, it is a statement some of us are proud of, and we hope it continues.

Scott Carpenter
junior
English