

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

Lawless

State needs law to protect homosexuals

A group gathered outside the Green Gateau restaurant Tuesday to protest the firing of an employee. They said he was fired because he is gay. No one has confirmed that this is the reason for the firing; the owner of the restaurant said conflicts in scheduling became a problem.

But scheduling changes were approved by management in July. The situation behind the firing does not seem to be as simple as a schedule conflict.

Regardless of the reason for the firing, this incident brings to the spotlight a problem in this state. Nebraska does not have a law protecting against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Without it, employees or job applicants, regardless of qualifications, can be fired or denied employment because they are homosexual. This is blatantly, obviously wrong.

UNL's policy was amended in 1989 to say that no one can be discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation. Luckily for UNL students, faculty and staff, they are protected under this statement. But others in this state are not protected. Employers can deny employment or fire someone for being gay.

Sexual orientation deserves to be protected by law the same way people of various races, religions, ages, sexes and handicaps are protected.

The state needs to follow UNL's lead and protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation. Until that happens, homosexuals who are just as qualified for a job as anyone else are in danger of being denied jobs because of sexual orientation.

Foiled again

Haiti troop halt jeopardizes democracy

U.S. forces being sent to help restore democracy in yet another foreign country have been met with resistance. Noncombat soldiers who have been sent to Haiti to help restore the government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide have been prevented from landing in the country.

Haitian Army Chief Raoul Cedras and police commander Michael Francois prevented U.S. troops from landing. Their action violates a commitment they made in July to allow democracy to be restored in Haiti.

Under the agreement, Aristide is due to return to Haiti at the end of the month. A U.N. force of 1,600 troops — including 700 Americans — will be stationed in Haiti to aid Aristide's government. The troops will consist of military engineers, police trainers and administrative personnel.

But Cedras and Francois' action puts Haiti's return to democracy in jeopardy. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Tuesday that their actions could result in the return of U.S. sanctions to Haiti.

Haiti is strategically important to the United States because of its location in the Caribbean Sea. The problems of Haitian people fleeing to the United States in boats will continue if oppression is not ended in Haiti.

The United States needs to avoid trapping itself in another situation like Somalia. But it also has an interest in seeing democracy return to Haiti. President Clinton should act firmly but cautiously to put pressure on Cedras and Francois to let Aristide's government return to Haiti.

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'One of their own'

Where are the peaceniks? Where are the circle-jerkers, beatniks and potheads? They were ubiquitous during the Gulf War, where are they now during the military operation in Somalia? Where is the graffiti that might read, "Clinton Kills" or "No Blood for Aidid"? Why aren't they circulating glum photos of innocent animals and plant life that are being unjustly injured in this ordeal? Don't they have the uncontrollable urge to speak out for the victims and their families? Perhaps they are all in disbelief that one of their own could be abusing his control of American troops. Do they not think that a liberal could be responsible for senseless deaths?

Cristen Hiffenan
senior
psychology

Diversity

I am writing in response to the letter written by Ross A. Buntrock (DN, Oct. 5). He writes, "The endless pursuit of 'diversity' on this campus and in every other segment of society has led to the death of meritocracy."

It really irritates me when people speak in broad generalities, especially when specific evidence does not support their argument. Put another way, I hate it when someone paints with a broad brush, particularly when the brush is filled with the wrong color of paint.

Buntrock's statements presume two things: White males who do not have disabilities are always competent and all other people are always incompetent. He also presumes he understands the way concept of meritocracy has been applied in this country. All of these presumptions are false. Meritocracy in America is still alive; it simply has a new twist to it.

Neither skin color, gender nor physical challenge should be the sole determinants for a job, as these characteristics and competence are not necessarily interchangeable terms. But "merit" as we approach the 21st century should include the ability to view reality from different perspectives. It should include the ability to judge a person's statements from the content of the speech, and not from the color of the skin surrounding the lips from which that speech flowed. It should include the ability to understand that when a person experiences a physical challenge, his/her intellectual capacity does not diminish. It should include the ability to understand that diversity is not a code word for anti-white male.

The mark of a good attorney is the ability to see things as they really are, when your clients' emotions have clouded their thinking. An emotional argument based upon solid facts and

sound legal analysis is hard to beat. An argument driven by the "passion of ignorance" is hard to stomach.

Lisa G.T. Swinton

special assistant attorney general
unit supervisor, Nebraska Department of Social Services
graduate student
pre-medicine

fortunate use of the exposure the Daily Nebraskan provides.

Scott Ferguson
sophomore
Spanish, English

Review

I am responding to the Primus concert preview article (DN, Oct. 7). If that was supposed to be a preview of the band, which appeared in Omaha at the Peony Park Ballroom, why is more than half of the article a slam against the band and what it stands for? I thought a concert preview was supposed to highlight a band's career to let people know what they're about before they decide if they want to go to the show. Instead, what we have was an opinionated article that most or all Primus fans would disagree with.

I am not a huge fan of Primus. I really appreciate the band for what they are: the most unique band out there and a breath of fresh air to the standard grunge band. I would hope that before someone speaks for the whole music community, they should investigate further about a band's career. Not once have I heard a fan or anyone in the alternative music scene say that Primus is stale, and that nothing off "Suck On This" was fun anymore.

Just reading the preview really makes me think that if someone read the article, they probably wouldn't want to go to the show. Way to get them psyched for the show.

William F. Homan
senior
broadcasting/advertising

Football

During the two years I have been a student at this school, I have seen the DN improve drastically. The layout has improved, the writing is better and the graphics look great. But the story headlined, "Huskers survive workout without any new injuries" (DN, Oct. 5) was an absolute farce.

Every few weeks we are treated to one of these "stories." I must say, I was really sweating Thursday night's game against Oklahoma State. Who on earth would we have turned to if Calvin Jones, Lawrence Phillips, Damon Benning and the other 14 runningbacks who were above Clinton Childs on the depth chart got hurt?

I'm sorry, DN journalists, but this just simply is not news. Stick to the good journalism you produce, such as the recent stories about Gerald Armstrong and Billy Wade. Don't tell me which Husker suffered a hangnail in practice. I, and the other 23,999 students on this campus simply don't care.

Chris Dingman
graduate student
community and regional planning



James Mehlsing/DN

Gender

I read with interest the editorial entitled "Who needs him? NU must decide if president is necessary (DN, Oct. 11)." While I recognize the editorial policy states that "editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university," etc., my question remains the same. Does this person know something that the rest of us do not? Implicit in this headline is the incredible assertion that our next president, if needed at all, will be a man. I think that's very interesting.

Claudia Price-Decker
chairwoman
Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women
junior
women's studies

'Unfortunate use'

What was the point of running Patrick Hambrecht's column "Gays still in cage" (DN, Oct. 12)? It was a confusing, rambling piece that only brought out most heterosexuals' misconceptions and ignorance about sexual orientation. Homosexuality is neither bad nor good, inferior nor superior, right nor wrong. It just is, was and will always be one of the many colors of humanity's variation that makes our world's cultures so rich and amazing.

Choosing a column such as his for your publication's commentary on a day of self-liberation and pride, as is National Coming-Out Day, is an un-