

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

Sad but true

Sports realities make equity impossible

Gender equity in athletics is a hot issue at UNL and other universities and colleges across the country. In its August 1993 report, the NCAA said equity should provide male and female athletes equal opportunities for scholarships, benefits and services.

The need for gender equity is obvious when some NCAA statistics are studied. Men's athletic programs received 70 percent of athletic scholarships and 77 percent of operating budgets.

These figures show the idea behind gender equity in athletics is a valuable one that echoes a desire for equality throughout society. Women and men should be given equal opportunities in all aspects of life.

But the reality is that this may be impossible to implement in NU sports. The facts show that football makes more money than any other sport, especially in comparison to women's athletics. This may be unfair and unbalanced, but it is reality.

The idea of equal opportunity may be plausible at UNL and in other universities' athletic programs. Men and women deserve the same type of scholarship programs, training programs and facilities. But the idea of having equal budgets and numbers of scholarships will be difficult to work out.

For example, football requires a larger number of athletes than any women's sport, which automatically puts women at a disadvantage. Like it or not, football is a much more popular sport at many schools than many women's programs and requires a greater number of scholarships and athletes than several women's athletic programs combined.

Working toward gender equity is a worthy idea. However, the realities of collegiate sports programs cannot be forgotten.

Regent pets

NU engineering programs study is a waste

The NU Board of Regents approved a list of consultants Friday to study Nebraska's engineering programs and suggest solutions if problems are found.

That is the formal purpose of the consultants. But some regents apparently have already decided what the consultants should recommend.

Regents Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo and Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha both said they thought the study should be focused on providing the University of Nebraska at Omaha with its own engineering college. Skrupa proposed an amendment to have the consultants look specifically at establishing an engineering college at UNO.

"If this study does not address the particular issue of an independent engineering college in Omaha, then it's a sham," O'Brien said.

Regent Charles Wilson of Lincoln countered their arguments by offering an amendment requiring the consultants to look at separate colleges in other parts of Nebraska.

"Why not put that in as well as the Omaha engineering college suggestion?" Wilson said.

Both amendments failed, but the list of consultants was approved. The regents will proceed with their plan to study NU's engineering programs.

The study is a waste of time and money. NU already has an engineering program at UNL. In a time of budget cutbacks, NU does not need an engineering college at UNO.

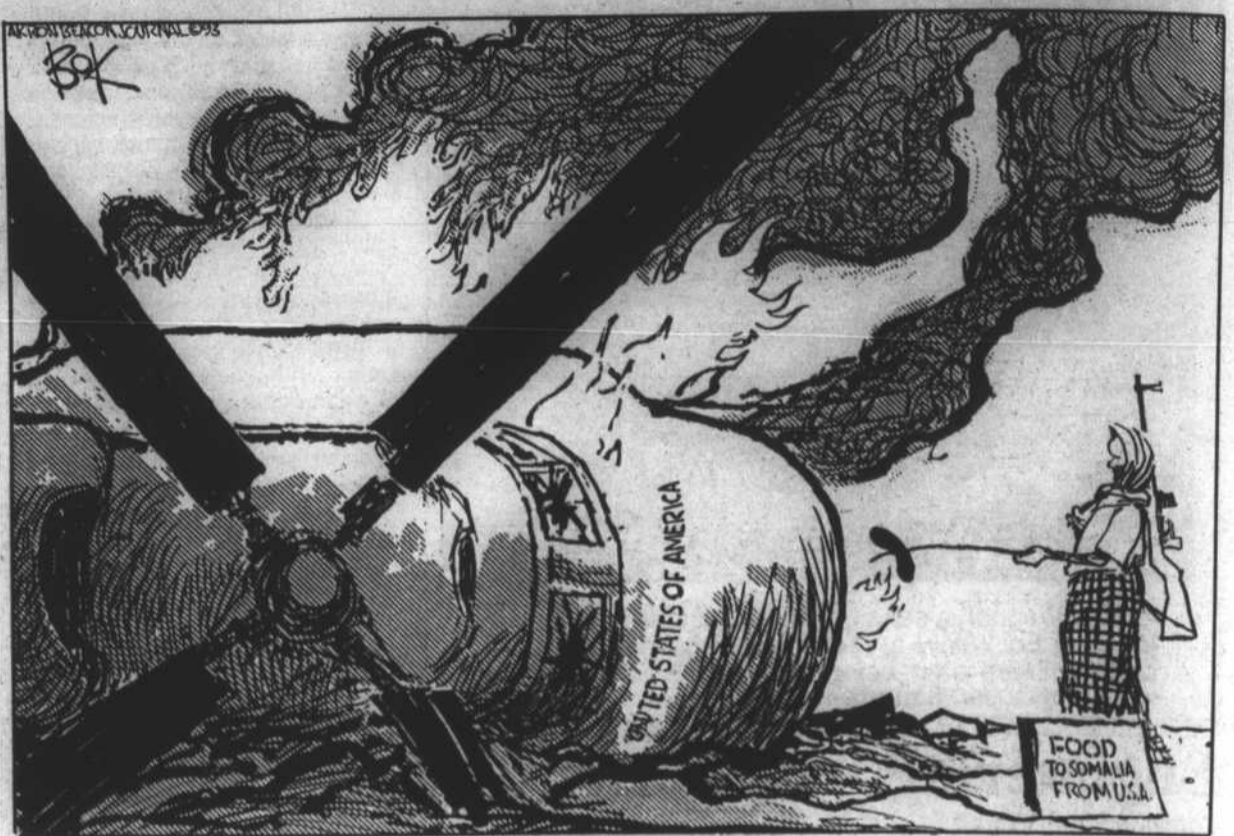
The regents should terminate the study and turn their attention to issues that matter to NU instead of personal pet projects.

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

Football

Chris Dingman stated that he didn't care "which Husker suffered a hang-nail in practice," referring to sports articles giving injury reports. He then went on to say that he "and the other 23,999 students on this campus simply don't care." To my knowledge, Chris never called me and asked my opinion. Obviously he didn't because I do care.

The football team is interesting, and I like to keep up on what's happening and who is injured, and I know that a lot of people share my opinion.

Rick Tast
junior
criminal justice

Capital punishment

Maybe Mark Mercer (DN, Oct. 14) should enroll in a criminal justice survey course soon so he could stop misstating "his" facts. No consistent data exists to prove capital punishment works as a deterrent, only as angry retribution. Furthermore, he may learn that there is a supportable argument that capital punishment has not been color blind.

Maybe we should leave retribution to the Good Lord, and Mark could deal with an education. Pure and simple. Check the facts, Mark, not your opinion.

Bryan McBride
graduate student
unclassified

Triangles

I'm going to put a pink triangle on my door. Truth to tell, I really don't want to encourage everybody I know to be entirely open about their sexuality. I also fear the pink triangle will make me suspicious in the eyes of some. It may even have some impact on peoples' perception of my wife and sons. Still, I don't see very many options.

In sending out the pink triangle stickers, Eric Jolly forced me to choose. With the power of his position, he held a hoop in front of me and every other faculty member and told us to jump through it. He can say all he wants about giving the freedom to choose whether or not to use the sticker, but there was no freedom. We HAD to choose. We could jump from left to right or right to left, but we had to jump through Dr. Jolly's hoop.

I could have decided not to put the sticker up and told my colleagues and my students that I am not open and supportive of all of them. Or I could put it up and hope that it is understood as evidence of a desire to be kind, fair and supportive — even if the same can not be said of the University Affirmative Action Office.

Peter Bleed
professor of anthropology

Gay rights

I am sick and tired of the gay rights movement, and I feel that enough is enough. After hearing and reading about the protest at the Green Gateau (DN, Oct. 13), I am sickened and disillusioned at the current state of affairs in Lincoln and the nation as a whole.

Every special interest group is screaming for special rights for this minority or that, and now there is a bill



James Mehling/DN

to "protect the jobs of homosexuals." Is this garbage really necessary? The only thing that this bill will do is give the homosexual community the power to scream prejudice and bias whenever a member of the gay and lesbian community is fired from his or her job regardless of the reason. Please don't try to tell me otherwise. After the many years of the debaunched Affirmative Action movement, the evidence is clear.

As far as I am concerned, Sean Bolte was fairly fired from the Green Gateau. I was fired from a university job because of scheduling conflicts because I needed a day off for finals. An associate dean later ruled that I was unfairly fired, but no one bothered to tell me. Did I have a special rights platform to stand upon and scream? No. Why? Because I am a young, white, heterosexual male.

I am created equal with everyone else in this world whether they are red, white, black, yellow, male, female or homosexual. It becomes ridiculous that laws be created merely to service a small slice of the American population. Perhaps Sean Bolte should have tried harder to meet the needs of his employer's schedule.

On a last note, I find it offensive to be served by effeminate waiters. Flaming sexuality, regardless of the swing, has no place in the work environment.

Jason A. Beineke
junior
English

Kissing

The College Republicans last Wednesday sold kisses to raise funds. If you think about the message, money for a physical act, it hints of prostitution — or at least a transition to it, kind of like cigarettes being a transition to harder drugs. Free enterprise aside, doesn't the Republican Party frown on prostitution?

J.D. Makinson
graduate student
engineering

Homecoming

Jennifer Putensen, your sense of bewilderment on why minority leaders do not apply for homecoming royalty (DN, Oct. 12) amuses me. As a "campus leader" and homecoming candidate, one might assume you would be more concerned with finding the answers and solutions to why minority leaders do not apply than blaming their lack of participation in the application process.

I can suggest one possible answer. Could it be that minority leaders and a large portion of UNL students cannot imagine themselves justifying to someone why they should be homecoming king or queen without laughing aloud?

What exactly does being a member of the "royal court" symbolize to our campus in the '90s? A group of people who think they deserve to be honored? Does walking on the field at halftime in all your splendor serve some purpose other than tickling your relatives and friends cheering in the stands?

I can acknowledge that the court has contributed to the university through high academic standards and involvement in organizations. Perhaps your time would be better spent in continued service to the many needy organizations and projects at UNL and in Lincoln than in filling out applications as to why you deserve to be honored.

Your choice is your prerogative, but maybe the minority leaders who did not apply did not have the need to blow their own horn. Perhaps the whole homecoming selection process needs to be examined. Maybe in order to include everyone, it should be a selection process instead of an application process.

I have trouble believing that student voters take into account the qualifications and achievements when casting their ballots.

I can only hope that in the future students will have solved these problems and homecoming candidates will not longer feel the need to defend their royalty.

Bradd Schmeichel
senior
psychology