

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

Ugly tradition

Fraternity hazing goes on causing pain

The tradition of hazing at fraternities has put a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student in critical condition at Lincoln General Hospital.

Jeffrey Knoll, a freshman and a Phi Gamma Delta pledge, fell from a bathroom window around 5:30 p.m. James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, confirmed Thursday what rumors suggested: The incident was related to drinking and hazing.

Griesen said Phi Gamma Delta actives found Knoll in the fraternity house when pledges were not supposed to be there. After Knoll consumed a quantity of alcohol, he went upstairs because he said he felt ill. Griesen said Knoll had been drinking "in a coercive environment."

A short time later, actives saw him lying on the ground outside the window.

Hazing in fraternities and sororities is illegal under state law. Although the greek system insists hazing no longer happens, this incident shows that it does. The details of this case are being referred to the county attorney's office, and any individuals involved should be prosecuted and punished to the full extent of the law.

Hazing does not promote the brotherhood or the loyalty on which fraternities pride themselves. It only humiliates members, at the least, or endangers their health and safety at the worst. Knoll personifies this problem; he remains in critical condition in the hospital because of the foolish hazing practices in his fraternity.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"We're damned if we do and damned if we don't. They're making a eunuch out of the board of regents."

— NU regent Rosemary Skrupa, complaining that people criticize the board of regents for holding closed meetings

"We're not into gay bashing. We don't have a problem with what they are."

— John Barrett, vice chairman of UNL College Republicans, who distributed stickers this week in response to the pink triangle stickers

"He didn't say anything. ... He took one step forward and punched me on the right side of my face."

— Boon-Chung "Marco" Ong, describing how he was assaulted in front of the Nebraska Union on Oct. 17

"Russia reserves the right to use all means at its disposal to repulse aggression and crush the aggressors."

— Valery Manilov, deputy secretary of Russia's top policy-making Security Council, stating Russia's willingness to use nuclear weapons if attacked with conventional forces

"He said he lived for this one show, this time of year and he wasn't going to miss it."

— Lincoln Police Department Sgt. Sandy Myers, who testified Wednesday that Roger Bjorklund agreed to fill out a court-ordered handwriting form only after the Country Music Awards television show had ended

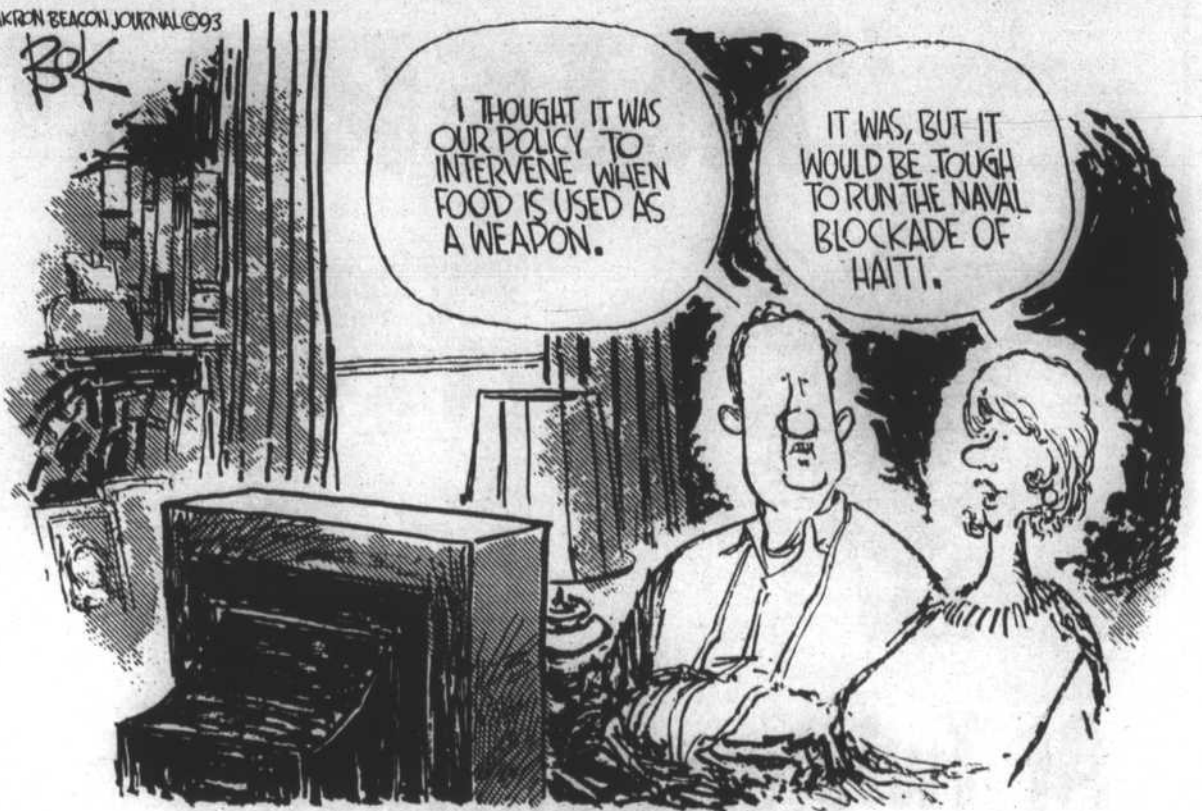
EDITORIAL POLICY

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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.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Capital punishment

I am writing in response to Mark Mercer's letter (DN, Nov. 2). If it was wrong to murder Harms, how can Mercer justify the murder of another human? Killing Harms' murderer won't bring Harms back, but would be another murder that the legal system would justify by calling it justice.

The killing of anyone is wrong, but Harms is gone and nothing we do will bring her back. Killing Harms' murderer won't change that. She would still be dead. Her murderer is living and should be allowed to stay that way.

Brent Riensche
freshman
general studies

Greek system

In response to Steve Smith (DN, Nov. 3): I agree that every human being should have respect for another's feelings. I also agree that racial slurs are childish and stupid. I am sorry that the incident with the two Asian students happened. However, why is this considered a reflection on the entire greek system?

Smith admitted he "wouldn't be writing this if it wasn't so obvious what group the slur came from." Why does that make a difference? If an independent student makes a racial slur, is it not as harmful as one coming from a greek?

There was no reason to mention the Alpha Tau Omega house, let alone the greek system as a whole. The incident has nothing to do with either. It has to do with one insecure person.

I am also offended that the greek system's contributions to the community and national charities was belittled. My sorority's philanthropy in October raised more than \$1,000 for cancer research. I'm sure even the two Asian students would agree that this kind of contribution to society is far more important than one ignorant student's comment.

Anne Skourup
sophomore
business administration

'Absurd'

Maybe absurdity is the best word for what the College Republicans deem to be a joke. All right, let's get down to what the pink triangle stickers were meant for. "Coming Out Week" might have something to do with it. Gee, I don't know.

Now, let's get to the main argument by the College Republicans. Why should we focus on one issue? If they focus on one issue during "Coming Out Week" then that's wrong. Well, what happens on Mother's Day? We celebrate our mothers and all that they have given us. Do we try to bring our fathers into the picture and say, "Hey, why are we giving her all the credit? Dad's done

a lot too; hey, that's not fair!" No, I don't think so. Are they saying we should celebrate the Easter bunny on Christmas?

David C. Williams
freshman
English



James Mehlsing/DN

Stickers

The recent distribution of mock sensitivity stickers by UNL's College Republicans should come as no surprise to the Daily Nebraskan or any other purveyors of political correctness.

Surely the designers of the now-infamous little pink triangle stickers knew that to single out homosexuals as the minority most oppressed and deserving of special professorial accommodations would result in exactly this type of public response.

The Daily Nebraskan scaled new heights of hypersensitivity with the exclamation that, "They (the mock stickers) will not be taken seriously because they are so distasteful and immature (DN, Nov. 3)." While I have no affiliation with the UNL College Republicans, I think it is obvious their intention was never to be taken all that seriously, and was purely jocular in nature. They masterfully illustrated the absurdity of the whole ridiculous sticker folly.

One's sexual orientation is not a matter of relevance between a professor and a student. If it becomes one, then I suggest that the student/professor scholastic relationship has progressed far beyond acceptable boundaries. After all, are we, as students, attending this university for an experience in educational enlightenment, or are we here for some ill-conceived, psychoanalytical group therapy session?

Thomas K. Eads
junior
political science, English

'The good life'

Even in Nebraska, home of the good life, we are constantly reminded of the gay and lesbian demands for special treatment and distinctive

rights. As a native of Lincoln and an active citizen of the state of Nebraska, I was shocked to hear stickers depicting pink triangles were given to faculty and administration members via the Affirmative Action Office and a gay/lesbian student organization.

The so-called purpose of the stickers was to promote a feeling of security among gay students when talking to faculty or administration members who displayed the stickers. However, being the father of a gay man, I realize there was a hidden agenda. Anyone who knows anything about the radical tactics of the gay political forces, such as Act Up or Queer Nation, knows the pink triangle symbolizes the legitimization and promotion of the gay lifestyle. And the stickers hit UNL during "Coming Out Week." Coincidence? Probably not.

Thanks to groups such as UNL College Republicans and the state's media, the pink triangle assault has received due criticism and informed people, like myself, of the occurrence.

Thomas A. Williams
Lincoln

Movies

I'm surprised Mark Baldrige even bothered to interview Frank Rhodes, the Douglas Theatre Company film buyer (DN, Nov. 4). "Dazed and Confused" did in fact play at a Douglas Company-owned theater — the Q Cinema 9 in Omaha. A print of "Dazed and Confused" will be available to the Cinema Twin in Lincoln on or near Nov. 26. This information has been known for at least two weeks.

Baldrige seems to have made a minimal attempt to research something he knows little about. I'm sure that in his years at UNL he has at least heard of supply and demand and the concept of capitalism. Anyone who wants to succeed in business is going to make decisions based on what will be likely to create the maximum profit. The Douglas Theatre Company is just that, a theater company, not a film studio. They are not responsible for what gets released. They also have much less control over what get played in Lincoln than what Baldrige must think.

Film studios such as Fox, Paramount, Touchstone, etc., make certain demands in their contracts with theater companies, and the Douglas company can choose not to show a certain film if the contract doesn't serve their business interest.

The Douglas company makes a sincere effort to acquire prints of movies that Lincolniters will enjoy, even those that are artsy and off the beaten path, such as "The Crying Game," "Joy Luck Club" and "Much Ado About Nothing."

Matthew T. Barnason
senior
English