

Daily Nebraskan
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EDITORIAL

Standard time

New requirements will improve quality

A few years ago, the UNL teachers college established more selective admission standards for its elementary program, and those currently seeking admission into the college are the first ones affected by these standards.

But the new requirements have been criticized by some as elitist. Mike Walker, a professor of elementary education, said UNL's goal should instead be to provide opportunities for everyone.

"The cream of the crop can already go to Harvard, Yale or Princeton," he said. "We need to serve the needs of the state."

The new standards require those wanting to enter the program to submit a portfolio in their third semester of college showing their special talents, academic achievements and experiences with people from diverse cultures.

Some of the requirements seem to be slanted to benefit middle and upper class students. Not all college students have the time to dedicate themselves to making an outstanding, diverse portfolio. Many students must work part-time or full-time jobs and go to school full time in order to pay the bills. They may have trouble taking the time necessary to make a top-quality portfolio.

But requirements to get into the teachers college need to be more demanding. The new plan requires elementary education students to complete five semester-long practicums, which means more hands-on experience. That is one positive step to making UNL's teachers college more respectable.

Requirements such as a portfolio may seem elitist, but they are one way to make sure that those admitted to the teachers college are truly dedicated to the idea of becoming high-quality teachers.

Walk the talk

Israel's refusal to meet deadline stalls peace

The Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel resumed talks over their peace accord Monday, but stalling is threatening the agreement.

The PLO is demanding that Israel pull its troops out of Jericho and the Gaza Strip by the Dec. 13 deadline set down in the recent peace accord. But Israel says a delay of a few days or weeks would not violate the agreement.

The Israelis are stalling. When they signed the peace accord Sept. 13 in Washington, they agreed to begin withdrawing their troops by the Dec. 13 deadline. Israel's refusal to abide by its word is weakening an already shaky agreement.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said reaching a sound agreement was more important than meeting the deadline.

"This isn't the same as a treaty with an Arab country and we draw the line, and we say we are on this side and you are on the other side," he said. "Here the situation is more complex ... first of all from our point of view, security is important."

Rabin has a point. Violence between Palestinians and Israelis has eroded support for the peace accord in Israel. The agreement can succeed only if it has the popular support of both the Israelis and the Palestinians.

But that is not an excuse for slowly backing out of the agreement. Israel should stick by its word and start withdrawing its troops by the deadline. The United States should pressure Israel to abide by the agreement and not kill the slim remaining hope for peace with the Palestinians.

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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TRADE WINDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Tedious'

The article on gay greeks (DN, Nov. 23) was an interesting final word, at least I hope we're through with it, of the spate of pro/anti greek letters in recent weeks. I hope people noticed that the article said:

1. Some fraternities and sororities are not as supportive an environment for all members as their supporters claim, but
2. some are, and
3. ignorant buttheads exist throughout campus and society, irrespective of their living quarters.

I truly do hope this can be the last word because, while I have never lived in greek housing, the sniping against them has gotten tedious to the point where lectures on nuclear physics would seem exciting. Please, can't we all just get along, or do I have to come knock some heads?

Trevor McArthur
senior
Teachers college

Greek debate

I have been following the greek debate during these past several weeks and as a result, two questions have emerged in my mind.

First, what is the purpose of bashing greeks? Do you expect us to read your letters and suddenly throw our hands up and shout, "Ohmigosh! I just realized we're all a bunch of lemmings that dress alike!" and then flee from our houses? Don't hold your breath.

Second, what if a member of a sorority or fraternity wrote in the Daily Nebraskan, "I am confused as to why anyone would want to stay in a dorm where no one has a life, nor a future, nor a good meal to eat?"

Be careful, people. The majority of the nation's leaders today were once greeks themselves. The students you are insulting today will someday be running the world.

Ryan Horner
freshman
accounting

Answers

In response to Shawn Carlson's letter (DN, Nov. 23), I would like to clarify that his questions about the real purpose of the greek system were answered because I personally answered them.

Yes, Shawn, do you recall our 45-minute conversation where I maturely and politely answered every question you had about the greek system? From questions about the rush selection, parties, philanthropies to even going as far as explaining how you could go about organizing a party for ASUN elections, I think I more than explained the purpose of the greek system on this campus and in the community.

We all chose to be associated with the greek system, and I am proud to

say I am greek. I am also proud to say that greeks are mature enough not to write letters in the DN that stereotype a certain dormitory or the independents as a whole. Living at home, being a freshman and never experiencing any aspect of greek life does not give Carlson the knowledge to print letters such as those that have been printed.

Kim Bourn
junior
arts and sciences



James Mehlsing/DN

Fans

What an embarrassing display of immaturity. Friday at the Nebraska/Oklahoma game Nebraska fans were stripped of their good reputation as thousands of people trampled onto the field before the game was over. These morons embarrassed coach Tom Osborne, the team, the civilized fans, and if their mothers were watching, they embarrassed them, too.

The players have given us a great season, putting us at No. 1, and those idiots who ran out there slapped them in the face with disrespect. For those injured parties, like our All-American Trev Alberts, who wanted to watch his teammates finish off what he helped them start, and those players who had suited up for their last game, they have been left with disappointment.

The importance in maintaining sportsmanlike conduct is not only for safety reasons but also to keep in mind that it is only a game. Whether you win or lose, it is how you play the game that counts.

For those of you that joined in the stupidity of running out onto the field before the game was over, next time don't enter the playing field unless you are suited up to play the game.

Sandra Fournier
senior
food science and technology

Science

Mr. Fulton, in your letter (DN, Nov. 15) you attribute to me a "belief in Jesus Christ and the Messiah." I have no such belief, nor have I had such in the past. I consider Jesus to have been a false Messiah. Did I mislead you with something that I had written? I did not intentionally misrepresent myself.

You close your letter with a curious statement: "Being in a scientific field, it saddens me to see people use their gifts of knowledge and reason to challenge the truth when instead it was to be used to find it." Science is a matter of constantly challenging alleged truth, right? This is not Sunday School.

Robert J. Tobin
graduate student
geology

Beliefs

I am writing because I am concerned about a new buzz word that is going around: mental illness. As a psychology major, I have a particular interest that this word is not being over- or misapplied. Sadly, it is.

What makes a person mentally ill? Ask anyone in the psych department and you're apt to get many answers. Differences in culture and religion, however, ought not to be among them. Nor should altruistic, pro-social behavior and simple differences in beliefs and values. These things are means of diversity we all should cherish as UNL students. However, those enjoying the freedom to be diverse and those who take advantage of such offered opportunities are also being called "mentally ill" by some less tolerant individuals who hold various capacities to enforce their assessments.

One such person is a senior pastor in an off-campus church I started attending. I was told to leave for being delirious and mentally unstable. Why? Because my apocalyptic theology differed from his and because I expressed views and beliefs indicative of our diverse cultural population on campus, ideas learned by talking with Asian and Native American students and professors.

Mental illness can refer to many things, but it is not to refer to differences of theological or cultural opinion. There is absolutely nothing wrong or abnormal about a person being Native American or Chinese or whatever and practicing their culture. Nor is there anything deviant, subversive or anti-Christian about an American, regardless of faith, holding or respecting the same cultural and religious values practiced by non-Western people. Diversity of opinion is not mental illness, it is mental health. Those who think otherwise should stop considering themselves "liberal and open-minded."

Laurel Rockefeller
junior
psychology