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Nebraskan
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EDITORIAL

Stop hazing

New legislation would make the guilty pay

If state legislators want to do one thing to help improve the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this year, they should pass LB1129.

The bill, introduced Tuesday by Sen. Gerald Matzke of Sidney, would make hazing a crime in Nebraska. Matzke introduced LB1129 after he was approached by the parents of Jeffrey Knoll, a UNL student who was injured last November in a hazing-related incident.

The penalty for the members of Phi Gamma Delta — Knoll's fraternity — was five years of university probation. No criminal charges were filed in the incident.

If Matzke's bill passed and UNL students were found guilty of hazing, they could receive up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. A student organization, such as a fraternity or sorority, could be fined up to \$10,000.

LB1129 should become law. Hazing is still a significant problem at UNL, and it will not stop unless sufficient penalties are put in place to stop it.

The bill would define hazing as "any activity which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety" of a student. That clearly should be against the law, and LB1129 should clearly be passed.

Uneasy riders

No-ride zone may force bicyclists to drive

An accident between a bicyclist and a pedestrian is unpleasant, and sometimes painful, for both individuals. The Parking Advisory Committee's proposal to reduce such accidents on campus is admirable. But if this proposal discourages students from riding on campus, it will bring more harm than benefit.

The proposal designates a no-ride zone throughout most of City Campus. Keeping bicyclists on the periphery of the campus may reduce collisions with pedestrians, but it will also inconvenience bicyclists.

Accidents occur on campus not because there are too many bicycles, but because people — pedestrians and bicyclists — aren't paying attention.

Most of these unfortunate collisions could be prevented without a no-ride zone, if people just paid more attention when traveling on campus.

The proposal would also require bicyclists to register their bikes with the university for \$5. This registration could help reduce the number of bikes stolen on campus, Committee Chairman Dean Waddel said.

But Lincoln bicyclists are already required to register their bikes with the city for \$1. It is unnecessary to further burden students with a \$5 fee when a perfectly good registration system already exists. If UNL police need to identify a stolen bike, they can use the registration numbers issued by the city.

If riding a bike on this campus becomes a bigger hassle than driving a car, the parking problem on campus will only grow. Bicycling should be encouraged. It's healthy, it's clean and bikes don't take up parking spaces.

When ASUN considers the Parking Advisory Committee's proposal Wednesday, they must not approve a plan that hurts more than it helps.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1994 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.



SAM KEPFIELD

Abortion seems racist, sexist

Jan. 22 is coming up, and we all know what that means. The 21st anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision will be marked by marches for life and countermarches for choice in front of state capitols and abortion clinics across the country.

The past year has not been kind to the pro-life movement. The Clinton administration slowly but surely liberalized abortion rules, putting Slick Willie in the company of Hitler, Stalin and Pol Pot for the sheer number of lives ended. The pro-lifers were tarred with the extremist brush. The murder of an abortionist in Florida and an attempt to kill another in Wichita played into the hands of the NOW gang and its media lap dogs.

Pro-lifers are going about this the wrong way.

Forget the question of whether it's a person or a tissue mass. Forget whether it's murder or choice and the other standard arguments.

Abortion is wrong because it violates beliefs central to the choice crowd. The feminist leadership, the civil rights "leaders" who defend the right to "choice" at every turn, can usually be found among the ranks of the politically correct. The holy trinity of the political correctness movement is racism, sexism and homophobia. Abortion is guilty of every one of these.

Racism. Blacks make up roughly 12 percent of our population, Hispanics somewhat less. It is racism when:

- they are overrepresented on death row.

- they are underrepresented on juries considering the fate of white cops accused of beating a black ex-felon.

- they are underrepresented in the front offices of major-league sports teams.

- they are denied one additional NCAA basketball scholarship per year.

- the Nebraska Legislature considers a rule allowing 33 of 49 senators to shut off obstructionist debate



The holy trinity of the political correctness movement is racism, sexism and homophobia. Abortion is guilty of every one of these.

tactics.

However, it is NOT racism when the rate of abortion for nonwhite women is twice the rate for white women. According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute — the research arm of Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of abortion services in the country — the nonwhite abortion rate is 57 per 1,000, while for whites it is 21. Hispanic women alone are 60 percent more likely to have abortions than non-Hispanic women. This results in a 1.3 percent loss of the black population annually through abortion. Yet this is not considered racist.

The Dred Scott decision in 1857 declared blacks to be property, not persons, and lighted the fuse of the Civil War. A decision which declares black fetuses to be not persons but tissue mass, allowing them to be killed and not sold, is accepted by the black community as a constitutional right.

Lower-class women also have abortions at three times the rate of higher-class women. Yet, this is not even mentioned by the people who reflexively blame Ronald Reagan for punishing the poor in the 1980s.

Sexism. Consider this, from USA TODAY, Dec. 20, 1993. Genetic sex testing is being used by certain ethnic groups as a basis for abortions. Clinics on the Canadian border offer sex testing to Indian and Asian communities, which prize male offspring.

Women's activists have formed groups to fight sex-selection abortions. The Canadian Royal Commission of Reproductive Technologies recommended a ban on such abortions.

Yet abortion is not considered sexist.

Homophobia. With the discovery of the "gay gene" last summer, finding a means of testing fetuses for homosexuality as easily as for diseases and birth defects came a step closer. Inevitably, some began asking whether some parents might abort, given the knowledge that their child would grow up to be homosexual. It's not a reality yet, but given the advance of medical technology, it's not beyond the realm of possibility.

Yet abortion is not considered homophobic.

What all this comes down to is a flat contradiction of the political correctness ideology. Even if it's only a potential life, you are taking away a future member of the human race who is nonwhite, female or practicing an alternative lifestyle. This, of course, leaves more white, male heterosexuals to wreak oppression on those groups. It sounds a lot like eugenics and its most avid practitioners, Nazis in Germany — whose Supreme Court defined Jews as not being persons.

And yet those who suffer disproportionately from abortion defend it. It's as if blacks had demanded to be kept in slavery, as if Jews fell over themselves to be first into the gas chambers.

Fine and well. If the feminists, civil rights leaders and gay rights militants want to abort themselves out of existence, so be it. But let it also be said that more than a few conservative white males tried to stop it.

Keppfield is a graduate student in history and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Polar bear'

In my opinion, the proposal for a bicycle dismount zone is unneeded and unwarranted. UNL police said accidents involving bicycles are on the increase. That statement is vague and ambiguous.

Case in point — let's say last semester I didn't see any polar bears on campus, but this semester I saw one wreaking havoc, mauling innocent students as they walked to class. Would you then say that the phenomenon is increasing?

An article in the Daily Nebraskan quoted a student biker who said that 90 to 99 percent of all accidents were at the fault of the pedestrian, so why

punish the bikers?

I would suggest to any pedestrians who have been victims of bike accidents to make better use of their senses. I think if bikers are careful and intelligent about the path they choose and pedestrians remain aware, there will be no problems in the future.

Jeremy Baumfalk
freshman
general studies

Bike ban

I am a commuter student. I have ridden my bicycle on campus daily for five years, since I developed shin problems that prevent me from walking long distances. When I moved off campus, I started using my bike as a

means of transportation to and from school as well.

Banning bikes from campus would be as detrimental to me as banning wheelchairs would be to some other students.

I have paid the Lincoln registration fee. I follow all traffic laws while on the street. I follow all pedestrian laws while on the sidewalks. I have been in two accidents because of careless drivers. I have had numerous near misses because of rude pedestrians. Please penalize those who are breaking laws, not those who follow them.

Wendy Freeman
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