

Daily  
Nebraskan  
Editorial Board  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jeremy Fitzpatrick ..... Editor, 472-1766  
Rainbow Rowell ..... Opinion Page Editor  
Adeana Leftin ..... Managing Editor  
Todd Cooper ..... Sports Editor  
Jeff Zeleny ..... Associate News Editor  
Sarah Duey ..... Arts & Entertainment Editor  
William Lauer ..... Senior Photographer

EDITORIAL

## To be or not to be

Officials need to enforce, change policy

Alcohol problems at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln didn't begin when Jeffrey Knoll fell from a third-floor window of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. But this alcohol-related accident made the university community start asking questions.

What place does alcohol have on campus? Are UNL's policies strict enough? Are they too strict? Are they being enforced?

Since then, no one seems to have any good answers.

UNL administrators have promised to increase enforcement of the existing policy that prohibits alcohol in the residence halls or greek houses.

When students reported parties at two fraternities this semester, the administration promptly responded. But administrators have not developed a new plan or strategy to deal with alcohol.

The administration's primary tool to regulate drinking? Education.

By offering information about the potential risks and consequences of alcohol, the administration hopes students will control their own drinking.

But alcohol education programs are too little, too late. If education hasn't stopped drinking in the past, it is not likely to stop it now.

The administration must enforce state law. No one under 21 can legally drink, and no one can drink on campus except under stringent guidelines set by UNL officials.

But administrators, legislators, police and parents must realize UNL students will drink regardless of law or policy. Trying to eliminate drinking on campus is unrealistic.

Perhaps we shouldn't be thinking about enforcing the policy, but changing it. A more open policy that allowed students of legal age to drink in some areas might be easier to enforce and make students more cooperative.

Administrators must take a stand one way or another. They should work to liberalize UNL's alcohol policy or they should develop a meaningful plan to enforce the current policy.

But they shouldn't say drinking is not allowed and then not do much about it.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

**"We couldn't come to an intelligent and logical conclusion that this was accidental."**

— Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey, commenting on shots allegedly fired by Nebraska defensive back Tyrone Williams into a car at 17th and L streets. Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said Monday the shots might have been fired by accident.

**"So many tears have flown — it's hard to tell you what kind of roller-coaster experience it's been."**

— Jim Knoll, father of UNL student Jeffrey Knoll, testifying on LB1129, a bill that would make hazing illegal. Jeffrey Knoll fell from a third-story window of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity after he was involved in what UNL administrators have called hazing involving alcohol.

**"Jeff has a message for Tonya — he hopes that she will now do what he has done and move quickly to resolve the charges that will surely be brought against her. Denial is no longer plausible. The truth about this bizarre crime has now been revealed."**

— Ron Hoevet, lawyer for Tonya Harding's ex-husband Jeff Gillooly. Gillooly has struck a deal with prosecutors to testify that Harding approved of the assault on Nancy Kerrigan.

EDITORIAL POLICY

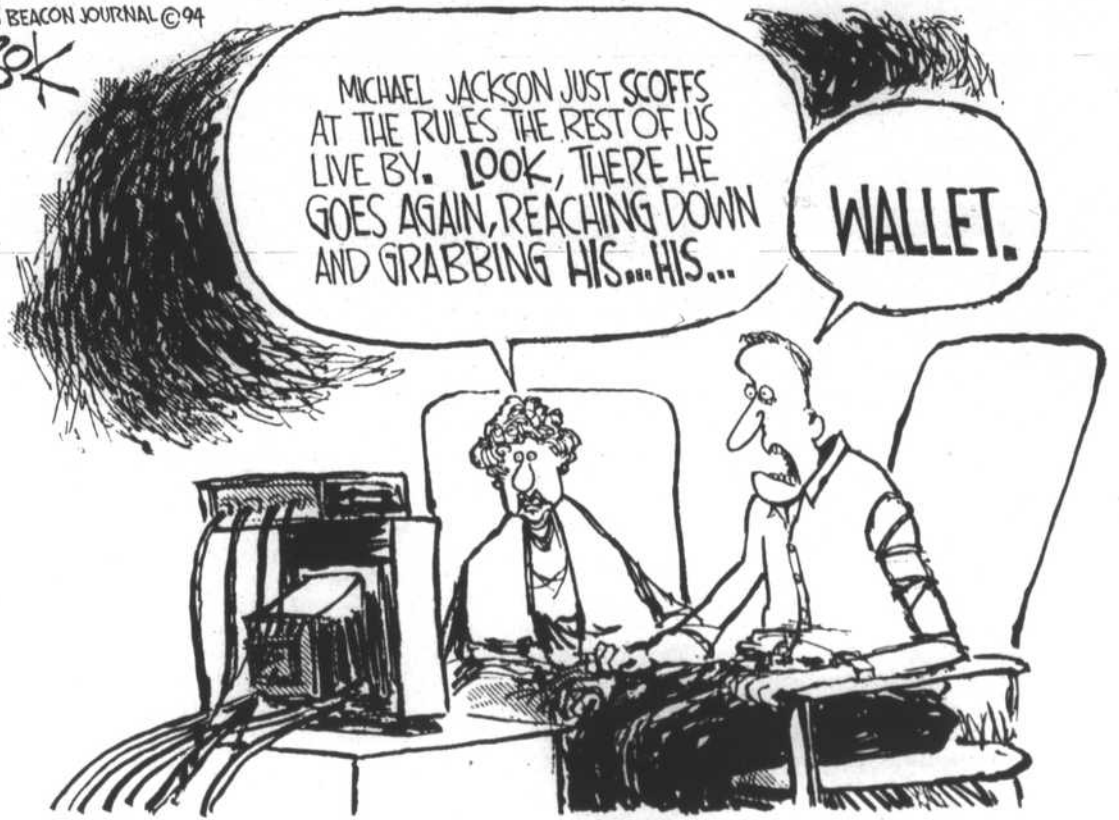
Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1994 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents. Editorial columns represent the opinion of 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.

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL © 94

BOK



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Hazing bill

Regarding the hazing bill LB1129, the greek system and the recent events surrounding the two, I must ask the question, "Why?"

Why are we concerned with the Neanderthal practice of hazing?

Why are we concerned with undesirable behaviors occurring within the greek system? And why are we still reading about Jeffrey Knoll?

I think that anyone who is severely injured because he was foolish to join a fraternity in the first place has received their just desserts and has hopefully learned something in the process.

I feel that LB1129 is an unnecessary measure. Instead, let's allow the practice of hazing to continue, and let's let the greek system learn a lesson the hard way. Maybe if the greek system starts to destroy itself from the inside out, some real progress will be made toward reforming this elitist institution.

Kevin Gregorius  
freshman  
broadcasting

### Sidewalks

With all the recent commotion regarding bicycles on campus, from establishing bicycle lanes to banning bicycles altogether, I feel that one point has not yet been adequately addressed.

I am concerned with bicycle riding on sidewalks along 14th Street between Harper-Schramm-Smith residence halls and Vine Street.

I am one of the many individuals who daily use these sidewalks to travel to and from class. Unfortunately, I have found myself sharing the sidewalks with certain bicyclists who feel they must weave through crowds of pedestrians, at top speed, no less. These bicyclists know who they are.

To those bicyclists who do not use the sidewalks, who use 14th Street instead, I congratulate you. To me, this street seems fully functional. What I don't understand is why bicyclists can't take advantage of this street like their vehicular counterparts.

The street is wider than the sidewalks, allowing more maneuverability, and bicyclists wouldn't have to worry about pedestrians in their way.

The only limiting factor for bicyclists on 14th Street would be the speed limit.

Stephen Jenco  
senior  
international affairs

### 'Human nature'

In response to the Feb. 2 article "Students drink despite hall policy," it appears that to call the University of Nebraska-Lincoln a "dry campus" is merely a cover. It is saying there are rules, but the university is not enforcing them enough to put fear in a drinking student. The article men-

tioned students boasting of their ability to overcome the student assistants, residence directors and the UNL police.

It is imperative to realize that having a policy doesn't solve a problem. It must be enforced in such a way that students realize there is a consequence to disobedience. It is human nature to continue to do wrong when you know you can get away with it. To say that UNL is a "dry campus" is like saying the state of Nebraska has a "death penalty."

Jason Opp  
junior  
business

### DN denied

I was disappointed last week when I saw the Daily Nebraskan was denied by the Committee for Fees Allocation its request for a small increase in student fees to help out its money situation. The DN, which relies mostly on advertisements for its revenue, provides students with a quality newspaper and gives prospective journalists experience before they enter the workforce. CFA's denial of the DN's request for a small increase in student fees was the wrong choice. The DN is a valuable source of news and information for the majority of students here on campus, and it must be adequately funded.

The denial of the request, which called for 11 cents more per student, is absurd. Less than a quarter from each student next year would help maintain the quality of the DN, which each of us take for granted every day.

We are practically receiving a free newspaper. I think we should all be willing to throw in 22 cents this year on its behalf. This increase is only needed for the 1994-95 school year. This means our life savings will be safe, and we will only have to pay the 22-cent increase for one year.

CFA contends it shouldn't have to make up for the DN's staff not getting enough advertising to cover its \$600,000 budget. CFA also argues no increase is needed because printing costs are not escalating, and students shouldn't have to pay for the DN's weaknesses.

The DN itself raises \$560,000 in advertising each year so we can have access to the school newspaper. Only \$40,000 of its budget comes from student fees. The students pay next to nothing for this paper, and an extra \$5,000 from the student body — 22 cents per person — probably wouldn't hit wallets too hard.

The DN is too important a resource for UNL students to let the quality decrease. All it asks for is 22 cents more a year from students. Besides, what can you buy anymore for a quarter, a piece of gum?

Matt Bornschlegl  
sophomore  
pre-physical therapy



Amy Schmidt/DN

### Capitol smoke

Great editorial on smoking Feb. 2. Your readers might be interested in the hearings on smoking, which are scheduled at the Capitol Feb. 9 at 1:30 p.m.

LB1064, sponsored by Sen. Don Preister of Omaha, will ban smoking in state office buildings. This law is needed because smoking is currently allowed in open areas throughout the Capitol and individual offices, from which fumes spread throughout the building.

The Environmental Protection Agency in July 1993 classified second-hand tobacco smoke as a Class A carcinogen, but the people in charge of the Capitol, where I work, evidently have not received the message.

The powers there cut themselves a special deal when it came to the attempted smoking ban last year. It was a classic case of "Let's you and them not smoke." But if smoking can be banned from Memorial Stadium, it can be banned from the Capitol, too.

Come to the hearings, if nothing more than to catch the tobacco lobbyists. You'll be amazed. Call your senator now and let him or her know you support LB1064.

Judy Sing  
Lincoln

### 'White males'

To my fellow white males: Your views against a woman's right to have an abortion were definitely enlightening (glimpses into narrow minds). I sit with bated breath for the day you begin to tout "Dan Quaylian" family values. Nowonder we're being bashed from all sides.

By the way, do you club your women before or after you get them into your caves?

Sean T. Green  
freshman  
general studies