

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Death row in the state of Nebraska is one of the safest places in the state."

— Nebraska State Sen. Scott Moore of Seward, asserting he would vote to carry out capital punishment law if elected secretary of state.

"You can't say how you feel, so I don't know what I can say. It was total bulls—t. It was crazy."

— Danny Nee, NU men's basketball coach, after the Huskers' loss to Oklahoma Monday evening.

"It doesn't matter if you vote for VISION or RESUME ... you can write in Bill the Cat ... just vote."

— J.B. Howell, ASUN presidential candidate for the RESUME party, encouraging students to participate in ASUN elections.

"It feels really good. I'm tired, but I'm glad I'm going."

— Tonya Harding, Olympic figure skater, talking to the press aboard her flight to Norway.

"I think it makes people a little too goofy. I feel like I want to go out and party."

— Maggie Beck, freshman accounting major, commenting on above-normal temperatures this week.

"We can't win discussing homosexuality, abortion or prayer. We have the needs of the students that need to be met."

— Robert Allen, NU regent from Hastings, urging the university to focus on different issues.

"Regardless of my opinion on the ruling, the Olympics have begun, and it's time to skate."

— Nancy Kerrigan, Olympic figure skater, responding to the Olympic committee's decision to allow rival skater Tonya Harding to compete.

"Every game they (the Oklahoma Sooners) beat you, they rub it in. That's just the arrogance of the coaching staff and the players."

— Jamar Johnson, NU basketball player, planning revenge before playing Oklahoma Monday.

"For too long and in too many ways, our nation has been drifting."

— Bill Clinton, president, transmitting his first annual economic report to Congress.

"There's not really many more chances for me. I'll have to live my life without an Olympic 500-meter gold medal."

— Dan Jansen, Olympic speedskater, after slipping Monday during the 500-meter race.

"I did pick the chocolate cake and the white frosting."

— Graham Spanier, UNL chancellor, taking some credit for 350 pounds of cake at NU's 125th birthday celebration Tuesday.

"It's like maneuvering your way through a minefield."

— Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Nee, lamenting the team's tough road to the NCAA tournaments.

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kepfield

I had to laugh when I read Sam Kepfield's editorial (DN, Feb. 16). I realize that he may have helped the Mexican American Student Association's boycott of the Multi-Cultural Affairs Office due to unfair hiring practices.

I am not writing to convince Kepfield of my views, but to inform DN readers who may not have been following the MASA boycott and got an incorrect perception from Kepfield's ignorant words.

Blatant racism like Kepfield's is precisely why students, who should be devoting their time to studies, must make time to take a stand on issues such as this one.

Of course, as students who come from "comfortable, sheltered, middle-class existences," we all have innumerable hours to spend on the boycott.

It's unthinkable that any of us work for a living or spend time studying—even though many MASA members have high grade point averages and are involved in activities apart from MASA.

Kepfield's comment that one comes to the university solely "to learn ... not to feel comfortable" is a contradiction in itself. How can anyone learn in an oppressive environment? Even white students who come to campus from small towns have to make an effort to concentrate on learning because they may feel "uncomfortable" adjusting to their new environment.

Kepfield writes that we do not know the meaning of real life, or real discrimination.

Real life and real discrimination are having your mother surrounded by teen-age white boys, being taunted and called a "spic," helpless to do anything about it because she is alone with two small children.

Discrimination is being told in a classroom by a fellow UNL student that she hates all Mexicans.

Life is tough, yes. It's full of discomfort.

I and other Mexican Americans get used to this every day, but that does not mean that we have to take it, or bow our heads in acceptance as Kepfield would expect us to.

Taking a stand for what you believe in is a positive change, a true form of learning. Not enough students do this because they are too busy stuffing résumés or climbing the social ladder.

MASA, although the only organization officially boycotting the Multi-Cultural Affairs Office because of its unfair hiring practices, is far from "going it alone." MASA is supported by various organizations, faculty, staff and community groups. Not to mention countless support from friends, fellow students and especially parents who, lest we forget, are paying this institution to provide a decent educa-

tion and learning environment for their sons and daughters.

I do not believe this campus will ever be one perfect community, at least not as long as people like Kepfield continue to exist.

I do believe, however, that in the aftermath of all this, the UNL administration has the opportunity to make positive, long-awaited and necessary changes on this campus. The Multi-Cultural Affairs Office is as good a starting place as any. Equity in hiring practices and representation for all can make UNL a better learning environment for all students.

Marcela Juarez
senior
graphic design
MASA member and boycott
participant



Amy Schmidt/DN

Standing up

Regardless of Sam Kepfield's position on the Mexican American Student Association (DN, Feb. 16), his supporting views are very narrow-minded.

He states that people do not come to college to "have a voice." I can think of no better setting than a university in which to voice for improved relations among human beings. The real world certainly isn't as effective a setting.

Sure, life is tough; I'll credit Kepfield on just that one point. But by saying, "Screw you, life is ... full of discomfort, get used to it," he is also conveying that it's how it's going to stay, so why do anything about it?

No matter what he thinks about MASA's boycott, Kepfield should at least applaud MASA for doing what university students have historically done—standing up and defying conventions that work against justice.

Maybe the fact that so many revo-

lutions have started at universities worldwide indicates that learning is not just academics.

Kobporn Lulu Cha
junior
chemistry

'Narrow-minded'

Regarding Sam Kepfield's editorial (DN, Feb. 16):

It's unfortunate Kepfield even has the audacity to write such an ignorant view, which obviously reinforces how out of touch with reality he is.

Coming from a sheltered and racist white male, comments like, "People come here for one purpose and one purpose only—to learn. Not to agitate, not to protest, not to demand that

their (the Mexican American Student Association's) needs be met, not to feel comfortable or have a voice," are expected.

It's sad how Kepfield can be so narrow-minded with his expressions about a world he has never experienced, when instead he could be expanding his knowledge about other cultures.

Geno Venegas
junior
psychology

'Lighten up'

Sam Kepfield, in another brilliantly executed op-ed diatribe (DN, Feb. 16), declares: "You don't come to college to make anyone feel the heat of your discomfort." This comes from a man who weekly feels compelled to torture the University of Nebraska-Lincoln population with exacting descriptions of his mental hemorrhoids.

Kepfield ought to proof his work more closely. His disdain for "malcontent kids who obviously have too much spare time on their hands and a deep craving to see their names in print" must only apply to those pesky, young minority kids, not to aging white grad student kids.

Kepfield is so entangled in his marathon graduate studies, he has forgotten he is himself a second- or third-year columnist who somehow found the spare time to put on a necktie for his Daily Nebraskan column.

Lighten up, Kepfield.

Paul Souders
graduate student at large

Orchestra

We attended a concert given by the University Orchestra conducted by Emil Aluas Feb. 11 at the Kimball Theater. We were looking for an inspirational and relaxing evening and we found much more.

We thank them for their tremendous work and performance. We'll be back for more.

Nels and Janet Forde
Lincoln