

Daily
Nebraskan
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EDITORIAL

Question remains

Report doesn't resolve engineering debate

A report on the possible need for a separate engineering college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha will be released today. The report, commissioned by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, is expected to recommend the building of an engineering college at UNO.

There is no hurry to act on the report. The Nebraska Legislature, with only one month left in its session, should not rush to resolve the issue with quick and hurried legislation.

The NU Board of Regents and the chancellors of UNO and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln also should not rush to judgment. Despite what the report recommends, there still is considerable debate about whether the University of Nebraska needs two engineering colleges only one hour apart.

In an ideal world, UNL, UNO and the University of Nebraska at Kearney could all have engineering colleges. But in tight budget times, NU can afford only one engineering college.

Omaha businessmen have said they would help pay for the building of the college. That would be helpful. But who would pay the costs for the college once it is built?

If an engineering college is built at UNO, the money to pay for it would have to be taken from other programs. It cannot be built for free.

Few people have said they oppose the idea of UNO having an engineering college. The addition of quality programs to the University of Nebraska would help all campuses.

But as the NU Board of Regents and the Legislature consider the recommendation to build a separate engineering college at UNO, they need to ask how much it will cost, from where that money will come and exactly why it is being built.

Choose sides

Be aware of U.S. policy toward China

The United States is deciding whether to try to make itself a major player in China, a country that seriously limits the rights of its human citizens.

Hello, out there. Does anyone care?

A common attitude now indirectly reflects the attitude of Americans following World War I — that of isolationism. Americans then and Nebraskans now are not eager to learn about the affairs of other countries. Most students, in fact, probably don't even know who the chancellor of Germany is.

We say we don't care because we say we can't do anything about the world problems.

But we can make a difference.

Should the United States deal closely with a country that doesn't allow basic human rights to its own citizens?

Secretary of State Warren Christopher says it's a question of standing up for "core American values."

But is maintaining trade in the Chinese market necessary for our world position?

China is certainly one of the largest markets and one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

Would renewing Most Favored Nation trading status for China mean the United States condones human rights violations?

The questions are many. Uncertainty prevails.

But that doesn't mean that we as U.S. citizens can't take an active part in our government by voicing our opinions. Even showing a genuine concern is at least a start.

After all, participation is something we're lucky to have the right to do.

Take a stand.

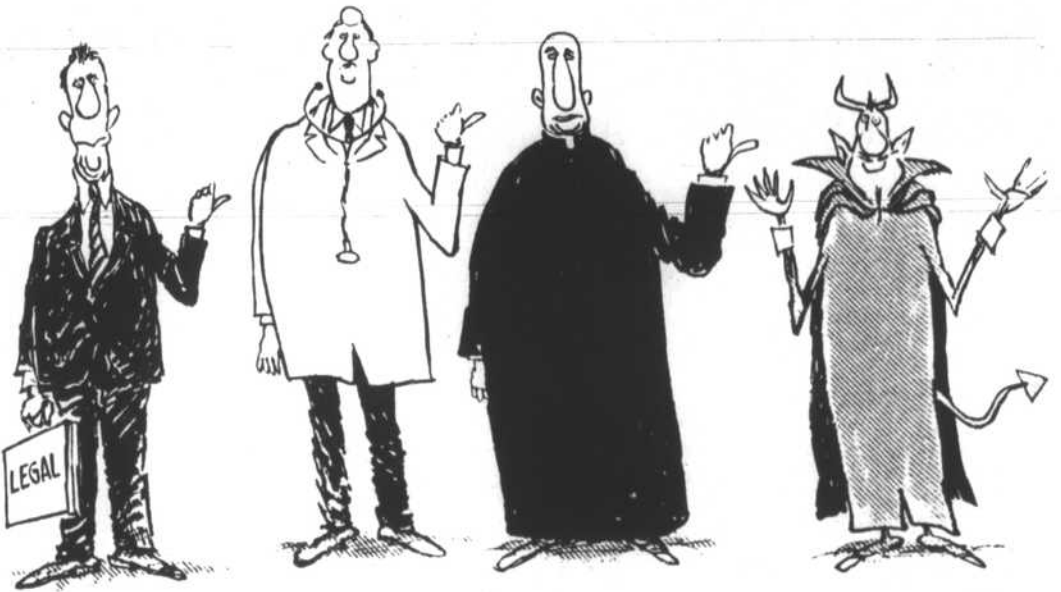
EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trigger finger

A man cuts off his trigger finger in front of the Connecticut State Capitol. Therefore, we need more gun control laws. He didn't shoot off his finger, did he? He didn't shoot anyone else, did he? No. He cut off his finger, so obviously he won't be shooting a gun for quite a while.

Everyone in the United States has a constitutional right to bear arms. Everyone who attempts to purchase a firearm legally must fill out paperwork concerning whether or not he or she has ever been convicted of a felony. If they have, they may not legally purchase a firearm.

Gun control laws simply take aim at the law-abiding citizens, not real criminals. Anyone can go and buy a gun out of the trunk of somebody's car.

These are the people we need to worry about. These are the people who use their illegal firearms to commit crimes. It is not the hunters, not the sportsmen, not the collectors and not the law-abiding citizens.

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additional laws to punish the law-abiding.

Kevin Jones
senior
mechanical engineering



James Mehlsing/DN

Loudon

I would like to offer congratulations and condolences to Association of Students of the University of Nebraska president-elect Andrew Loudon. He certainly deserves congratulations for achieving a lofty goal to which he has aspired since he first came to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. However, Loudon's narrow victory was soured by minuscule voter turnout and by a shameful campaign.

Loudon should certainly feel relieved that he won, but he has nothing to be proud of. Given his "insider" status, his inestimable experience, his powerful party backing and his incredible funding, Loudon should have run away with a landslide victory. Instead, Loudon mustered votes from only 6.6 percent of the student body and only 57 percent of those who voted.

Loudon estimates his VISION party spent about \$2,000 to get its 87 candidates elected. His opposition, RESUME, LETTUCE and Vote for Dave, combined, recruited only about a dozen people and spent only \$50. Yet these inexperienced and unorganized outsiders pulled 43 percent of the vote away from Loudon.

Loudon had every advantage going into this election, yet he won with a margin smaller than 2 percent of the student body.

This pitiful lack of support will make Loudon's job as ASUN president difficult. With only 7 percent of the student body behind him, Loudon has no popular mandate to back his actions. Instead his administration will perpetuate the image of ASUN as a

separatist and nonresponsive institution. However, there are things Loudon can do to change this.

First of all, he must accept responsibility for his campaign. It is a sad testimony to Loudon's popularity that he felt it necessary to wage a \$2,000 campaign. Now that the election is over, Loudon must face the mistakes his followers made. It is utterly irresponsible leadership for Loudon to deny responsibility for campaign violations. He should face the charges and either put forward a defense against them or accept the penalty.

To simply refuse to pay campaign violation fines is to make a mockery of the institution that Loudon desperately needs to bring respect to. Loudon is putting what little respect he has at risk by refusing to face the consequences of a campaign that was obviously carried much too far and was geared only to cover the electoral failings of VISION candidates. If all of Loudon's presidency follows this precedent, ASUN will lose what little effectiveness and respect that it now has. The students that ASUN is supposed to represent deserve much better than that.

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Perspective

In response to Christopher Winkelmann's letter to the editor (DN, March 11, 1994), I must agree that all people deserve the Bill of Rights, but let's put things in perspective.

To compare homosexuality to rape, necrophilia and pedophilia shows not only a lack of compassion for your fellow human but also a major lack of understanding.

Those who engage in rape or pedophilia gain pleasure from the psychological and physical empowerment they have over their victims. The pleasure, thus, becomes the control they have and the helplessness of their victims.

An act of homosexuality, as much as this disturbs you, is a natural act between two consenting parties.

I too have lived in California, but that doesn't mean anything. People are the same everywhere. The key to living in harmony is education. If no one teaches you these natural aspects of life, then it is your responsibility to go out and learn them on your own.

Murder and rape were made illegal because they were destructive to society. Although homosexuals cannot reproduce, they are not really destructive either. As long as they are not harming you, just let people live their lives freely. This is what we call "natural life."

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sophomore
psychology