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EDITORIAL

Monday surprise

ASUN's timing of UPC bill questionable

Tonight's ASUN meeting will be filled with heated debate on a bill that would give ASUN the power to select the University Programming Council's executive committee, which is made up of UPC's president, vice president and programming secretary.

Andrew Loudon, Association of Students of the University of Nebraska president, said the bill would make UPC more accountable to students. UPC programs received more than \$98,000 in student fee money last year.

Lia Jensen, UPC president, said the move was an attack on her group by ASUN. She said the bill would hurt UPC's minority programming.

There is not much doubt that ASUN has the authority to appoint UPC's executive committee. They can do so under policy set up by the NU Board of Regents.

But the way ASUN has chosen to try to take control of UPC is certainly questionable.

UPC's executive committee was only told about this bill Monday after it already passed ASUN's Special Topics Committee. Two days was not enough time for them to prepare an adequate defense of their present organizational structure.

And why did senators choose to bring this bill up in the last week ASUN will meet? Wouldn't it be wiser for student leaders to give everyone involved time over the summer to come up with new proposals to structure UPC?

ASUN's "Monday Surprise" is not good policy. This bill should be tabled at tonight's meeting and considered next year.

Don't back down

Gay marriages deserve legal recognition

Last year, the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that denying homosexual couples the same rights as heterosexual couples appeared to violate the Hawaii Constitution.

This ruling could make Hawaii the first state to legally recognize homosexual marriages.

But the Hawaii Legislature has moved to counteract that ruling by legally defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

Hawaii should accept the court's ruling. It is time for the United States to begin recognizing homosexual marriages.

Long-term, monogamous homosexual relationships are much like heterosexual marriages. Individuals make the same attachments and sacrifices. They have many of the same expenses.

They should receive the same benefits as heterosexual married couples. They should be eligible for spouses' insurance policies. They should be able to file joint tax returns. If one partner in a homosexual couple dies, the living partner should not have to fight to keep the assets and belongings they shared.

Legalizing same-sex marriages will not encourage or discourage homosexuality or long-term homosexual relationships; it will simply give homosexuals the same rights as heterosexuals. It will give them equality.

Hawaii should set an example for the rest of the nation to follow.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UPC concerns

As event directors on the University Program Council, we have knowledge and experience that is beneficial to the future of programming at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Four obvious problems that could result if the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska takes over UPC through Bylaw A are:

1. The structure of UPC would be changed so that it would not be representative of the entire university community.

2. Because the members of ASUN have no experience in programming, they would not be able to accurately represent the programming concerns of minority students. The events UPC has sponsored have appealed to a very broad and diverse student population.

3. Because ASUN has such a poor relationship with minority students, it is unlikely that ASUN would adequately reflect the concerns of minority students.

4. Most importantly, ASUN, which is not trained in providing programming to college students, would oversee UPC. Therefore, UPC would no longer benefit from working with trained professionals in the Office for Student Involvement. These professionals negotiate and sign contracts, which students, including members of ASUN, are not allowed to do under university policy. Without these professionals, who will legally bring programming to UNL?

Also, students will no longer have the opportunity to learn publicity and marketing techniques and to develop organizational and leadership skills from the extensive background of the professional members of the Office for Student Involvement.

We suggest UNL students contact the ASUN office and express their concerns about an issue that clearly is of such magnitude to all students that more time and consideration is definitely prudent.

To the ASUN senators, we would ask that you postpone judgment on this legislation until you are able to make a well-informed decision.

Michelle Jensen
Dorene Johnson
UPC event directors

'Utterly repulsed'

Scott Knutson (DN, April 25, 1994) was utterly repulsed by the apathy students displayed after learning a rich, 81-year-old ex-president was dead.

Well, I'm utterly repulsed by the glorification of politicians.

It is obvious to me now more than ever that the American flag has little to do with respect for human life, contrary to what Knutson seems to

believe. It is nothing more than a tool and representation of patriotism.

Lowering the flag to half-mast is reserved solely for tragedies involving the government. How many times have we seen a lowered flag for any of the "ordinary" Americans who are killed every day by violent crimes? It is obviously selective about which human life it respects.

Knutson should not be surprised that others have more inclusive beliefs. Don't look at a flag to represent humanity. It doesn't, and it's not supposed to.

Scott Ferguson
sophomore
Spanish, English



Go away Lil Red

At first I thought it was a clever prank ... an inflated, impish figure bouncing across the field at Memorial Stadium ... a figure frozen on the evolutionary scale somewhere between the Pillsbury Dough Boy and Little Boy Blue.

Subsequent games proved, however, that this was no prank — perhaps a begrudging concession by the Athletic Department to some eccentric (and rich) alum — but no prank.

Now it seems that "Lil Red" is to be a permanent addition to football Saturdays and other local events (DN, April 19, 1994).

While Herbie Husker is not the most endearing figure one could imagine as a mascot, he does have a certain substance and character about him. One look at "Lil Red" evokes images of kiddie pools, used-car lots and some tired, hot teen-ager standing on a median, flagging traffic for a \$9.95 bucket of chicken and fresh-baked biscuits.

Mascots should promote pride and enthusiasm, not derision. Nebraska already has a difficult time maintaining national respect without this air-filled embarrassment hopping across

the field every few minutes.

Rent "Lil Red" to birthday parties and use the proceeds to lower student ticket prices. Otherwise, recycle.

Colin Croft
Lincoln

Editor's note: Ahmer and fellow graduate student Abbas Ali traveled to Bosnia in October 1992, bringing humanitarian assistance to a number of cities, including Mostar and Gorazde. Ali went back to Bosnia three months ago, while Ahmer continues to raise support here.

Help out

As I am writing now, hundreds of innocent men, women and children are being mercilessly killed. They are being hunted like animals in the streets as they run for cover, and they are being killed in their homes, churches, mosques and in the very institutions set to provide relief, the hospitals. On April 20, a Serb tank fired into the emergency room of the Gorazde hospital from a distance of only 500 yards. As the world watches in shameless stupor, scores of women and girls as young as 10 are being raped — right now!

The Bosnian Serbs have massacred, tortured and raped their own neighbors. I shudder with the thought of what awaits the ones who have managed to escape death and rape, especially when they have committed a sin graver than being a non-Serb. They have resisted the Serbs for two years, a sin a Serb will never forgive.

Do you know that two years ago, funds were raised from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, that students personally took those funds to the war-affected areas, and that they almost paid with their lives for "doing something"?

Dear faculty, staff and my fellow students, of all that went into that effort, together, we did make a difference. All of you who donated, encouraged and prayed for the cause, were and are a part of it. More than \$350,000 was raised from UNL and other places and was transferred in the form of food, clothing and medicine. More than \$35,000 worth of supplies were sent to Gorazde last May. Doesn't it give you a little comfort to know that you were part of that effort? An effort that brought a little relief, a little hope and a few smiles to the people who, in their own words, are facing "hell, horror and terror."

We have done it before, and we intend to do it now. Come and share this undertaking with us — again!

Suleman Ahmer
graduate student
electrical engineering