

OPINION

Monday, August 29, 1994

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Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

Don't close doors

Board should be accessible to many

A 40-member committee will be a new player in policy decisions at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Michael Mulnix, executive director of University Relations, said the committee met privately this summer and would be meeting three times a year, acting as a type of advisory council to Chancellor Graham Spanier.

So far, Mulnix said members of the committee, called the board of visitors, have discussed new admissions standards, UNL's image, research, athletics and the university's budget.

"What we're really doing is closing the doors and getting some really honest discussion," Mulnix said. "To give specifics would be to violate the trust of the group."

Composed of members from across the state, the board of visitors promises to be a good resource for future planning at UNL. Certainly, it may help gain statewide support for the university's programs and serve as a diverse resource for opinions about improving higher education.

On his first day as UNL's Chancellor, Spanier proposed a similar "board of visitors" to assess and advise the university on its multicultural progress.

Hopefully this will remain one of the board's functions.

To do much good, however, the group must not remain primarily behind closed doors.

Students, faculty and staff deserve to be familiar with those who influence policy decisions at our university.

We look forward to hearing their assessment of and ideas for strengthening UNL.

OTHERS VIEW

It's too bad half the student population leaves town in the summer, because the most interesting government action happens when they're gone.

The Champaign (Ill.) City Council raised the fine for possession of alcohol for 19- and 20-year-olds from \$95 to \$250, \$500 for those 18 and under.

But what will be done about the other players in the hide-and-seek game between police and campus tippers?

The actual server who delivers the drink to the minor now is facing not a \$145 fine, but \$500. His or her employer, however, will not be charged a dime.

The city certainly should make a good-faith effort to enforce the state drinking laws. Yes, even in Champaign, it still is illegal for those under 21 to drink.

However, that effort should hit all players equally hard, and in scale to the true nature of their infractions. As Student Legal Service lawyers pointed out, the city only imposes a mandatory minimum fine of \$155 for assault and battery. Wallet-wise, it's cheaper to find a human punching bag for entertainment than to do a tour of world beers.

And you can bet your last Killian's that if the bars were fined \$500 or even \$1,000 for each underage patron served with a notice to appear in court, they would find a way to stop the lawbreaking. Underage drinking is big business in Champaign, and don't think that the owners on the liquor commission don't watch out for their bottom line.

Finally, the \$250,000 that the city might end up reaping from the new fines should go directly to prevention of alcohol abuse and enforcement of the liquor laws. If the city used the fines for some other concerns, we might start thinking they are not so much committed to curbing underage drinking as to making money off returning students.

— The Daily Illini
University of Illinois, Champaign

EDITORIAL POLICY

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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

Morality, please

In reading the Daily Nebraskan just twice this semester, I have been told the following:

1) The crime bill has nothing to do with idiotic social spending to harbor would-be criminals on a basketball court at midnight; it's just a few bull-headed conservatives hung up on a gun-control issue.

2) Abortion is just a catchy buzz word. Tens of millions of murdered pre-born children deserve less press than two murdered abortionists.

3) Freedom of speech shouldn't really be free; we should adopt Italy's theories on the matter.

4) Only particular people with certain educational backgrounds should be allowed to vote.

5) When someone is suffering, we should help him die or eliminate him as if his life were no more sacred than that of a horse with a broken leg.

6) Planned Parenthood is concerned that we aren't having enough safe, free sex: "We aren't going to tell you how to live your lives," but here's a condom—go be careful.

Though only personal opinions, I offer some responses:

1) There's a heckuva lot more to the crime bill than gun debates. Watch the news.

2) If two despicable murders (and they were both truly despicable acts) can get this much coverage, then why don't the murders of literally tens of millions of children



Amy Schmidt/DN

get even half this press?

3) We don't live in Italy.

4) Who decides who gets to vote? Education and intelligence have two entirely different meanings. I know of an entire "educated" staff that hasn't the "intelligence" to know right from wrong.

5) Suffering is an awful consequence of humanity, but human life is a glorious consequence of God. Look at a crucifix and see which took precedence.

6) Planned Parenthood helps erect abortion clinics, glorifies the condom and destroys the ideals of

morality as instituted by God Himself. Show me a person who advocates this deplorable platform, and I'll show you a Godless liar.

Daily Nebraskan staff, please give your readers at least a little morality and basic values in your paper instead of this liberal assault on the small-town values so many of your readers have.

Just because this university won't recognize God doesn't mean its students don't.

Tony Fulton
senior
mechanical engineering

'American lowlife'

To Jamie Karl (DN, Aug. 26, 1994): You are what I consider "American lowlife"—someone whose mind is so incredibly closed that they make such ignorant generalizations.

Hopefully someday you will wake up to what is really going on.

Pamela Scheinost
junior
environmental studies

Green waste

I'm glad to see that our campus is now beautified with green space—and of course the fence and plastic flags and waste of tax dollars that go along with green space.

Way to go green people.

Matt Berggren
sophomore
physics

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