

OPINION

Daily Nebraskan

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EDITORIAL

Multicultural mirror

All UNL classes should reflect diversity

Starting next fall, university students will be required to take a non-Western culture course and 10 courses that have some multiculturalism integrated into them.

The requirements will considerably further the university's progress toward multicultural education and help prepare UNL students who have had few multicultural experiences for an increasingly diverse world.

Though the new requirements are an important step in recognizing the importance and contributions of all groups, perhaps Nebraska's secondary schools have adopted a better way to achieve that goal.

In 1992, the Nebraska Legislature's multicultural bill required every teacher in grades K-12 to include previously overlooked viewpoints in their class materials.

Recently, one such teacher began researching early African-American homesteaders in Western Nebraska, only to find more information than she possibly could include in her course.

The university will achieve multicultural education only when, as in Nebraska's secondary schools, each instructor begins including materials that highlight the contributions of all members of society.

A single course of women's history is not the answer. Nor is the answer to require all students to take one African-American literature or race relations course.

Until the rest of our curriculum, as well as our faculty, reflect the diversity we are striving toward appreciating, we will have a long way to go to.

OTHERS' VIEW

Although love beads and bell-bottoms have crept back into style in the '90s, college students around the country can't seem to lose their image of being apathetic. What our hippie forefathers forget, however, is that they criticize what they don't understand — a gentler, quieter approach to activism.

There is a difference between militant activists and today's politically aware student. The number of students who care about issues and do something about them is not falling nearly as drastically as critics say. Austinites who crave the days of sit-ins and love-ins on the Capitol steps need only read the paper and look at the blue recycling bin at the end of their driveway to see that the spirit lives on.

College students today are more likely to work within the system to change inequities, rather than foment the "us against them" attitude that prevailed in the '60s. While change from the inside is not nearly as visible, it can be just as effective. Take, for example, the increasing number of women graduating from college. A recent NCAA report shows graduation rates for females are higher than for males. The Equal Rights Amendment may have failed, but visible results are seen today. Women don't burn their bras when they're busy getting a degree.

Another complaint is students' preoccupation with money rather than activism. But more students today finance education through loans than before, and most students work while they're in school. There isn't time to protest on the West Mall.

— The Daily Texan

The University of Texas at Austin

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SHANE TUCKER

Stifled economy brings poverty

The Third World has mistakenly looked upon the United States as a political imperialist for years, but the 1994 World Population Conference in Cairo may give credence to their impressions of America as the "Great Satan" as we attempt to export Western depravity under the guise of what is deemed healthy and even necessary advice.

It seems the Vatican is the only Western influence brave enough to stand up against the gibberish of European feminists and American greeniacs. Values that at one time laid the foundation for Western philosophy have slowly been dissolved by liberal fools marching to the call of reproductive freedom, more concerned with killing our future before it's born than saving it.

The policies accepted by the nations of the world this week are doomed to fail because of inherent flaws in their precepts. Feminist philosophy has perverted the conference's "group think," leading to a call for women's empowerment with the package deal of abortion, birth control and sex education in an effort to control population size.

But the effort to control world population carries with it the assumptions that poverty is a result of increasing population, and further, that fragile mother earth does not and will not have the resources to support our growing population.

These assumptions, however, patently are false.

Malcolm Forbes Jr. attacked the Malthusian connection between population and poverty when he noted in the Sept. 12 issue of Forbes magazine, "A growing population is not a drag on economic development. When combined with freedom, it is a stimulant." Forbes used the example of Hong Kong, the most densely populated city in the world, which has seen phenomenal economic



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success under the free society of the Brits.

Population is not the problem in the Third World. A stifled economy is.

The remainder of Cairo's house of cards is created by the misguided belief that the earth has given all it can — that more people will mean apocalyptic famine, disease, and anarchy.

Under the most optimistic family-planning scenarios, world population will nearly double by the year 2050, according to U.S. News & World Reports writer Stephen Budiansky. Recent scientific evidence suggests that even this dynamic increase in population need not be problematic.

Higher agricultural yields, brought about by advancing technology, have deflated the world price of food by one half since 1970. Forty-six million acres of farmland in the U.S. and 11 million acres in Europe sit idle under government programs to help farmers stay in the black. If free trade found its way to South America, close to 200 million acres could be utilized for farming.

According to Paul Waggoner, of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, the earth has the potential to feed 1,000 billion people. This hardly sounds like a planet in the throes of death.

The fact of the matter is, resources are not the limiting factor of a population explosion; human

ingenuity is.

So now the world waits while the West fiddles in Cairo, making efforts to spread the cultural malignancy we've suffered from for a century to all corners of the globe. Muslim countries recognize the moral threat Vice President Al Gore and his legions of liberalism pose to their sovereignty.

Population policy, fueled by genuinely bad philosophy, seeks to advance an agenda, not solve a problem. Feminist ideologies see the conference as an opportunity to create a universal right to butcher a baby. "Al Gore-in-the-balance" fatalists see the conference as the last hope to save a dying planet from her most certain destruction at the hands of man. But neither camp properly understands the problem or the ultimate solution.

Until the planet gives up its love affair with socialism and puts to rest the last vestiges of fascism, our planet will be doomed to overcrowding and undercreating. Free markets will allow agricultural developments to run their course; more abortions will only impede that process.

However, if the Cairo crowd continues to pursue the foolish goal of population control, we can only hope they'll start somewhere where it really counts: back home in their nation's capital where bad philosophy creates even worse policy.

Tucker is a senior biology major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Death penalty

Think of it this way, Phillip Paider (DN, Sept. 1, 1994): If a person were contemplating murder, wouldn't the average person consider the contemplator somewhat, if not completely, insane, according to social conventions?

Then think of this: The governing bodies, consisting of socially "sane" women and men, create a penal

system maintaining that if a certain murder exceeds a certain amount of brutality, "sane" lawmakers have the right to commit a completely premeditated murder, overstepping a more obvious spiritual law. Is that sane or just sick?

In lieu of your attitude that capital punishment deters crime and murder, consider this more intelligent alternative: Start at the wilting roots of the country rather than

cutting off a few bad flowers.

A new thinking process could be installed in the younger generations for the bettering of the future, rather than wasting prospective funds on this subsidized, stagnating, Old Testament "eye for an eye" ideology.

Caryn Bonnemier
undeclared
freshman