

# OPINION

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Page 4

## Daily Nebraskan

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### EDITORIAL

## (don't) Play it again

Finalists don't reflect UNL's community

Same song, different verse.

Last year, the UNL Homecoming Theme was "United Colors of UNL." But as Karen Freimund, last year's homecoming royalty co-chairwoman and University Programs Council vice president, said then of the theme, "The only color that's going to be happening is their hair."

Once again, UNL's homecoming royalty court has failed to accurately represent the University of Nebraska-Lincoln student community.

Of the 18 finalists chosen, 17 are members of the greek system. Only one is a minority.

The candidates should come from all facets of university life, including the greek system, the residence halls and off campus, and from diverse backgrounds.

One of the biggest obstacles to ensuring a diverse court seems to lie in making sure the selection committee also is a diverse body.

When selection committee members stem from similar backgrounds, the candidates chosen will reflect the qualities of the committee itself. The problem here is that — not purposely — there is less appreciation for the activities and experiences of applicants with vastly different backgrounds. The greek system always has been represented well in the Homecoming race. This is not new, nor to a large extent surprising. Individuals involved in the greek system are often quite involved in campus activities.

The involvement of greek members of our campus and the wide range of philanthropic activity they provide to the community should not be diminished.

However, our "qualifications" for the candidates should be as diverse as the wide range of student leaders on our campus.

Just as the "United Colors of UNL" theme paled last year, this year's "Sellout Celebration" also will be homogenous.

## Cinch it

Congress needs to tighten its own belt

Friday marked another lapse in the Senate's efforts to recover the plunging approval rating of its voters.

A Republican filibuster proved to be the death of the campaign-finance reform bill, which would have imposed limits on campaign spending and reduced the amount of money that political action committees could contribute to candidates.

The controversial bill was opposed by six Democrats, including Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey, who said he voted with "regret" to block the bill's consideration.

House members, on the other hand, need to be congratulated for passing a bill Friday that limited lobbyists' buying meals and entertainment for members of Congress.

The bill also will require all professional lobbyists to register and disclose how much they are paid, whom they are working for and on what issues they are lobbying.

The benefits of this would be two-fold: With the distraction of free gifts out of the way, the Congressional office would not seem like a glamorous position, and it would not be as tempting to go astray.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 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.



LORI LYN ARTHUR

## Health care heart still beating

One of the most exciting things about graduating in December is the possibility of actually having health insurance again.

OK, no more tests is great. No more classes. No more buying outrageously priced books, opening them a grand total of 12 times and selling them back at one-eighth of the price is nice, too.

But health insurance. What a concept.

I had health insurance, but that was so very long ago.

I saw the editorial cartoon Friday. I laughed. I really wanted to cry, but I was in class.

Health-care reform as a major issue of the '90s appears to be dead. But not for me or the millions of other people in this country who don't have health insurance.

I support single-payer national health care. For those of you who don't keep up on this issue — those of you who have insurance — this is universal coverage that is similar to, but not identical to, the Canadian system.

My stepmother and I have been in favor of this system for a very long time. We debate it often with my father, who once told me that people who can't afford insurance shouldn't get care.

I thanked him for his compassion and assured him I would be coming to him for money the next time I got sick.

After years of hounding him, pointing out the pros of universal coverage, my father has jumped on the health-care bandwagon.

I feel so proud. What a victory. Actually, I can't take credit for this, but I do.

My father's only real reason for coming to my side of this issue is



*I joke often about being covered under the prayer plan: I pray I don't get sick. My contingency plan is my car. If I get really sick, I run my car off the road and collect under my car insurance.*

that Rush Limbaugh is adamantly opposed to the idea.

So what if I spent countless hours explaining that despite being one of the richest nations on the globe, we also have one of the highest infant mortality rates in the industrialized world?

This can be directly attributed to the fact that low-income mothers do not receive prenatal care at all or receive sub-standard care because of the high cost.

The United States also has one of the shortest life expectancies, which can in part be attributed to our lousy diets of meat and cheese, but it is also due to a lack of health care.

The United States is the only industrialized nation, other than South Africa, that does not have a system of national health care.

For all of the good reforms taking place in South Africa today, I'm still not convinced I want to model a nation after it.

If, after hours of stressing these important facts to my father, all he takes from the debate is that Rush opposes the concept, I'll accept that.

I take my victories however I can get them.

Which is the purpose of this column today.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Traditionalism

To Jamie Karl and his feelings toward the state of modern American culture (DN, Sept. 30, 1994), it is obvious that you are from a small town.

I am from Omaha, sadly Nebraska's largest metropolitan area (only about 659,000 total, including suburbs), and I can safely say I've been exposed to enough of the "assault" on small-town values and family virtues to realize that multiculturalism is a way of life for

most people.

I have traveled to D.C., Philadelphia, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, and a few other major cities, and this way of life is not an "assault on our traditional American culture and the lifestyle of middle America." It IS the traditional American culture! Remember "Give us your poor, your cold, huddled masses?" Different lifestyles are what founded this country. Turning your back on different lifestyles is turning your back on this country.

You say, "If Americans no

The health-care reform debate may be dying in Washington, but for the millions of uninsured — and underinsured — in this country, the debate must continue.

I joke often about being covered under the prayer plan: I pray I don't get sick.

My contingency plan is my car. If I get really sick, I run my car off the road and collect under my car insurance.

(That's a joke, by the way. Don't send letters.)

Unfortunately, none of this is funny.

I can see an end to my condition. I will, I hope, have a full-time job soon, one with benefits and everything.

But I'm one of the lucky ones.

National health care is not another way for the government to get us under its thumb.

Not all government plans are bad.

For those of us who can't afford health insurance, this debate will not be over until everyone receives the care he or she deserves.

This issue is not dead.

Not for me.

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longer share the same societal standards and the same religious foundation, then we will fail to share one nation." In fact, we would not have a nation if the white founding fathers had been content with uniform societal and religious standards.

Your "traditionalist" thinking does have a special name, though. It's called having a closed mind.

Joshua P. Gillin  
freshman  
news-editorial