

# OPINION

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Daily  
**Nebraskan**  
Editorial Board  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## EDITORIAL

### Gettin' peanuts

Degrees don't guarantee high wages

It's a college graduate's worst nightmare.

After four or more years of academic diligence, a degree could earn us about \$4.25 an hour at a temp agency or a clerking job at a discount store. So much for being able to pay off student loans.

It's happening more than many of us are prepared to admit.

According to The Washington Post, the low-wage sector is the fastest growing part of the U.S. labor force.

Too often, low-paying jobs are a starting point for college graduates who need an income while they look for something better. But that "something better" is getting harder to find.

According to The Post, The Census Bureau estimates "low earners" constitute 16.3 percent of the labor force. This number has increased by a third in the last 15 years. About 14 million Americans earn less than \$13,091 annually. Women, the young and the less educated tend to hold these jobs.

Though the trend is alarming, college students still have a much better chance at advancement from the low-wage barrier.

But everyone ultimately is affected when an increasing percentage of the population is stuck in a low-wage rut.

### DN explained

News, opinion sections are separate

We would like to clear up some common misconceptions our readers have expressed regarding the different components of the Daily Nebraskan's editorial page.

The most common error readers make is identifying columns as editorials or as news stories or articles. Big differences exist between these parts of the newspaper.

Editorials are the opinion of the Daily Nebraskan editorial board and are printed in the left-hand column of the opinion page, to the left of the editorial cartoon. They are written by members of the editorial board, which comprises eight members of the Daily Nebraskan staff.

Columns are the opinion of the individual columnist, not of the Daily Nebraskan. A column appears on the opinion page under a heading stating the columnist's name. The varying backgrounds of the columnists bring a host of ideas and differing views to the opinion page.

Like columns, editorial cartoons are the opinion of the individual staff or syndicated cartoonist.

Most importantly, the opinion section of the Daily Nebraskan, which includes letters to the editor, columns, editorials and the editorial cartoon, should not be confused with the news section of the newspaper.

News stories are not written to include the writer's or the newspaper's opinion.

We hope this clears up questions our readers have expressed.

## 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.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Homosexuality

As a 19-year-old lesbian on campus here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I was disgusted and a little alarmed by Jamie Karl's column (DN, Oct. 7, 1994) on National Coming Out Day. Your statistics from the D.C. Family Research Council (headed by Paul Cameron, who was kicked out of the American Psychological Association) were alarming. However, I'd like to remind people that "statistics" can be manipulated to say whatever a particular group wants them to.

From my personal experience, it seems the only group of people taking the AIDS crisis seriously — by adjusting their behavior and promoting and educating people about safe sex — is the gay community. If you want to look at statistics from the Nebraska Department of Health, why are heterosexual women and adolescents the fastest growing group contracting AIDS? Because ignorant fools like you think it's only a "gay disease."

To my knowledge, my homosexual friends and I are not "creating an unprecedented health crisis." I work, I go to school, I exercise, I don't smoke, I'm a vegetarian, and I avoid frat parties at all costs. I'm just like any other person walking down the street, and if I walked up to you and shook your hand, not only would you not catch anything, you wouldn't even know I'm a lesbian.

I don't like to be defined or stereotyped by my sexuality. Yes, I am a lesbian, but I'm a lot of other things, too. I guess that's the problem; we're not visible. We are your friends, classmates, teachers, parents, neighbors, etc. But with public opinion being represented by people like you, who would want to come out?

It's unfortunate that among the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 1989 statistics (from Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide) that 30 percent of all teen suicide victims are gay, lesbian and bisexual adolescents. Maybe this tragic number would be lower if they were offered a little support, understanding and acceptance, instead of the hate, ignorance and bigotry represented by you in the Daily Nebraskan.

National Coming Out Day is a chance for our minority to find support, be proud and counteract

the stupidity and homophobia we deal with every day.

Liz Dodds  
sophomore  
undeclared



Amy Schmidt/DN

### ISO elections

In response to the letter (DN, Sept. 30, 1994) from Boon Lee Lim, the interim International Student Organization president, we, as international students, would like to tell the university community how we viewed the last election.

The election itself was not very organized, but it was fair, because all had an equal opportunity to participate in the election. Whenever issues were brought up, participants in the election discussed them based on the constitution and prior agreement of the election rules.

We feel sorry about the interim president, whose term expired April 30, 1994. Although he was appointed by the Student Court until the re-election, his term has been too long. He said he was anticipating having a new election in November, but he has failed to set a new time for the election.

Lim also mentioned revising the current constitution. We believe he does not have the authority to do so. Lim was elected as the 1993-94 ISO president by the same procedures that were used at the last election. At that time, most of the students didn't know what was going on, and only a handful participated. He won the election with four votes out of 89 (89 countries on the campus), which is not even close to the 16 out of 89 votes that the loser of a subsequent

election received.

Because Lim is not the current elected president — only an interim officer — we believe he cannot change the ISO constitution. Since complaints were brought up after the last election, he simply needs to hold a re-election. Future ISO troubles should be handled by the new officers.

We also believe Lim was involved in the dispute of the last election, because some of the candidates were his friends. Therefore, he didn't defend the organization at the ISO hearing and before the Student Court. He defended himself and supported the plaintiff through the petition at the court. Most of his statement was not true, according to the people who participated in his election and the last election.

If he really thought the election was not fair, why did he appoint the election committee — whom he later blamed — agree to the election rules and let the election through after the outcome? What if the candidate whom Lim supported won the election? Is he going to deal with this mess?

Lim said the Student Court initiated his continuation of the term. But according to the Student Court decision of May 18, 1994, all the 1994-95 ISO elected officers must be prohibited from the installation of their office. But he appointed some of these officers on April 7. For example, he appointed his girlfriend, who ran for vice president in the last election, as treasurer in his interim office.

We question where Lim's authority to act as current president comes from, and we think he should take responsibility for the current problems, because he appointed the election committee; he has to defend ISO from troubles; he criticized others, including the election committee, after problems occurred; he broke rules but asked others to follow them; and he didn't live up to his responsibilities but wanted the recognition as president.

In the best interests of ISO, we ask Lim to step down from his office immediately and let the organization go forward. If he fails to step down or to call for immediate re-election, we will take our cause to the general student population in an effort to have him removed.

Jung-ho Son  
graduate student  
animal science