

OPINION

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Page 4

Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

No Big Red

Soft drink yanked from Manhattan

As the real Big Red comes to Manhattan, Kan., this weekend, another Big Red is pulling out.

When the No. 2 Cornhuskers travel to Kansas State University to face the No. 16 Wildcats, there will be no Big Red — soda, that is — on the shelves of six Manhattan grocery stores.

On Wednesday, Full Service Beverage Distributors of Colorado, gave permission to pull "Big Red" soda out of the Manhattan grocery stores. Three Food 4 Less stores and three local supermarkets participated in the pullout.

We find this amusing.

This could be a sign that the 4-0 Wildcats, who have silently dubbed this as their game of the century, are running scared of the real Big Red.

"My boss is from Colorado Springs, and when Nebraska came out to play the Colorado Buffaloes they did the same thing," Russ Simons, a beverage distribution employee, told The Associated Press. "It went over real well. So my boss suggested I try it here."

It appears Colorado and now Kansas State are taking their respective team spirit one step too far.

The soft drink, which is difficult, if not impossible to find in the Cornhusker State, actually is bottled in Texas.

No need to get worked up, Huskers. After a big Husker victory, all the 'Cats will have to drown their sorrows in will be Purple Passion.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"There is an allegiance side of us. Don't misconstrue what we are doing as anti-American."

— Marty Ramirez, a counseling psychologist at the University Health Center, speaking about the outrage in the Hispanic community following the death of Francisco Renteria.

"Everyone on the team knows Matt can get the job done. When we heard he was going in, we started to get more pumped up."

— Abdul Muhammad, NU wingback, reacting to walk-on sophomore Matt Turman's play against Oklahoma St.

"You don't perform violence. You make it look like violence. That's what makes it hard."

— Paul Steger, UNL theater professor, summing up his performance on the play "Scapino."

"John Joubert confessed and pleaded guilty to brutally murdering two young boys in Nebraska. John Joubert deserves the death penalty, and I intend to vigorously pursue this case until the sentence is carried out."

— Nebraska Attorney General Don Stenberg on a U.S. District Judge's decision to overturn the death sentence of Joubert, who was convicted of murdering two Sarpy County boys.

"If you are white, you don't have to graduate (from college). All you white kids are wasting your time here."

— State Sen. Ernie Chambers, a write-in candidate for governor.

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

Apology

In Response to Jamie Karl's column (DN, Oct. 7, 1994):

The Daily Nebraskan for most students on this campus provides a way to pass the time between or during classes. Friday, I didn't expect to be told what type of individual Karl falsely believes me and other people to be. I sat in class reading negative connotations about a minority group I belong to. Imagine if you were me.

Well, Jamie, the "culture war" of National Coming Out Day has come and gone. Did you feel that your home here at UNL was disturbed? NCOD is not an attempt to "decolonize" every queer person in Lincoln; it is an opportunity for any individual to express and celebrate a part of themselves.

It is a chance for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people to break down the stereotypes and destroy the myths that ignorant people like Karl believe. Many people spend enormous amounts of time and energy trying to lead a dual life. It's not easy being gay and trying to fit the molds of today's dominant heterosexual society. When individuals come out, it gives them an opportunity to use that energy in a positive way, by helping to fulfill their dreams and providing a support network for individuals who are still living in their closet.

What was most disturbing about the article were the statistics presented about "all" homosexuals. They were so startling that I was quickly on the phone investigating this Family Research Council. I discovered, not to my surprise, that the council chairman, Paul Cameron, is a "demonizer" of gays. He has proposed that gay males should be exterminated and that people with AIDS should be identifiably tattooed and quarantined.

Cameron was a psychology professor at UNL until 1980, when his teaching contract was not renewed. After this, he founded the Institute for the Scientific Investigation of Sexuality, which claimed to be an expert on sexuality. During the 1980s, Cameron published numerous fictional pamphlets saying gays were responsible for a large number of serial killings, child molestations and other crimes.

After making his false claims, several psychologists whose works

he cited and used as reference sources charged Cameron with distorting their studies to fit and promote his anti-gay agenda. According to the Oct. 3, 1994 The New Republic, the American Psychological Association investigated Cameron and found he not only misrepresented others' work, but he also used unsound methods



James Mehling/DN

in his own studies. He was banned from the APA in 1983.

For example, look at the 1993 report cited in Karl's column. For this study, Cameron used as his sample group only gay men recruited from a venereal disease clinic, instead of using a sample group representative of the whole population. The study is not scientific because it ignores the use of a random sampling technique.

Jamie's column also addressed other VD's, such as gay men are 14 percent more likely to have had syphilis and lesbians were 19 percent more likely to have had syphilis than heterosexuals. I contacted Tim Timmons, the supervisor of public health nursing with the Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department, who said this information was false. He said that with the educational surge after the outbreak of AIDS, the gay community responded by changing their sexual behavior because they knew they were a high-risk group.

The heterosexual community who didn't see themselves linked to any risk groups did not adjust their sexual behaviors. This shows why there has been a steady rise of syphilis cases in the heterosexual community since 1985. People have to realize it is not the risk group you belong to, it is the risky behaviors that one person has.

I would like to give Karl the honor of getting to know some of

my friends and myself after which I would ask that he re-examine his opinions on NCOD as a celebration of sodomy, his views on homosexuality as an unprecedented health crisis in this country and apologize to Chancellor Graham Spanier and the university administration for calling them blatant cowards.

Oh — I think every queer person also could use an apology. I know I could.

Scott Roewer
senior
music

Liberal

I am extremely disappointed with the Oct. 11 issue of the DN. I cannot understand why 3 out of ten pages in the newspaper have articles devoted to gay rights issues. It seems that the DN is taking quite a liberal slant.

I don't think that I should open up the DN and find it plastered with gay rights, feminist and minority issues. And before everyone cries "prejudice," let me tell you something. I am a 20-year-old female who happens to have a Native American heritage. That would seem to be two strikes against me. However, I believe in "rugged individualism." I believe that you get out what you put in, and no one is going to tell me what I can and cannot do.

I am tired of everyone crying and whining about equal opportunity and being different and "special." I think everyone has a fair chance, and with hard work, dedication, and perseverance, anything is possible. Be independent! You don't deserve anything unless you earn it.

Now everyone is steaming mad. But before the mud slinging begins, I'll tell you something else. I have attended the University of Arizona, and that school had very liberal traditions. I came to Lincoln because I decided that the University of Nebraska was the place for me. I grew up here with the trademark honest family values and strong morals of the Midwest, and I wanted to get back to the place where I shared the same beliefs with people.

When I read the DN, or any newspaper for that matter, I should find the news, not the personal thoughts and beliefs of the writer. Let's keep the opinions on the opinion page. What ever happened to objective journalism?

Andrea Schmidt
Lincoln