

OPINION

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Page 4

Daily
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Wilted lettuce

Party's river of ideas seemingly stale

It is a good thing students who aren't in sororities and fraternities haven't been in control of ASUN in anyone's recent memory.

The dominant group at UNL never has been able to lead anyway. Until you prove you can lead, don't try to get elected to ASUN.

This is the same view that is seemingly doomed to dominate ASUN year after year, election upon election. This is the same view that has led to nothing but a sliver of the student population being represented.

This is a view that was once again represented at an ASUN campaign debate. But the party spouting that attitude this time was LETTUCE, a group that purports to sell itself as outsiders to the ASUN machine.

In Thursday's debate, Chad Pekron, ACCESS presidential candidate and, apparently, one of the two true outsiders in this year's campaign, said greeks had overrun ASUN.

LETTUCE vice-presidential candidate Andy Smith, who commented that his party was 99 percent greek, rebutted that until other groups proved they could lead, greeks would remain in charge.

What happened to "drinking from the river of new ideas," as LETTUCE said it would do? What happened to reinvigorating ASUN with new blood?

LETTUCE's appeal is based on the idea that it would do things differently. Bringing the view posed Thursday to ASUN would hardly do that.

Students have seen hope in this party. LETTUCE doesn't take campaigning too seriously, and they can be blunt at times, which is refreshing in a climate of jargon, double-speak and public relations.

But the latest display of bluntness could reveal who LETTUCE truly is. If so, that is unfortunate.

This again?

UNL doesn't need new grading scale

Last week, six UNL faculty members introduced a 12-point grading proposal for consideration by the Academic Senate.

This policy would expand the current grading scale to include minus grades and eliminate grades of A-plus. The reason for this proposal is, in the words of one proponent, that UNL needs to "get with it."

The question this raises is what, precisely, "it" is.

Perhaps "it" is the system used at contemporary universities, which often include minus grades.

Perhaps our system makes us less competitive with these institutions in situations where national job or graduate placement are concerned. If this were true, however, it would be safe to assume that the call for change would have been a unanimous clarion that came long ago rather than a muddled suggestion from six faculty members.

Or, "getting with it" could refer to enhancing the academic environment on campus. A concern is that stricter grades should reflect a more rigorous curriculum. By analogy, a new grading scale would be a cart placed before our horse.

In this context, "it" should most certainly be the will of the students. Quite simply, the new grading policy is not only unnecessary but also unwanted. The recent ASUN vote on the issue demonstrates this.

Similar proposals have come up and gone down numerous times in the past and as recently as the last academic year. This current proposal should follow the other ones into oblivion.

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Jamie Karl

The Daily Nebraskan is truly lucky to have a writer like Jamie Karl! I will admit that sometimes his opinions and writing style are inflammatory and extreme, but more often than not, he confronts the liberal intellectual elite with truths they simply cannot deny.

His latest column, "Ladies, men have it bad, too" (Feb. 16), is an excellent example of this. In this column, he points out the undeniable truth that men and women are different.

The liberals and the feminazis will scream bigotry and chauvinism, because they, in their pompousness and high-mindedness, have become too arrogant and blinded by their own egos to acknowledge another point of view, or even a simple truth, which contradicts their own point of view.

Ryan Grone
freshman
general studies

Biological facts

In their letter (Feb. 15), Jo Dilallo and Dennis McGucken agree "biological facts" prove that "a fetus is both a living and human organism."

I'll bet they're glad their mothers thought so too.

Martha Miller
UNL Alumna

Shaky argument

In Dilallo's and McGucken's letter (Feb. 15), we heard exactly what many abortion proponents believe. We are told that an unborn child cannot be considered a person because "any parasite in the body can claim uniqueness."

The truth is that even this pro-abortion voice could not overpower the unborn cries from those who had no choice. For "it is perfectly obvious that a fetus is both a living and human organism. These are

biological facts and no one disputes them," Dilallo and McGucken wrote.

I find it quite hard to swallow that they could make such an evident error, unless of course, there is a hint of internal struggle over their own beliefs.

Jeff Fulton
freshman
elementary education



Amy Schmidt/DN

Satire

This letter is in reply to the letter "Liberal Ideology" (Feb. 13). I am not a supporter of Todd Elwood's sociological research scheme, but I have to admit the column was quite humorous.

I just don't understand how two people like Aerni and Waymire can actually believe something like that.

I just have one question for both of those two spout-offs: Have you ever heard of satire? I believe Elwood was making a deeper point than what was actually written.

Come on, wake up and smell the coffee.

Erik Montemer
freshman
modern languages

Women

The article entitled "Women in abusive relationships need plan of action for safety" (Feb. 10) neglected to mention the departments on campus that are available to assist victims of domestic violence. The Women's Center has support groups and counseling available to women who are victims of domestic abuse. Along with medical assistance, the health center has counselors available to students.

The Employee Assistance Program has counselors available free of charge for staff, faculty and family members who are affected by domestic violence.

Along with these programs is the Victim Services Program. Although the Victims Services Program does not offer counseling, it does act as a central place where victims can receive information and referrals to other departments and agencies on campus and in Lincoln. The Victim Services Program provides information about reporting incidents to police or medical personnel, assists in obtaining protection orders and also assists with getting back into the routine of classes or work after an incident of domestic violence.

An important issue pointed out in the article is the change proposed by Sen. Hillman to include people who date or have dated in the domestic abuse act.

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (1992), 51 percent of the victims of intimate violence were attacked by "boy-friends or girlfriends." UNL is not immune from this type of violence. Sen. Hillman's bill could directly affect students who need to report domestic violence or obtain protection orders because of violence in a dating relationship.

Lisa Cauble
Victims Services coordinator