

OPINION

Tuesday, October 10, 1995

Page 4

Daily
Nebraskan
Editorial Board
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

J. Christopher Hain Editor, 472-1766
Rainbow Rowell Managing Editor
Mark Baldrige Opinion Page Editor
DeDra Janssen Associate News Editor
Doug Kouma Arts & Entertainment Editor
Jeff Zeleny Senior Reporter
Matt Woody Senior Reporter
James Mehsling Cartoonist

Reach out Awareness builds bridges

For years America has devalued diversity. Often, immigrants to this country weren't completely accepted until a generation had passed and they were assimilated into American culture.

All over the world, ethnic groups are attempting to break away from assimilation and hold onto their individual cultures.

Because cultural differences will always exist, ignoring them only fosters prejudice, discrimination and hostility.

The racial division on the the verdict in the O.J. Simpson trial has highlighted strong differences in American culture and a corresponding difference in perception.

The challenge to Americans is cultural understanding. The challenge is to look at ourselves, our attitudes and our perceptions.

We all have prejudice, but have we taken any steps to reduce it in ourselves and in those around us?

One of the things that makes America so great is that we have the power to change. But it's up to the majority to make the first movement.

Reaching out to create an environment that accepts all cultures will help bridge a gap that so often causes hostility across color lines.

It's about sensitivity. It's about awareness. It's about understanding.

Open gates

UNL needs more diversity

Awareness and understanding toward diversity can only go so far.

There needs to be action.

At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln that action cannot be seen.

UNL is more diverse than the state and surrounding community, but barely. The state of Nebraska is 94 percent white. The UNL student population is 89 percent white and the faculty population is 92 percent white.

Not good enough.

To raise the level of cultural understanding there needs to be more diversity, more cross-cultural interaction.

There is a movement across the country to rid affirmative action from hiring practices. That movement assumes that diversity has been established and prejudice has been eliminated.

Not so at UNL.

The large part of the UNL student body comes from Nebraska and its culturally narrow population. It always will.

But the university needs to provide students with a culturally broad experience.

Obviously a more diverse university means recruiting outside of Nebraska. And obviously that requires a change in current practices.

Students currently on campus need to interact with those outside of their sphere of similarity.

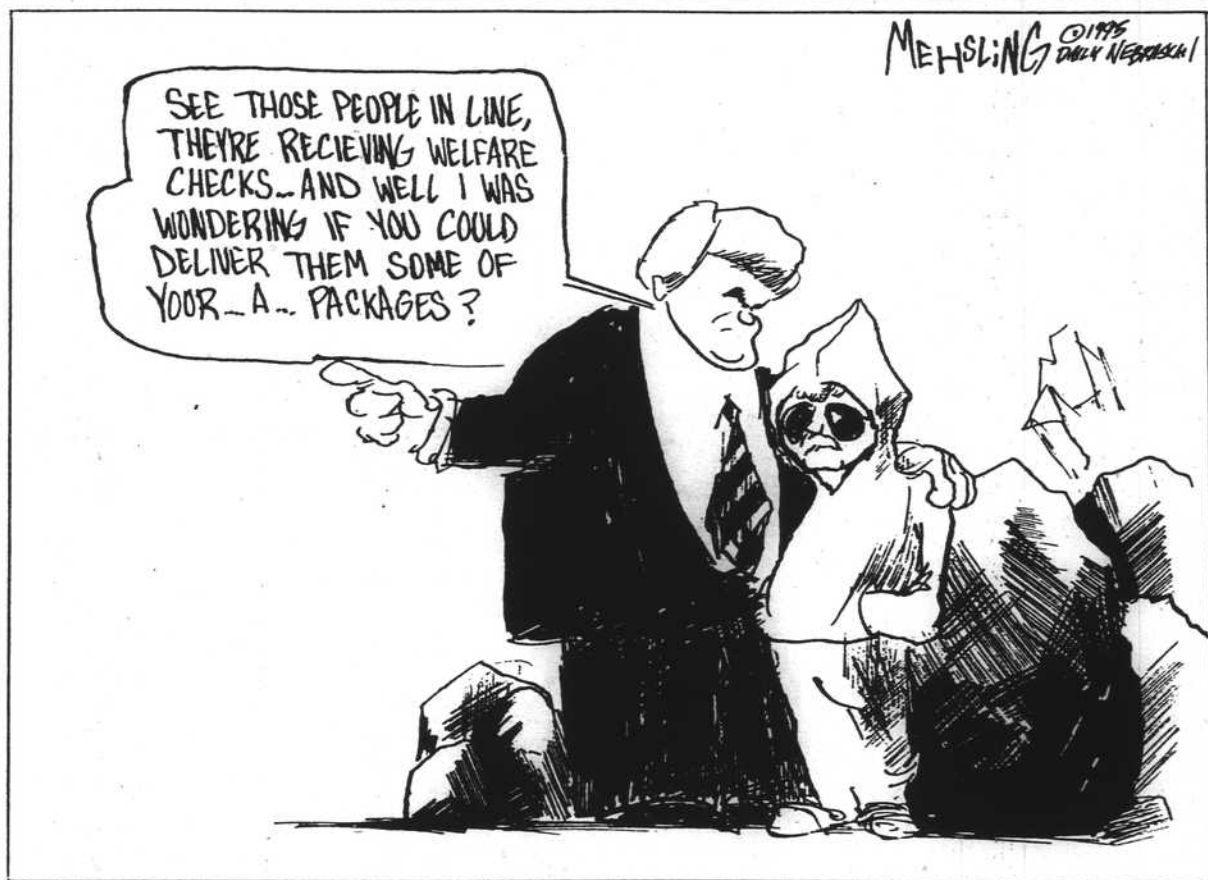
The new gates on the south end of our campus need to be opened wider to people of all colors and to people from all over the world.

Editorial policy

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1995 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: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Miscarriage II

As a law student, I am always grateful for the opportunity to learn from eminent attorneys. I'm double honored that Chief Deputy Attorney General Steve Gras, apparently in his official capacity, would take the time to instruct me in Nebraska Law by responding to my Sept. 26 letter concerning the Ruby Scott case.

And, of course, Mr. Gras is correct: Under Nebraska law, "No abortion shall be performed after the time at which the fetus is viable in the sound medical judgment of the attending physician..." It is worth noting that the physician whose letter sparked Washington County Attorney John Samson's action was not Ruby Scott's attending physician — he had never examined her — but that's a minor point.

The central issue of this case is whether a county attorney can prevent a person from leaving Nebraska to do an action in another which, although possibly illegal in Nebraska, is legal in that other state.

According to the petition he filed, Mr. Samson believed that Ms. Scott was in the 23rd week of pregnancy. That put her, as far as anyone knew at the time, within the second trimester of pregnancy, and there are states other than Nebraska in which an abortion at that time is legal.

Ruby Scott, along with her parents, intended to travel to just such a state to consult with physicians there and, if advisable in their opinions, to have an abortion.

Will the attorney general's office issue instructions to the Nebraska State Patrol to block bridges between Omaha and Council Bluffs to prevent Nebraskans from going to Iowa to gamble just because it is illegal to gamble in Nebraska? Or is that unlikely, as such an action would not garner votes for a senatorial candidate?

Stephen G. Charest
College of Law

Things that make you go...

Hmmm...I sure would be interested to know what E. Benjamin Nelson (Letters, Oct. 9) thinks of Jamie Karl's other columns.

Martha Desmond
Graduate
Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife
via e-mail

Justiceprudence

It seems that people are doing their favorite thing again. They are switching one word for a wholly incompatible word that is supposedly similar.

O.J. Simpson did not have American justice served. American justice involves horse heads in your bed, or drive-by shootings, or arson.

O.J. did not have any kind of justice served. Why not? O.J. did not go through a "justicial" system. O.J. went through the American JUDICIAL system.

There is a very big difference. The judicial system is for deciding whether a person had his or her rights infringed upon.

The jury decided that the police infringed upon O.J.'s rights when they collected the evidence thus negating a large amount of its incriminating effect.

If O.J. had been a lesser man, he might have been convicted.

But, I don't know. I wasn't paid five dollars a day to decide anything. Neither were you.

Jared Solomon
Freshman
Undecided via e-mail

Bah'i

"Close your eyes to racial differences, and welcome all with the light of oneness" was the call of Baha'u'llah almost 150 years ago. Why, then, do we have such a

hard time grasping this concept of the oneness of humankind?

At this time, with the O.J. Simpson Trial complete and divisive racial attitudes resurging, we must not ignore racism, but arise without further delay to resolve this fundamental social problem.

I do not wish to be characterized by the color of my skin, eyes, hair, height, weight, or any other superficial "differences" one may conjure up, but rather by the content of my character.

Color Me Human!

Chad Dumas
Freshman
Music Education and Math

Right on!

I appreciated Jamie Karl's column ("Christian politicians right on," Oct. 4). It is encouraging to see the Nebraska Republican Party, under the leadership of Chuck Sigerson, forging an alliance with those of us who care so deeply about the moral malaise in which we find our state and nation.

Christian Coalition is the largest pro-family organization in the country. We are not partisan and do not endorse candidates for office. Instead, we seek candidates who will endorse our agenda, an agenda supported by the majority of Americans.

Nebraska Christian Coalition welcomes the inclusive spirit of cooperation expressed by Sigerson and the NRP. It is unfortunate for the many common-sense Democrats that their party seems to have abandoned their belief in faith, family and freedom in pursuit of a smothering nanny-state with government as savior.

Doug Patton
Executive Director
Nebraska Christian Coalition



...to the

**Daily
Nebraskan**

Send your brief letters to:
Daily Nebraskan, 34
Nebraska Union, 1400 R St.,
Lincoln, Neb. 68588, or Fax
to (402) 472-1761, or email
<letters@uninfo.unl.edu.>
Letters must be signed and
include a phone number for
verification.