

OPINION

Monday, December 11, 1995

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Daily Nebraskan

Editorial Board
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Round two

Pride, not practicality, drives debate

Here we go again.

The engineering debate between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska at Omaha has been resurrected for our viewing pleasure.

Apparently, the ugly fight of 1994 was only round one.

Last year, there was an outcry from our neighbors to the northeast that UNO should have a separate engineering college, to meet the needs of Omaha businesses and students.

After much public debate and a load of harsh words and hurt feelings, the NU system said no.

That decision was the right one then, and it is the right one now.

This time, the members of NU's Board of Regents are squabbling over a proposal made Saturday that would establish an "Institute of Information Sciences and Technology" for UNO. The



Aaron Steckelberg/DN

proposed institute, in the words of Regent Charles Wilson of Lincoln, "raises the possibility of meeting the real and perceived needs for information technology and engineering education programs in Omaha."

One would think Omaha-area regents and UNO officials would be happy to have the new institute.

Think again.

For UNO, apparently, it's all or nothing.

Although the end result of the proposed institute would be the enhancement of the existing joint program administered by UNL, UNO backers want control. Without independence from the UNL engineering college, some say, UNO's program will always be second-best.

Those naysayers conveniently overlook the success of joint programs that are administered by UNO and UNMC — criminal justice and nursing.

But in the engineering debate, practical matters, such as budgets, missions or functionality, take a back seat to pride.

It doesn't matter that NU budgets are cut every year; that taking from UNL to give to UNO would result in two mediocre, underfunded Colleges of Engineering.

What matters here is who occupies the driver's seat.

That has become very obvious with the renewed debate. It obviously doesn't matter to Omaha-area regents whether there is an engineering program based in Omaha, because Creighton University is revamping and expanding its engineering curriculum to serve Omaha.

UNL and UNO are both quality institutions that do their best to serve their intended purposes. But they are not the same, and that fact is at the very heart of the entire engineering college issue.

UNL is the flagship of the NU system. UNO wants to be.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public Access

I would like to sincerely thank Mayor Mike Johanns, Councilman Ken Haar and Lincoln CableVision for their efforts in attempting to bring about change in Lincoln's Public Access TV.

It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that most Lincolinites oppose the existence of a medium which grants pervers (and other assorted imbeciles) free reign to masturbate and urinate in public.

Councilman Donaldson, by casting your deciding vote for the status quo (DN, Dec 5, 1995), you have given your stamp of approval for this type of nonsense to continue to be aired on this community's television sets.

And by stating that those of us who want change are "...making a mountain out of a molehill," you have indicated just how far detached from reality you really are.

Thomas K. Eads
senior
political science and English
via e-mail

Mad about ads

As I read the Dec. 8 Daily Nebraskan, I couldn't help but notice the juxtaposition on page 7 of the article on the unsolved murder of Martina McMenamin and the advertisement for BJ's Hideaway (with photos of two barely clad young women showing off their flesh and crotch hair).

At first, I wondered if this were a subversive self-commentary on the journalistic practices (such that they are) at the Daily Nebraskan. But then, I considered the alternative hypothesis that the DN just takes the money and

doesn't pay much attention to what comes or goes with it.

Steve Reichenbach
assistant professor
computer science and engineering
via e-mail

Interesting

Dear Mary McGarvey,
No one will disagree that violence is an abominable act and a few others may even agree with your idea of a Judicial Board to handle administrative discipline against student violators of the code of conduct. I do think, however, that your article misrepresented your true motivations. You should be ashamed for trying to pass it off as being an issue of university "reputation and integrity" when the real motivation is your own special interest group. Your special interest group supports partial birth abortions. How can you hypocritically support violence against partially-born women while despising violence against post-birth women?

By the way, where were you when the Malaysian student was beaten outside the Union and hospitalized? Where were you when shots were fired in a UNL classroom, or when a student shoots a UNL police officer? You were not around then to save UNL "integrity and reputation."

Roger R. Johansen
senior
pre-dentistry
via e-mail

Bosnia

In response to Doug Peters (U.S. Mobilizes for Bosnians, Dec. 5), I take issue with your rationale for sending troops to Bosnia.

and the ease with which you would send your "contemporaries" to their deaths. You have not made a very compelling case.

I spent 13 months (before, during and after Operation Desert Shield/Storm) in the deserts of Saudi Arabia wrestling with the issue of why I had been sent there.

I can't say whether or not we should send troops to Bosnia. I do ask Mr. Peters to rethink his approach to Bosnia and do several things.

First, call your best friend up just to say hi. While you're talking to him/her, ask yourself this question: "Is Bosnia worth his/her life?"

Secondly, when you are at home at Christmas, look at your mom, dad, brothers and sisters. Ask yourself: "Is Bosnia worth one of their lives?"

Lastly, look in the mirror and ask yourself: "Is Bosnia worth my life?"

Steve Hegemann
junior
accounting

Same song...

I am sick and tired of everyone bashing Tom Osborne and Nebraska Football. Anymore, it seems fashionable to pass judgment on people you really don't know.

Where were all the cameras and reporters in years past when the same type of things went on? They weren't interested, because what kind of ratings would an expose of the Iowa State football program get.

The national championship did not create violent athletes, they have always existed.

Kurt Nyberg
senior
construction management

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