

OPINION

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

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Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Bret Gottschall/DN

Real life

Living on campus helps students acclimate

Most freshmen entering the University of Nebraska are faced with a larger academic workload than they have ever experienced before. They also find themselves with a sudden lack of parental supervision.

The combination can be disastrous, and most students need time to adjust.

The University of Nebraska requires all unmarried students under the age of 19 to live in University-approved housing for their first year of college.

Most of us wanted to live off campus as freshmen. Few of us were mature enough to handle the responsibility.

The housing policy is meant to ensure that freshmen live in a stable, supportive environment that encourages their academic success. Statistics show that students who live in university housing earn better grades and have a better chance of graduating.

The housing policy is a sound policy, implemented for the right reasons, to help new students adjust to university life and ultimately to succeed.

A freshman student at the University of Nebraska at Kearney recently challenged the housing policy on the grounds that it violated his constitutional right to freely practice his religion.

This student, a Christian, complained that the residence halls exposed him to bad influences and behavior he considered immoral. He cited the availability of condoms in the residence halls and policies allowing "open visitation" by members of the opposite sex as evidence that life in university housing was contrary to his religious beliefs.

We have news for that student. No one is forcing him to buy condoms or have overnight visitors in his room. No one in the residence halls is preventing him from practicing his religion.

The student, who wanted to live in an off-campus Christian Student Fellowship house, was denied an exemption to the housing rule. UNK might use this opportunity to examine what constitutes proper housing for its freshmen. If the Christian house provides a supportive environment for new students, then perhaps UNK should include it in its list of university-approved housing.

But part of any university education should involve some contact with people of different beliefs and backgrounds. Residence halls provide an environment where students can get to know people whose views differ from their own.

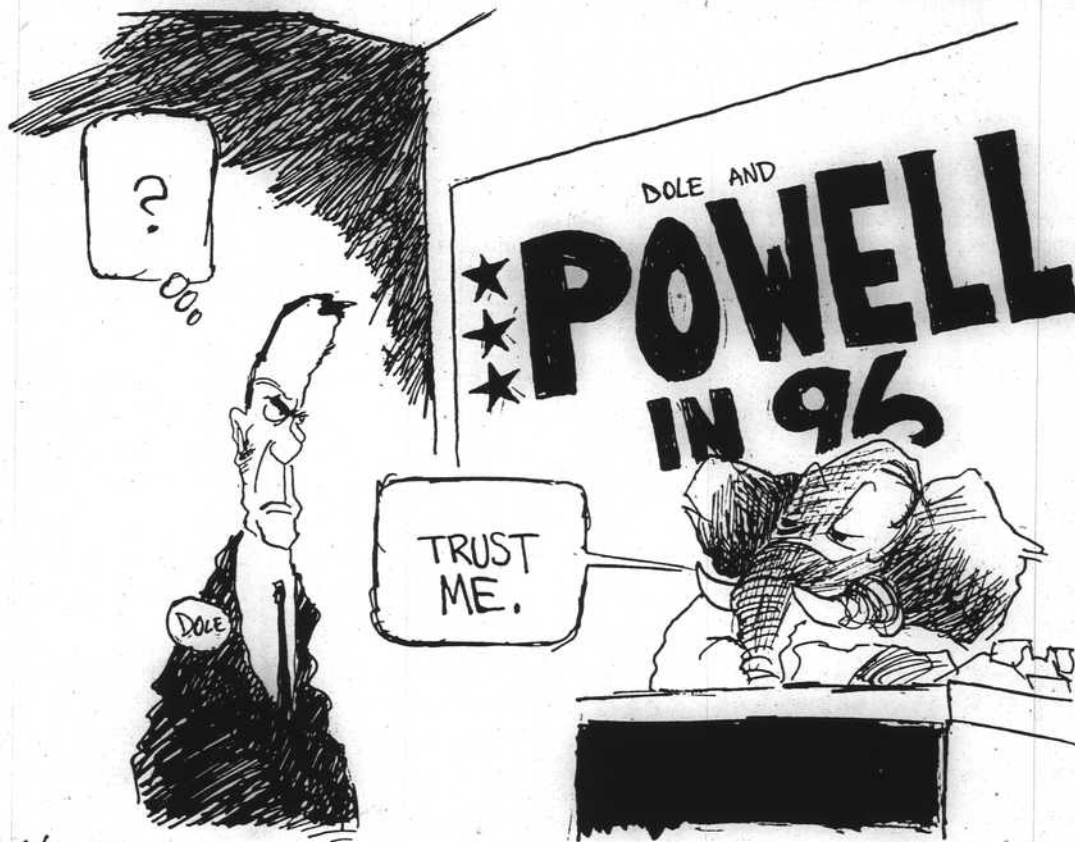
We all have to learn to live together, even if we don't approve of each others' lifestyles.

Editorial policy

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1996 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.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'FINE' where it is

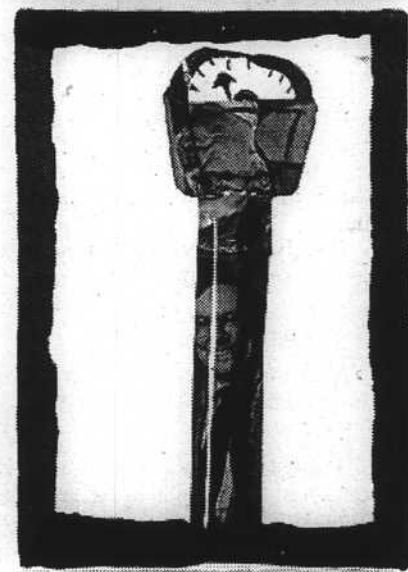
In defense of Mr. Willey, I agree that the way parking is handled at UNL is ridiculous. There have been a few stories that covered this issue, but I think there should be more, with more input from the authorities in on the parking policies. I agree with one of the letters written, in which the student told his story of misinformation given by Parking Services. An acquaintance of mine had his car TOWED on a football Saturday, after having been told his car would be fine in the lot it was in. He then had to pay the \$25 ticket in addition to the \$60 towing fee. I also appealed this ticket, and it did no good. The reason it was denied was for "no valid permit displayed," despite the two-dollar visitor pass in the window. I believe Parking Services should do a better job of informing the students of the exact policies, and that those who work at Parking Services should be well-informed of these policies too, to avoid giving out the wrong information.

And congratulations is in order to Mr. Willey for taking a frustrating situation and being able to laugh at it!

Leigh Ramert
freshman
mechanical engineering

Name spawns mistrust

In response to Paul Carlson's letter (March 11), I agree that Steve Willey's terming of those people who hand out parking tickets as "meter maids" is a sexist term, but I also view the official title of the student workers as a bit excessive. "Student Enforcement Cadets?" What sort of militaristic Big



Bret Gottschall/DN

Brothers are these people? If I told my father that I was applying to be a "Student Enforcement Cadet," he'd probably wonder why I thought my fellow students needed to be policed by the military, then wonder where he went wrong. Yes Mr. Carlson, Steve Willey was wrong, but I hardly think the real title is any better. These students are just like the rest of us; don't create more animosity toward them by giving them a stupid name.

Cory Emal
senior
secondary education

Try: "the farce THAT is ..."

Although I have suffered through the farce which is Bob Ray, Daily Nebraskan columnist for the entirety of this semester, I feel compelled to inform you that his most recent "column" (Melting Pot, March 8) has pushed me beyond the brink of endurance.

I have no doubt that the composition of a thoughtful, well-written column can take literally hours on end, especially if the topic is a particularly difficult one. Having said that, I can only come to the conclusion that Bob has never spent more than 15 minutes composing any of the semi-intelligible rants we've been treated to this semester.

As a columnist representing a university with 20-some thousand students, there is (or should be) a certain expectation that you will not present incomplete sentences for final copy to your editors (see opening paragraph of your "Melting Pot" column). You should not consistently misuse basic punctuation symbols. You should not dull your message by using an exclamation point every other sentence, as you did in your Colin Powell column.

At this point, I would be remiss to hold only you responsible for the travesties we read. In theory, your editor is supposed to be editing your columns. Either your editor is doing this and missing your errors, or your editor isn't editing. Either way, your editor should share some of the blame.

I ask you not to misunderstand my intent, Bob. I'm not simply "nitpicking" your writing. I've written this letter for two very specific reasons. The first is that, regardless of the message you're trying to send, no one is going to take you seriously if you write like their kid brother. The second reason is a little more selfish — no one reading a newspaper produced by college students should have to read such pathetically sloppy garbage.

Eric Odgaard
senior
psychology



...to the

Daily
Nebraskan

Send your brief letters to:
Daily Nebraskan, 34
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