

OPINION

Monday, March 25, 1996

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Daily
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Jason Gildow/DN

Ultimatum

Lincoln diocese should promote dialogue

Roman Catholics in the staunchly conservative Diocese of Lincoln have been given a choice by Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz.

Discontinue membership in 12 groups deemed incompatible with the Catholic faith, or face excommunication from the church.

In the March 22 edition of the Southern Nebraska Register, the diocesan newspaper, the bishop said membership in the groups — including Planned Parenthood, Catholics for a Free Choice, the Hemlock Society, Freemasons and Call to Action — is “always perilous to the Catholic Faith and most often is totally incompatible with the Catholic Faith.”

A spokesman for Bruskewitz said the warning was partly in response to Call to Action’s plan to establish a chapter in Nebraska. The liberal organization promotes dialogue among Catholics on issues such as women in the priesthood and clerical celibacy.

Those who continue membership in such organizations after April 15, the bishop said, are “under interdiction and absolutely forbidden to receive Holy Communion.” Those who maintain membership for one month after that will be excommunicated.

His spokesman said Bruskewitz had been approached by many people asking for clarification of the church’s position on such organizations.

They certainly got it, but more in the form of an ultimatum than a clarification.

The bishop’s spokesman said the warning was intended to “call persons back to the faith rather than to punish.”

It is a bishop’s duty to lead his diocese as he sees fit, but in this case, Bruskewitz’s actions seem excessive.

Would not an open, healthy dialogue with these groups be more in the interest of the church and its members?

Would it not give the bishop and the church a chance to explain and reinforce Catholic teachings?

And would it not allow Catholics in the Lincoln diocese to focus on their shared faith while wrangling over their differences?

Bishop Bruskewitz is undoubtedly strong enough to lead such a discussion without caving in to any group he opposes.

If enough Catholics in the Lincoln diocese have joined these groups to warrant the bishop’s drastic action, such a discussion would be a breath of fresh air in a diocese often seen as stuffy and stale.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

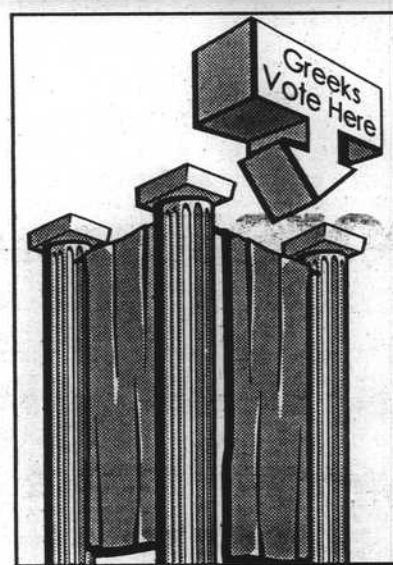
Parking cons

In response to the many articles about the parking service pros and cons, I have yet to see any pros for this UNL organization. I have been attending UNL for two years now, and I have had many unpleasant interactions with this kind of “vermin.” From spending 80-some dollars on a parking permit that allowed me to park off campus because there was no room, to my vehicle damaged by parking service meter maids in an attempt to stop me from getting away, I have had my fill with the so-called “helpful” parking services. I am by no means innocent of parking where I should not be, but the situations that I have been in were caused by the lack of parking area knowledge. This is the fault of the parking services. I believe that from day one, the parking areas should be explained and focused on more intensely, maybe in student orientation or printed in the DN. But with the lack of knowledge that most students have about the parking areas, the higher the bonuses are down at the parking services. Ironic, isn’t it?

Ashley Moore
sophomore
pre-nursing

Act endangered

Last spring, members of Congress placed a moratorium on listing species under the Endangered Species Act. This moratorium was to expire in December with the signing of a new budget in 1996. The current budget bill contains language to extend the listing moratorium throughout the next year. And Congress made sure that language was added to the continuing resolu-



Aaron Steckelberg/DN

tion to extend the moratorium on listing species until the signing of a new budget deal.

Unfortunately, the battle over protecting endangered species has become polarized by radicals on both sides. It has turned into a shouting match of jobs vs. spotted owls that ignores the original goals of the Endangered Species Act. One aspect that is drowned out is the quiet fact that most of our medicines come from plants, some of which are threatened with extinction. In this era of deadly plagues and diseases that are increasingly resistant to existing antibiotics, human survival may well depend on bio-diversity.

Continuing this moratorium is also irresponsible economically. The cost of bringing a species back from the brink of extinction is many times greater than protecting species early.

Recently, Rep. Morella (R-Md.) wrote a letter to Newt Gingrich urging an end to the moratorium and invited her colleagues to sign on in support. Even though several dozen Republicans signed on to the letter,

our representative, Doug Bereuter, has not yet done so. Rep. Bereuter should recognize that this moratorium does not solve our problems; it is simply a tool by anti-environmentalists in Congress to weaken the Endangered Species Act.

Rep. Bereuter should sign onto the Morella letter and back up the idea that “conservation is a conservative ideal.”

Janece Gagner
sophomore
psychology

Voting booths accessible to all

I am writing in response to David Williams’ comments about ASUN elections (March 13). The statements Williams wrote were incorrect.

For one, it is very inaccurate to write that most freshmen don’t know about the elections. I, and other freshmen, did vote at this year’s election.

The next statement I read was absolutely ludicrous. Why should the Harper/Schramm/Smith residence hall get voting booths when every other student, greek or non-greek, has to vote at one of the unions, the rec center or the Abel/Sandoz complex? If you take classes at UNL, you are at some point in the day fairly close to one of these locations. So when is it that these places became greek-run?

While the HSS complex houses about 1,500 students, greek membership is around 5,000 and we do not have a “greek only” voting booth.

So before you decide to make statements, you had better find a way to back them up. And maybe next year you would like to come over and use the voting booth in our house (Alpha Xi Delta)?

Kerry Kuening
freshman
psychology



...to the

**Daily
Nebraskan**

Send your brief letters to:
Daily Nebraskan, 34
Nebraska Union, 1400 R St.,
Lincoln, Neb. 68588, or Fax
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