

OPINION PACKAGES

DN Quotes OF THE WEEK

"I really think we should be in. I don't care if we've lost eight of our last 11. We have 19 wins, and there's a lot of teams getting in with 16 and 17."

—Nebraska Women's Basketball Coach Angela Beck last Friday on NU's prospects for the NCAA Tournament

"Everyone is granted with the gift of humor. It's just that some people don't open the package."

— T. Marni Vos, comedian

"I'm shocked at the Iowa State situation. I think head-to-head we would beat them anytime. Iowa State over Nebraska doesn't make sense to me."

— Beck after the Huskers' non-invite to the NCAA Tournament

"It's kind of like we're defending the title."

— Cookie Belcher, freshman guard, on the Huskers' playing in the NIT

"All of the sudden, I heard about five or six shots — pow, pow, pow, pow."

— Robert Payne, security guard, who heard the gunfire involved in the slaying of gansta rapper Notorious B.I.G.

"There's nothing you can't tell your parents. Sure, they're going to get frustrated and angry, but at the same time, they're always going to love you no matter what."

— Kim Coffeen, former UNL freshman, who gave birth in her residence hall room

"We're not running from what's real. The rappers that make it out of the ghetto are talking about the same thing."

— Antone Douglas, also know as All Ayz, rap artist from Omaha

"If we let this go on ... we're going to dig a hole so deep that I don't know how we'll get out of it."

— Sen. Don Wesley of Lincoln on why the state needs to ensure building maintenance in the university system does not lag

"Rock 'n' roll never sleeps, and it never dies."

— Wesley Willis, musician

"They can do it seven days a week, 24 hours a day, right from their home."

— Bruce Morrison, electronic filing coordinator, on use of TeleFile, an alternative to traditional mail-in tax returns

"This is dominance. It shows that people who work hard in ASUN get what they deserve."

— Malcom Kass, ADVANCE 2nd vice president-elect

"I've won at every level of football. It would be hard for me to go to a team where all they care about is making money."

— Jon Hesse, former Nebraska line-backer

"Woo, hoo, hoo!"

— Jabba the Hutt

Mehsling's VIEW



Anne
HJERSMAN

Mothering a mission Women's Studies not to be ignored



"
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As I stood in the doorway of room 338 in the Nebraska Union Thursday afternoon listening to Professor Moira Ferguson discuss the history of the Women's Studies program at UNL, it struck me how cramped the quarters were.

About 50 people — most of them youngish women — had convened in a room not much larger than a walk-in closet to celebrate Women's Week and discuss the past, present and future of a program that is doing all it can to reverse the mentality that has belittled or altogether ignored women's contributions to academia for far too long.

How ironic that our discussion was relegated to an out-of-the-way room on the third floor of the union, I thought.

UNL's Women's Studies program was conceived in the spring of 1976 and has been in a period of gestation for more than 20 years.

And, if you ask me, this baby is ready to break out and see the light of day!

Unfortunately, the university system continues to deny that it has fathered a curriculum almost completely devoid of non-white, non-male perspectives. It has failed

to support the Women's Studies program financially or otherwise.

I probably sound ungrateful. That's because I am.

I am not what most people would call an "activist." I don't attend rallies, and I have never spearheaded any movements. In fact, I have taken only one class that would be considered a part of the Women's Studies program here at UNL.

Nonetheless, I am acutely aware of the injustices that many women encounter daily, and I have the utmost respect for any woman who is willing to take that bull(shit) by the horns.

Yes, I appreciate the fact that the university gives (token) recognition to Women's Week. Yes, I am aware

that some universities don't even have women's studies programs.

The truth is, I resent the fact that there is a need for such programs — that women's accomplishments have not been deemed worthy of academic attention before now. And I refuse to be satisfied with the "We gave you a room, what more do you want?" attitude that some people in power at this university have dished out.

The Women's Studies program currently offers 40 courses in 11 departments. It offers an undergraduate major and minor. And it is estimated that 500 students enroll in Women's Studies courses each semester.

Yet, I would bet only a small number of people on this campus know the program exists — and even fewer know where to find its main (and only) office. It gets no money, little attention and scant credibility from the powers that be.

As of now, the Women's Studies program at UNL is being nurtured by a few dedicated faculty members whose only payment comes in the hope that someday their efforts will be taken seriously by the university at large.

It's been a long and laborious 20 years for the program's foremothers, but Women's Studies is alive and kicking at UNL.

You've come a long way, baby. Now let's just hope the university will help you get on your feet financially.

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