

Steve
WILLEY
Finally

Exams evoke images of boogers, back rubs



This time of the semester, college students have a popular phrase we like to use: "I don't give a crap about school anymore. I just want to go home, where my only responsibility is making sure I burp myself at least once every hour."

Actually, I've met only one student who said that, but I think he was trying to say finals week can be a pretty draining time.

Most students have yet to recuperate from mind-wrenching teacher evaluations filled out last week. But with only one weekend of relaxation, the university expects us to turn around and ace our two-hour exams.

Some students respond well to this type of pressure, while others turn into basket cases. They babble incoherently, asking to be euthanized.

In my 62 decades at this institution, I've seen them all. I feel it is my responsibility to characterize these people so that you might be able to better understand their actions.

Some students, including me, are what I call "Care Lessers." Care Lessers are sick of school and studying and couldn't care less about finals.

Care Lessers may or may not show up for their finals, depending usually on: 1) Whether or not they can withstand a zero on their final and still get a passing grade in the course, or 2) Whether or not the student is sunbathing at a nude beach in Florida at the time of the exam.

If a Care Lesser decides to show up for a final, he will finish the exam in approximately 3.8 seconds. Let's suppose the Care Lesser is taking a history exam with the following question:

"Discuss in depth the United States' involvement in all of its major

wars, beginning with the Revolutionary War and ending with the Gulf War, without using the word 'booger' and including victors, treaties and waist sizes of all the generals."

If you were to examine the Care Lesser's exam, you would first see the word "booger" scratched out. Further examination would reveal the answer summed up in five words: "We fought the bad guys."

The other common finals students are those I call the "Freakers." Freakers — even if they have been studying for a particular exam since high school — have never studied enough. Some even go as far as to bring a calculator and cement trowel to an English final, "just in case."

You probably saw some Freakers revealing their true colors during dead week. They were the ones who asked questions like, "Could you detail each section of the exam and list their individual point values?" or perhaps "Am I going to pass? Because if I'm not, I swear to God I'll spend the rest of my life tormenting your family with a cardboard cut-out of O.J. Simpson."

Teachers hate Freakers because they will use every ounce of available time to complete an exam. If the teacher attempts to take the test from

a student before he or she is finished, the Freaker will growl like an enraged wiener dog guarding a T-bone. If you look around campus, you'll find an alarmingly high number of three-fingered professors.

And finally we have the "Bribers." Unlike the Care Lessers, Bribers are deeply concerned about their grades but lack the ability to invest the necessary time to obtain a suitable grade. They must bribe the professors into submission.

Money is the bribe of choice; however, most teachers won't even consider anything less than 34 cents. (I should point out though, a co-worker of mine did eek out a D-minus for six pennies and a back rub.)

Money isn't the only bribe, though. A Briber I know — who insisted anonymity — informed me that one professor (name withheld) in the economics department gave the entire class A's for a photograph of John Travolta riding a hobby horse down a hill in the nude.

When finals are over, the Care Lessers, Freakers and Bribers will return to normal. But be sure to be careful this week, as every student in these groups is unstable.

If the university knew what was good for it, it'd abolish final exams. But until I see that fateful day — and trust me, I will still be in school in the year 2048 — I'll just have to keep on freakin', bribin' and caring less.

Good luck on the finals, folks.

Willey is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

DN LETTERS
Face the race issue Seeing the other side

I am writing in response to the letter (DN, May 1) titled "So which is it?" written by Aaron Lee. First of all, I will address the comment made about the members of Fiji fraternity celebrating the heritage of our world. Yes, they are allowed to celebrate the heritages of the world, as long as they accurately represent those heritages. Dancing around in grass skirts with spears would hardly be representative of the inhabitants of Fiji. I think that many people with common sense attribute the burning of a cross to racism more than to "a holy brotherhood that would last forever — a brotherhood for men of every color." Unless that holy brotherhood is the Knights of the Klan, of course.

The members of fraternities in both of these incidents should have been more sensitive to the feelings and heritage of the peoples who were being offended — and quite inaccurately represented. Tradition is no excuse for blatant racism.

Let's get down to the real issue. As long as there are people in this community who so easily excuse insults toward people of different cultures, races, genders and sexual orientations, we will be subject to ignorant acts of discrimination. We need to step up to the plate and look discrimination in the face, no matter what the form. We need to speak up and make it known that ignorance is no excuse. The time to begin the healing process is now.

Ben Wallace
RHA Social Chair
UNL Diversity Council Moderator

Robert Holburn
RHA President

I am writing in response to two recent articles published the week of April 27. The first was published on April 29. I would like to express some thoughts as an alumni of UNL and a house mother at a fraternity. In her Guest View, Tagi Adams said fraternities are "sequestered off in their sheltered groups." I can only speak for the fraternity I live at, Theta Xi.

Adams went on to say that "members of the Greek system are routinely excused for offending, harassing or threatening minority students with their traditional rites and rituals." As a house mother I demand respect for all groups of people. We have an agreement that language is to be kept sophisticated on the first floor of the house. I have been at Theta Xi for two years now and have never heard any racist remarks.

I am not sure what Adams means when she says, "I do not remember receiving welcoming papers from this institution inviting me to partake in the teaching of cultural diversity without thanks." If Tagi would like to educate members on her culture, then I suggest she take an active approach and ask organizations for a few minutes of their time. I would like Tagi to come to our house for dinner and see what a fraternity is about and know the truth rather than making assumptions.

Rape and violence can happen anywhere and I do not think that the fraternity I live in is an environment that supports rape. I do not think we can stereotype rapists. The people that I personally know from the fraternity and from our athletic department program are upstanding individuals with high morals. I would

like to tell university students to be aware of their surroundings when walking places and never walk alone; this is helpful.

Nicol Savoy
Theta Xi House Mother
UNL alumna
MA student

Women blast myth

The safety alert fliers issued by the Women's Studies Association do not mock the UNL police flier alerting the campus to a possible serial rapist. Our fliers instead draw attention to the denial of rapes that occur on this campus every semester.

There is never a wrong time to expose the public to the facts of rape. The timing of our flier was especially appropriate given the inseparability of racism and rape. African-American men are no more likely to commit rape than white men. Yet the myth of the black rapist persists. As Angela Davis wrote, "The rape charge has historically been used against African-American men as a means of justifying racism and lynching." The police flier does not address these issues. The police flier put an anonymous black face on rape.

Tagi Adams
Women's Studies/English

Erin Hansborough
Women's Studies/Journalism

Sherri Joyner
Greek/English

Katie Ross
Women's Studies/English

Nghi Thai
Psychology/Women's Studies

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