

OPINION PACES

Our VIEW

In the toilet

Greek ritual makes campus look trashy

A majority of UNL's greek houses earned a spot on the National Register of Historic Places this summer. The houses were selected for the prestigious list because of their well-maintained and high-quality architecture and because the houses have an educational significance.

Yet drive by these houses on any given day in the past two weeks and it's not their glory that can be seen. It's not the quality architecture and well-maintained houses that stand out. Nor is it the well-trimmed grass or members playing a game of football in the yard that catches the eyes of passers-by.

It's the toilet paper.

All the houses on greek row seem to have toilet paper waving from trees in the front yards and strewn across the green lawns. And it's not just bits and pieces of paper - it's roll after roll after roll of two-ply, triple-roll Charmin.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln greek houses, especially the sororities, have been toilet-papered, usually by their new pledges "sneaking" to the house to prank the active members before "retreating" to some cleaner place. Sometimes, houses douse each other in clouds of white tissue to start a friendly rivalry.

But we're not celebrating high school homecoming here, kids. If the greek system has a GPA as high as it brags, let's be smart enough to make the university look better than the broken stall in a Mississippi rest area. Do it and clean it up (right away), or don't do it at all.

There's nothing wrong with new fraternity and sorority members celebrating their houses. Sure, they're excited to be at UNL, and they're excited to be part of a new group of friends.

But celebrating togetherness does not have to come at the price of destroying the natural beauty of UNL's campus. Because, frankly, the rest of campus doesn't share in the togetherness and doesn't enjoy the whited sight.

If members of greek houses find unity in slightly vandalizing their own property, then they should find a way to clean it up together, too.

In fact, the houses could use time spent cleaning up the mess as a way to bring their members together. There's nothing like a good cleaning to really make a group feel more like a family, is there?

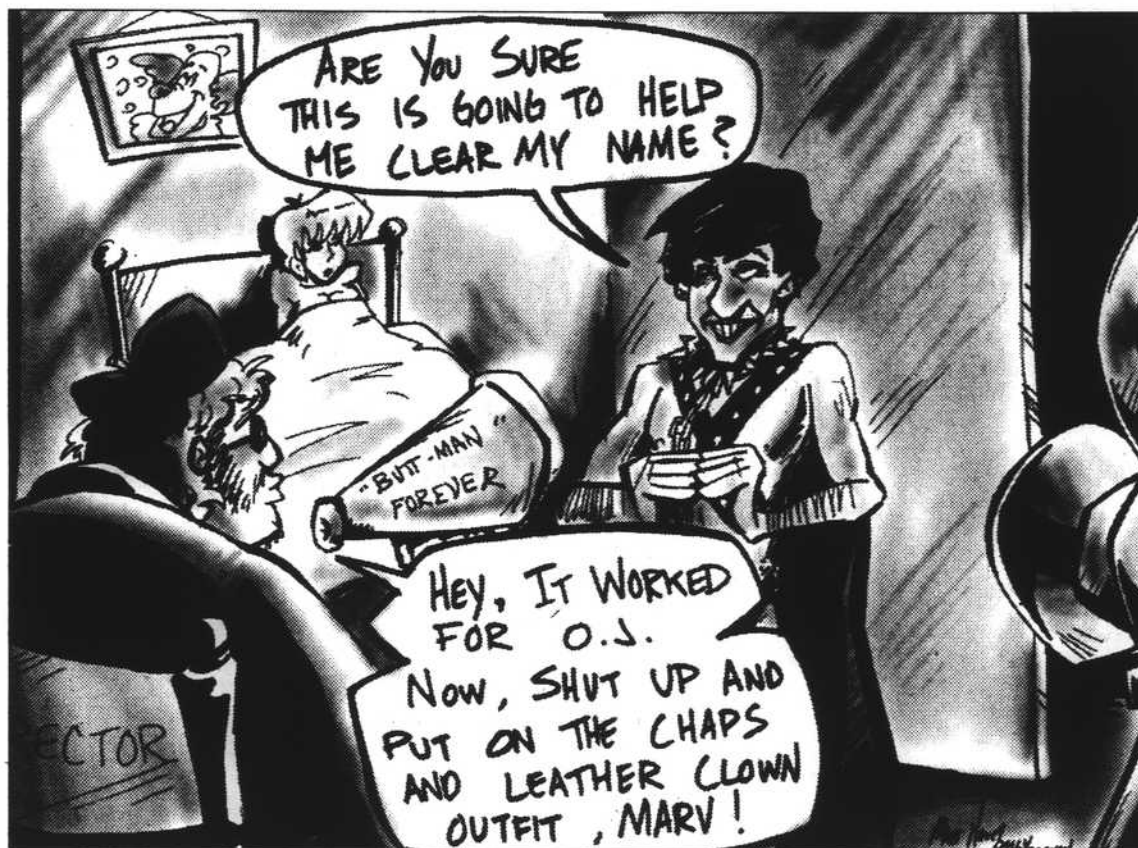
The paper, clumped in trees and on lawns, makes campus look trashy. And when it rains, like Monday, the toilet paper becomes a sticky, messy goo of white.

And instead of a campus with a place of history in its greek row, it becomes ugly, tacky and tasteless.

The same rules apply here as in kindergarten: If you make a mess, clean it up.

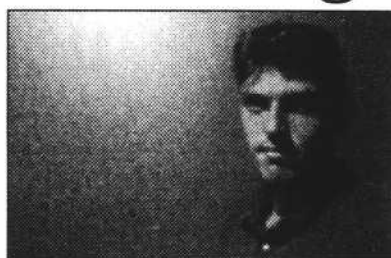
Let's keep our campus beautiful - and toilet-paper free.

Haney's VIEW



Beware the dark side

Use anger as positive catalyst



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We all have a dark side to us. I love my dark side and you would love yours too, if you looked at it the same way I do. Sometimes I forget what a great pair we are, but inevitably, I fall in love with it again. Just last week, Tuesday to be exact, we got back together again. Here's how:

I looked down on what I thought was going to be a great column. Instead a bloody, wheezing, suffering mess stared back at me. A huge hole had been ripped in its gut and intestines were spewed out all over the page. *Getting your column chopped up sucks.* With heavy heart, I painfully put it to rest by tossing it into the trash and pouring my coffee over it.

My fist clenched. My teeth gnashed. Hello, dark side - and we hit it off again. There was hell to pay.

I stormed through the house, grabbing an ax, a hack saw, some olive oil and a skillet. I was going down to the DN to roll heads and fry hearts with some fava beans and a nice Chianti (name that movie?).

After some subtle convincing by the Lincoln PD, we all decided it was probably best that I went home and scheduled a "nice little talk" with the resident psychiatrist. They still have my skillet.

After getting off the phone with the doctor, I realized I was still juiced and had to *do something!* I charged into my room and slammed the door. Then (snap your fingers really loud) POW! It came to me. I started to write: "What a great combination we two are, anger and a task." You wanna see

something get done? Just put the two together, shake vigorously and pour generously over the problem. Then, much like a Long Island Iced Tea, smack - instant results.

While writing I realized (once again) that *anger is good*. In fact, all of those things we hold taboo, like stress, anger and ego, are pretty damn useful.

Let's face it, humans are bad in general. We kill, maim, rape, destroy, torture, oppress, enslave, rob, steal, lie and cheat. We've got the dark side in us. So I say: Let's do stuff with it.

Maybe you're thinking, we already do stuff with our anger. The things we do are all evil and all that comes from anger is evil. I agree, in part. When these things *control* us, we do bad stuff, and I stand firmly against those things as ends to themselves. But, to state again, anger gets things done, when we learn to exist with it. And the results are often positive. Allow me to illustrate some defenses for my position: We should make room for, and love, our dark sides.

1. The American Revolution. It almost didn't happen. Most of the population was pretty content about being under British surveillance. BUT there were a few soon-to-be-Americans who weren't happy - they were pretty pissed off and ready to put a bat to some Brit's head. They were so pissed off, they wouldn't shut their mouths and eventually got everybody else pissed off about their shared condition. This led to The Revolution and the end result: free states.

2. There was a man by the name of Malcolm. He was angry about the position of his people. He shook them out of their complacency by getting them pissed off about what was going on. To this day injustice exists, and the angry

keep the movement alive. The angry are the heart of the movement. Anger is getting things done.

At this point some will say that these examples exclude a central factor in the conviction: hate - and they'll say hate is the same as anger. Yet I know they're not the same. Anger simply means: wrathful. Hate means: loathing, aversion and hostility. So true, hate is a possible byproduct of anger, but not a necessary element.

Anger feeds you life - hate eats you alive. Hate, by definition, cannot produce anything positive.

And that's right, I unite life and anger. Just as I would unite life and joy. I do this as a second measure in support for my theory. Not only does anger get things done through motivation, but anger is pure. Anger is just as truthful and pure as joy. It comes from our center. The center where both light and dark exist. When angry, there's no doubt about it. You're alert, aware, aggressive. It's not questioned - you're alive. Allowing anger, using anger, is connecting with the purest of emotions in us. When following gut feelings, best efforts come forth and things get done.

Anger is a production of our humanness, a tool given to us to live and do certain things in our lives. Anger has a purpose. Think of it as an alarm that something truly important to you is being violated - so listen up! To deny anger is to lie to ourselves.

Somewhere along the way, we're all told to be nice, smile and hand out peace stickers to everyone. That's not real. I'm saying it's OK to rage out for what you believe in. Being a tight-wound neutron bomb of anger is NOT GOOD, but let'er rip when you have to. Get pissed off. Knock heads. Make something happen. Love what your dark side can do for you and your cause.

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