

OPINION PACKETS

Quotes OF THE WEEK

"Got AIDS? Fag?"
 - Graffiti found on UNL sidewalks Tuesday morning

"It's the voice we hear - the voice of hate and discrimination. We don't hear the voice of welcome."
 - Judith Kriss, director of the UNL Women's Center

"It's pretty clear that we are bending over to protect free speech on this campus."
 - James Griesen, vice chancellor for Student Affairs

"We apologized. We felt bad that it happened, but we didn't intend it to."
 - Klaus Marre, one of four hosts on KRNU's "Three Men and a German." The hosts told a caller to go out and express his own opinions about "Coming Out Week," but said not to be derogatory.

"Beef is not the problem. Food is not the problem. E. coli is the problem, and that is what will be the enemy."
 - Gov. Ben Nelson on Nebraska's beef woes

"All stories are true; some have actually happened."
 - storyteller Lucy Duncan, quoting her mother about their shared art

"They're not just sitting at school taking classes. They're out practicing, too."
 - Nebraska defensive tackle Jason Peter on staying motivated through the rest of a lackluster Big 12 schedule

"Right now, we're about as bad a football team as anyone in America."
 - Baylor coach Dave Roberts after his team's 35-14 loss to Texas Tech. The Bears face Nebraska on Saturday.

"My first play with the Blackshirts gave me a chill down my spine."
 - NU junior Eric Johnson on his first start against Kansas State

"Colorado won because they worked harder than us and played harder than us. And if we would have won, it wouldn't have been an accurate reflection of the match. We didn't serve tough, and we didn't play with passion. I don't remember the last time that happened. I don't know that it ever has."
 - Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit after NU's five-game loss to Colorado Wednesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center

Haney's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Editor's note: On Thursday's opinion page, Brian Franz's name was inadvertently omitted from "Discriminatory Deeds" due to an editing error. Franz co-wrote the column with Klaus Marre.

Live free or die

How come I am not surprised in the least at people's reactions to the homophobic chalkings, and how is it that I have yet to see an intelligent reaction from either side of the issue?

Actually, that's not necessarily true. Klaus Marre and Brian Franz's editorial in Thursday's DN represents the heart of the issue, and I congratulate them for sticking to their guns.

I think it's generally agreeable that hate speech reflects an ignorant mind, that homophobia is a problem that needs to be addressed, and that more needs to be done to foster an understanding and acceptance of the gay/lesbian/bisexual community.

However, the idea that acceptance must come on the tails of speech restrictions is ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE. Does nobody have respect for this one basic freedom upon which many of our freedoms are dependent?

In a strictly legal sense, the Supreme Court ruled in R.A.V. vs. St. Paul that it's unconstitutional to restrict speech (including hate speech) simply based on the message itself (i.e. just because a statement isn't PC is no reason to ban it). Even noted hard-ass Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in 1992 that, "The point of the First Amendment is that majority preferences must be expressed in some fashion other than silencing speech on the basis of its content."

In conclusion, and to quote Jello Biafra, "I'm glad I live in a place where I can say the things I do without being taken out and shot." Now, I'm

sure those angry at the homophobic chalking wouldn't advocate killing the offending parties (capital punishment isn't too PC either), but I personally see no difference. I'd rather be dead than be unable to merely SAY something. Sticks and stones, people. Sticks and stones ...

Kevin Gregorius
 senior
 broadcasting

Promises, promises

I am writing this in response to the column written by Gregg Madsen for the Wednesday edition of the paper with regard to the Promise Keeper movement.

While one cannot fault the intention of the group to improve race relations and to strengthen marriages, the inherent bias of the organization is highlighted in his own argument.

"Pastor Tony Evans of Oak Cliff Bible Church in Dallas told the men in Washington that having a biblical marriage means when you come home from your job and step into your home, you start your second job, which is helping (not discriminating, screaming at or subjugating) your wife."

He, of course, is assuming that a man is coming home from a job and a woman is already at home. Why can't it be the other way around?

It is the very same rigidly defined definitions of gender roles that comfort its members as well as fuel the critics of the organization.

Paul Poulosky
 1991 UNL alumnus
 Urbana, Ill.

You Go Gregg

After reading Gregg Madsen's column "Asserting Manhood?", only one

word came to my mind - AMEN!

I've read all of Gregg's columns thus far and loved each and every one of them. It's comforting to know that there are logical and moral people such as Gregg on this campus. As the title of a favorite novel of mine goes: "Carry on Mr. Madsen!"

Nathan Sneddon
 sophomore
 biological sciences

Change is good

I attended the program in which Kathy Cronkite spoke of her battle with depression. I would like to thank Josh Funk for covering this presentation. I am a member of the diversity club, Students With Disabilities, and I have manic depression bipolar mood disorder. What I found most important from this meeting is the education about diseases of the mind and clear information about medication, help and treatment.

I strongly encourage everyone to take advantage of the programs at the health center and to not dismiss their own symptoms or the symptoms of friends and family.

Talking about the problem is the first step. Also, substance abuse, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, even food abuse occurs most commonly with people who live with depression. Substance abuse is a huge sign for help. Most importantly, treatment and medication works.

Change is possible, but you have to begin to change by seeking help.

Alison Hays
 senior
 fine arts

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P.S. Write Back



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