

# OPINION PACKETS

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*Our*  
**VIEW**

## Ain't Love Grand?

*Students deserve book knowledge*

The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools seems to think our beloved Love Library is a benefit to this campus.

They should know. They have seen a school or two in their time. They accredit them.

And we agree. But not wholeheartedly. In fact, we agree brokenheartedly.

It hurts us to watch our library system limp by on the paltry sums it gets. We just wish the accrediting committee would have seen our pain.

The accrediting group said that Love Library on City Campus provided students with a fine research library. However, the library, like many others nationwide, suffers from a lack of space to put books, and money to buy them.

The mention of Love Library made up only a paragraph in a 79-page document.

But what a paragraph it was.

And one that deserves discussion.

What good is a Research I institution, the coveted title our university so desperately sought, without a well funded, spacious library?

Few would argue that a library is an anchor from which a campus swings. A center for academics. The one place on campus all majors collect like worker bees in the hive.

And what are they looking for? Knowledge? Yes. But it's simpler than that. They are looking for books, journals, magazines, periodicals.

And what's a library without those?

Nothing.

Another building.

And, according to the accreditation committee, not a very spacious one.

We could have told you that.

Ever gone into the stacks? Ever gone in there to look for a recent book on timely issue, only to find that one hasn't been purchased since the early '80s?

We have. It's no fun.

In the reallocation process the university recently completed, the libraries didn't lose a cent. They didn't gain one either. And this at a time when inflation wipes out periodicals faster than chalk on the sidewalks.

The honors program got new funding, but what good is that if they can't do honors research? Technology got new funding. But new computers don't replace good old-fashioned books. Not all books are online.

Priorities? Anyone remember those?

The regents, this spring, approved a Love Library expansion. Chances are, you'll graduate before they finish.

If the University of Nebraska-Lincoln — or the Legislature — wants us to be a top tier research institution, then it better get its priorities straight.

You can't build a house without tools.

*Haney's*  
**VIEW**



*Letters to the*  
**EDITOR**

**Chalking the bard**

Both Benjamin Carson and Chad De Moss (Monday's DN) question the importance of coming out as a political tactic. Mr. Carson blames queer students for the homophobia they face and, in fact, for gay bashing. The argument goes that if we didn't force the issue, we'd be fine. This is a specious argument.

Mr. Carson also claims that the split between heterosexual and queer is maintained by queer students. On this issue, I suggest he return to the books. Homophobia has a long history before the Stonewall Riots and the Gay Liberation Movement. Queer bars were raided by police regularly as were queer private parties. Queer couples were, and still are, attacked on the streets, verbally assaulted, and/or spat upon. I counter Mr. Carson's argument that the dichotomy between queer and heterosexual perpetuated by queer activists. Rather, it seems to me that heterosexuality needs queerness to exist in order for heterosexuality to be "normal," and therefore heterosexuality created, and now maintains the division between, queer and heterosexual.

Mr. Carson and Mr. De Moss would rather queer students be silent about their sexuality, and in fact, seem to think that this is liberating. Certainly, this would make heterosexuals who are uncomfortable thinking about queerness and homophobes comfortable. I must question, though, how can we be silent about our sexuality? Are heterosexuals willing to be silent about theirs? This means omitting every instance of talking about wives and husbands, boyfriends and girlfriends: at work, at home, or in the classroom. Some

queer people do that, and engage in elaborate subterfuges to hide who they are from co-workers, classmates, and family. But, speaking from experience, this is a difficult and heart-rending route.

Lastly, I'll go ahead and confess: I wrote "Shakespeare was gay!" outside Andrews Hall. Mr. Carson, don't forget that, 130 of the 159 Sonnets are addressed to a man, and some of them are rather erotic. It's obvious to me that Shakespeare was not silent about the issue. Rather, he was verbose about his affection toward men. No one else in the history of English literature has written so many love poems to a member of the same sex.

**Robert W. Anderson**  
graduate student  
English

**Let it be**

Excuse me for being blunt, but I am really getting tired of the constant press on gay issues. That's not to say that I agree with the chalking; I don't. But at the same time that everyone is upset at how these students forced their hateful ideals on their fellow students, I find myself bombarded by article upon article about homosexual-related issues. Needless to say, it's getting old. Raised to be tolerant, I sympathize with the plight of this part of our culture, but I personally don't like to have anything, be it gay, religious, or even political issues forced down my throat. As far as the "equal time in the news" point may go, I have to say that I haven't seen any pure heterosexual articles in the paper lately. This is the way I feel and I don't

think I am entirely alone.

**Aaron Bartsch**  
freshman  
undeclared

**Everyday people**

It seems that there is a question about the necessity of National Coming Out Day. After all, we don't see heterosexual people marching in parades, or chalking the sidewalk in honor of "straight pride."

However, no one seems to take into account that heterosexuality is affirmed in society every day. For example, a straight couple can hold hands in public without fear of harassment or violence. They can get married without having their committed, monogamous relationships denounced as perverse. No one has to chalk the campus with phrases such as "I'm straight." Our society assumes one IS straight unless told otherwise.

To state that the campus was chalked with homophobic hate speech because gay people chalked in the first place is ridiculous. That's like saying a woman is raped because she dresses provocatively. The hate speech appeared because those of us who are gay dared to be visible and challenge the assumption that our campus is exclusively heterosexual. Such hate will never disappear if we are silent.

**Alison F. Knudsen**  
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English and women's studies  
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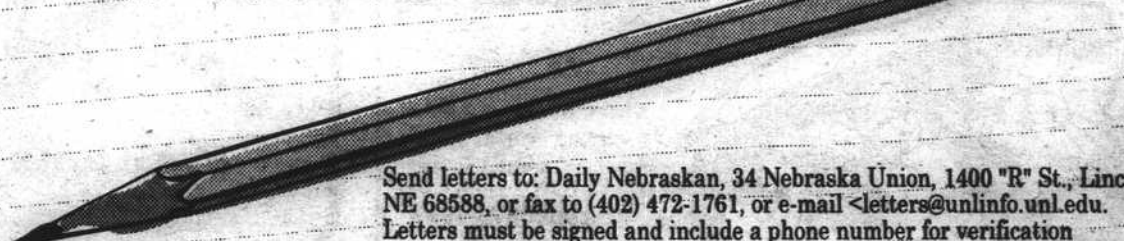
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