

OPINION PACES

Quotes of the WEEK

"This is insane! ... You are humiliating people of color!"
Lynda Todd, assistant director of the UNL Educational Talent Search, to English Professor David Hibler

"We are prisoners in our own land. And we are fighting back."
Linda Anuso, American Indian Movement member, speaking on behalf of Leonard Peltier during a protest for Peltier's release from prison in Leavenworth, Kan.

"No other (gubernatorial) candidate has the experience I do as a leader, mayor and chief executive officer."
Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns, on his candidacy for governor of Nebraska

"It is affirming diversity. It is not ethnic cheerleading."
Cornel Pewewardy, University of Kansas assistant professor, on stressing cultural awareness

"This university is establishing a pattern in saying, 'We don't care about the feelings of the minority groups.'"
Eric Crump, sophomore sociology and political science major, at the ASUN student opinion forum Monday

"I really wanted to go to UCLA, but my mom told me that there were too many earthquakes out there."
NU long jumper Chris Wright, on why he came to Nebraska

"VISION wants UNL to be a student campus, a community — a place where every student feels welcome."
Jill Maaske, first vice-presidential candidate, announcing VISION's candidacy for ASUN student government

"No matter what your interest or background, someone from COMMIT can welcome you."
Chris Linder, second vice-presidential candidate, announcing COMMIT's candidacy for ASUN student government

"I don't agree with it. It's like putting springs on the shoes of basketball players who can't jump as high."
NU Men's Golf Coach Larry Romjue, on a possible rule change that would allow some players to ride in carts during tournaments

"And as we are finding, at times we pay a painful price for freedom. Those costs have been high this past week."
Chancellor James Moeser, at a university press conference Tuesday

Haney's VIEW



DN LETTERS

You wouldn't know a controversy ...

Enough already! The uproar over David Hibler's e-mail messages has proven that this community is not only incapable of dealing with issues of race, but that it doesn't know which ones are important.

In the five years I have been in Lincoln, I have seen African-Americans detained and hassled by police for no reason other than their skin color. I have seen women and minorities harangued with racial slurs by white males (from their vehicles, of course). I have read in the newspaper of numerous male African-Americans who, unprotected by "student-athlete" status, are arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to long prison terms for crimes which we of the Caucasian majority are usually put on probation for.

I have watched the community divide over the case in which a Mexican national was identified, followed, apprehended and overpowered by numerous police officers. Despite its resulting in his "accidental" death, such force was later deemed somehow to be within the bounds of normal law enforcement procedure.

Now the community is divided again, but this time over a Caucasian university professor who, as a literary or cultural exercise, seems to have assumed the voice of an oppressed minority group in order to call attention to the plight of all minority groups. Shouldn't we be focusing our efforts elsewhere in order to make this a better community for all disadvantaged groups?

In reading Dr. Hibler's text, it seems clear that the narrative voice using the term "nigga" is not doing so in a slanderous way. Putting the narrative into electronic format and sending it out was really dumb, and Dr. Hibler is paying the price. Let's put it into perspective, and turn our attention to where our problems of

race really lie — in the community itself.

Pull your pants up, Lincoln, your underwear is showing.

D. Brian Mann
 graduate student,
 modern languages

... if it came up and bit you

It's time to wake up people. The smokers on this campus are not going to stop smoking on campus just because cigarettes are not sold here anymore. So, why should Kwik Shop and 7-11 get that money? I don't think I know anyone who would like to pay extra fees that the sales of cigarettes previously took care of. I am not a smoker, and I am aware of the damage cigarettes cause, but it is not anyone's place to tell the students on campus that they can't smoke. The smoking will continue.

Should all of the students have to pay extra fees because a few non-smokers are too worried about the smokers? Maybe those overly concerned non-smokers should pay the extra money themselves.

And to Curtis Bright — yes, the university is supposed to prepare you for a long, healthy life, but what about stress? Universities are the breeding ground for extremely stressful lives, and guess what — stress is NOT healthy. It's time to stop worrying about trivial things such as cigarette sales and worry about more important things, such as the actual EDUCATION we are receiving at this university.

Andria Skaff
 junior
 geology

The liberals strike back

In response to his editorial in the DN Feb. 11 ("More than Martin"), I'd like to point out to Josh

Moening that had it not been for liberals, Mr. Meredith never would have been allowed to enroll at the University of Mississippi and segregation would, in all likelihood, still exist in this country.

Regarding the issue of economic independence, I'd argue that true liberalism includes profound respect for human rights. It says no human being should be sacrificed for the greater good of capitalism, and regards the idea of men, women and children living in abject poverty as anathema. On the other hand, the message of many conservatives is "sink or swim, your misery is not my problem," or worse, the moralizing "sink, and let that teach your family a lesson."

I find especially cynical those conservatives like James Meredith and Clarence Thomas, who, after benefiting greatly from liberal policies, wish to deny those benefits to others.

Andrea Shahan
 University of Nebraska Press

Paying respects

In response to your editorial concerning "The name game" (DN Online, Feb. 5), as an active duty member of the U.S. armed forces, ex-varsity letter winner (swimming) and 1978 graduate of the University of Nebraska, I agree with your assessment that naming the playing field portion of Memorial Stadium "Tom Osborne Field" does not in any way lessen or detract from the honor of our nation's fallen veterans.

Thanks for taking such a stand. Tom Osborne has been a heroic example for the entire state of Nebraska and is extremely deserving of the honor.

Lt. Cmdr. Patrick Murphy
 U.S. Coast Guard officer
 and UNL alumnus
 class of 1978

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