

Blowing smoke

Proposed ban will not improve reputation



MALCOLM KASS is a senior chemical engineering major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

What ever happened to common sense? What ever happened to that little voice that used to say, "Don't use racial slurs when saying blacks should not fight in a war against Iraq?"

Everywhere you look, there are people with puzzled expressions because they don't understand why you can't use KY-Jelly on toast. Someone actually filed a lawsuit because the product's label did not specifically state that it was not fit for human consumption.

Even on campus, practicality escapes us, which is why football players, who are the fastest and most athletic students on campus, still walk to class the slowest.

Something that lately is eating at my brain concerns the administration and why they would want to make a college education more expensive and unattainable by not allowing cigarette sales on campus. A mystery, indeed.

I smoke. I couldn't even think of abandoning an addiction as American as apple pie and as delicious as a scotch and tonic. We all should smoke and let the marriage of nicotine and tar make our lungs feel like big country.

Surprisingly enough, the administration actually disagrees with this opinion and has declared that smoking is actually BAD for us. They must be European or something. The administration is laying

down the law with Chancellor James Moeser playing the part of Wyatt Earp.

Now, one would think that a man like the chancellor would come from a rough-and-tumble background of conflict-resolution and communication skills. However, Moeser assumes the gritty and in-your-face attitude that only an educational background in musicology could provide. Yes ... musicology.

The fact that our chancellor comes from the same background as AC/DC doesn't exactly put him on the same level as other great leaders in American history, such as Lincoln and FDR.

When he proposed the idea of eliminating cigarettes, he was probably wearing a tie and suit coat with shorts while playing a guitar solo and hopping on one leg, saying "I'm a fast machine, I want this campus clean, and I don't want cigarettes to be seen. ..."

The administration is using the logic that this campus has a dedication to wellness, and therefore should eliminate selling cigarettes. Why the administration would want to stop a habit that has tinted the windows in my car without my having to purchase them from a mechanic, I don't know.

If my occupation was to try to create a more prestigious university, I would certainly start with incoming freshman and present the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the best possible manner.

Knowing this, I would not think that parents of high school seniors visiting the university would be impressed to see a flock of students smoking their tobacco logs in front of the residence halls and the unions. Thus, the administration has decreed the eternal "No way, Jose" to the Marlboro Man.

My cynicism regarding the administration's action stems from the unknown reasons for this proposal. It reminds me of an incident four

years ago when a parking lot across the street from Selleck Hall was replaced by "green space."

Similar to the current situation, it was an issue of students vs. administration. Finding a student who wanted to eliminate the parking lot would have been as difficult as finding someone who admires Dr. Hibler for his level-headedness.

Graham Spanier was the chancellor back then. He held his ground, neglected the students wishes and got his green space. Then he systematically padded his resume, took a position as chancellor at Penn State and gave the academic finger to the students.

I am certainly not accusing Chancellor Moeser of any of this. Actually, I have met him two or three times and rather like the guy, but I hope the administration understands why the elder students are raising their collective eyebrow. Chancellor Moeser, please show us that you're one of the good guys.

Back to the issue — I ask the chancellor to not make higher education at this university more expensive — approximately \$31,140 more expensive — and focus on the underlying issue in all of this: increasing the academic quality of this university.

If Harvard decided to relocate to Point Barrow, Alaska, would there still be tons of applications to its law school? Damn straight — because Harvard is Harvard and it is one bitchin' school.

Trivial things such as eliminating cigarettes in the residence halls and unions will not increase the university's academic quality. It will simply inconvenience the smokers and make the non-smokers wonder why they should pay for the smokers' problem.

Besides, who wants a campus with a bunch of nic fits, anyway.

By the way, all of you who relish Valentine's Day, smokers or not, can go to hell (some things just have to be said).

Bump 'n' mind

Sex should emphasize feeling, not action



JIM VANCE is a senior physical and health education major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

I'm 21 years old, and I've never had a girlfriend.

What could I be doing wrong?

I know I'm not perfect. On a scale of cuteness, from one to 10, most girls would probably rate me a seven (give or take a point).

Now don't go thinking I'm some pathetic loser. I've had chances with women, and quite a few times I thought relationship road was just around the corner. But I always managed to screw up somehow. To this day I still don't know what I did, in most cases, that blew it all up. I do know one thing: I am in a minority when it comes to males.

No, I'm not gay (not that there's anything wrong with that!). I'm just finding I don't seek sex.

I've been with a woman before. But what was supposed to be the greatest triumph of my first 19 years on this planet became a slap in the face that I was looking at things all wrong. I laid in bed with a woman

who I had an incredibly pleasurable experience with, but for whom I felt no emotion. A girl whose last name I do not recall. A girl I did not like or care to see again.

I felt a gaping void. There was no love.

I had a gift to give. A gift that was the greatest thing I could give the woman I love, and I wasted it. I let hormones and peer pressure get the best of me.

My friends, who have all had girlfriends, are keeping documented records of who, when, how long and how good.

Me? I'm looking for the woman who makes me want to be a better man.

I'm finding it hard to have sex with a woman I do not love. I just can't handle that feeling of emptiness, knowing that this woman has taken so much from me and not given the feeling in return. And I did the same to her.

I fear that no sexual experience, no matter how pleasurable, could surpass the intensity of these feelings. Only love can.

Many people think they follow this example already by avoiding premarital sex. They're missing the big picture. Love is about feelings, not actions; it is a process, with no tangible measurements.

Marriage is an action. Sex is an action.

Both are ways of representing love. It doesn't matter which action comes first, but the feeling must

always be first. Both are nothing without love.

Look at how we stress the actions. Guys talk about the girls they've coked. Girls talk about the types of guys they want to marry. The religious sects call for marriage. Hollywood and the media sell us sex. Schools tell us how to handle sex. And families stress the vows.

Where in our world do we stress the feelings, and not the actions?

I don't know if I ever want to be married, but does that mean I never wish to feel and experience love?

Maybe in a society where we stressed concentrating on and understanding feelings, like love, we wouldn't have a 60 percent divorce rate.

Maybe there would be less unwanted pregnancies — and less than the 1.6 million abortions Planned Parenthood says we have each year.

Maybe 66 percent of all 17-year-olds wouldn't be sexually active, which Advocate Health Care claims.

Maybe you wouldn't have that burning sensation you've been having.

Maybe we wouldn't be so scared to death of AIDS.

Maybe the Violence Against Women bill wouldn't report that one in seven college women will experience date rape.

And maybe, just maybe, guys like me would find the women who make us want to be better men.

But I'm 21 years old and never had a girlfriend, so what do I know about love?

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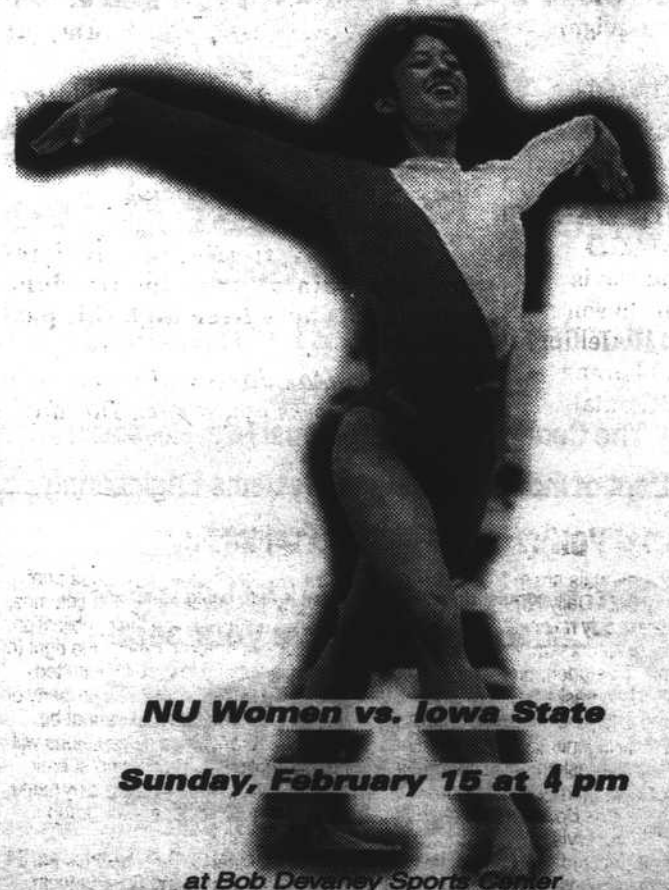
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