

# OPINION PACES

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**Our VIEW**

## Planning diversity

*Fair representation necessary for change*

Last week, UNL students, faculty members and staff told federal investigators about the racial climate on campus.

The representatives from the U.S. Office for Civil Rights ruled the university had broken no laws, for which it should be commended.

But the news wasn't all good – investigators said UNL's climate was not welcoming to minorities, and the government has charged the university with drafting a plan to improve race relations.

During the next two weeks, the affirmative action office, along with administrators, will discuss what the University of Nebraska-Lincoln can do to change its atmosphere.

For the discussions to be productive, though, UNL's student population must be fairly represented.

In the talks last week, only students invited by the affirmative action office could share their experiences with the federal investigators – and most of them were minority students.

It was appropriate for most of the comments during last week's talks to come from minorities because they have experienced the sometimes hostile climate at UNL firsthand.

But during the talks throughout the next two weeks, all students should be allowed to participate in drafting a plan to change the campus climate.

Because more than 90 percent of students on this campus are white, they too should be involved in discussions about racial climate if the ideas are to become reality.

With all the talk of "diversity" at UNL, certainly true diversity is achieved only when all people can contribute to the race-relations discussion.

The Office for Civil Rights fairly identified three areas in which UNL needs improvement: its racial harassment policy, the investigation of harassment complaints and the need for diversity training.

For the university to improve in these areas, all segments of campus must pledge to work toward a more welcoming environment.

And all segments of the campus population – including whites – must be a part of the discussion.

**Haney's VIEW**



**DN LETTERS**

**A future Nebraskan?**

My name is Jessica Gay. I go to Clarendon School. Miss Eppley is my fifth grade teacher.

I have three dogs; one of my dog's name is Oso. My mom and dad have two dogs. I live in a house. I like TV. When it's time to go home from school, I go home to see my dog Oso.

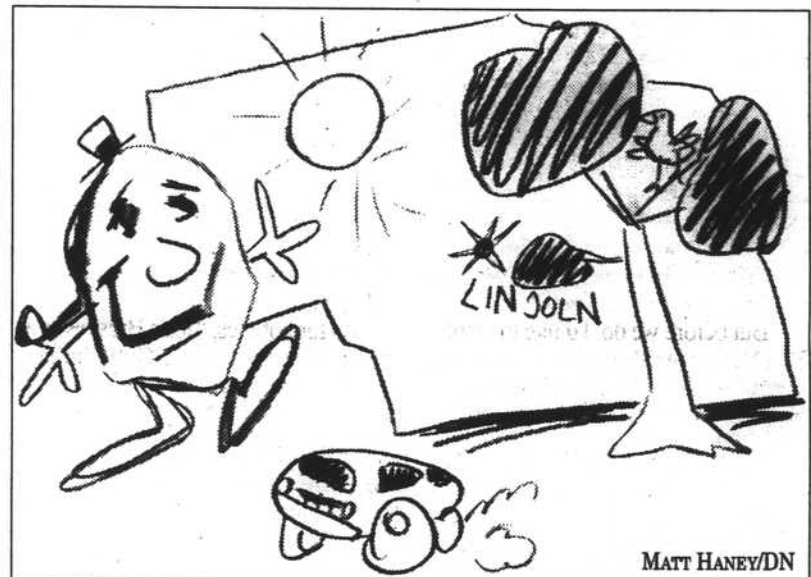
My birthday is the first of July. I live in Arizona. I'm writing a report about Nebraska.

Please print my letter in your newspaper so readers will see it and send me information.

P.S. When I'm 16, I might go to college in Nebraska.

write to:

Jessica Gay  
c/o Miss Heather Eppley  
Clarendon Elementary School  
1225 W. Clarendon Ave.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85013



MATT HANEY/DN

**A question of drinking**

I thought maybe the death of Laura Cockson at the hand of someone under the influence would change a few minds.

As I read Shawn Meysenburg's commentary about his first experience getting drunk in the April 15 edition of the Daily Nebraskan, I was given the impression that "drunkenness may be fun from time to time."

This statement not only condones the action of drinking, but the nature of the column assumes that everyone can learn from his/her first experience with alcohol.

Well I have news for your Shawn; I never had my first experience with alcohol, and I don't plan on ever having it.

I represent the silent group of students who do not drink, and it would be nice if NOT drinking was given as an option in the war against alcohol-related problems.

What is drinking responsibly? Is

it hanging a ribbon up in memory of Laura Cockson and then getting drunk?

If we are ready to combat the problems of drinking, we need to stop.

That is the only way women will not get raped under the influence of alcohol, people will not get killed in alcohol-related accidents and violence under intoxication will come to an end.

Joshua Cramer  
freshman  
sociology major

**A lot of thanks and no bull**

The second annual Burr Hall Bull Fry was not eating Bull Fries, playing volleyball or dancing to Full Choke, it was an opportunity to unite individuals from many different backgrounds and living units to help a friend in need, Adrian Regier.

We are pleased to announce, that with your help, we raised \$2,100 to present to Adrian and his family. The Regiers are an amazing family who personify courage and hope through

adversity and display humility with all the thoughts, prayers and donations that they receive.

We would like to thank everyone who attended either the dance, at the Pla-Mor Ballroom, or the Bull Fry this last weekend.

It was an event that had a substantial impact on many people and especially the Regier family. We were honored to have Nebraska Football Receivers' Coach Ron Brown attend Saturday's festivities and give inspirational insight to the Regiers and others in attendance.

We wish that we could list each person involved in the Bull Fry so they could get the recognition that they deserve, but since there are numerous people, we will extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you.

Our gratitude cannot be summed up in words alone, but we will offer a sincere thanks to everyone from Burr Hall and the Ron Regier family.

Philip Erdman  
Burr Hall president

**Editorial Policy**

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Send letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 "R" St., Lincoln, NE 68588, or fax to (402) 472-1761, or e-mail <letters@unlinfo.unl.edu>. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification