

OPINION PACKETS

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Quotes OF THE WEEK

"It was obvious I pushed a button. It took practically no effort to attract a large number of people to get organized."

Retired UNL English Professor Louis Crompton, on his presentation "Gay Literature," which prompted the Modern Language Association to form the gay and lesbian caucus of the MLA

"Don't put them in a box, or don't just find a toe. Give us everything you have."

Leonard Crow Dog, member of the Lakota Sioux, pleading for the return of his ancestors' remains

"(Huard) said, 'Stop hitting me.' He was starting to whine a little bit. But his offensive line wasn't giving him much protection, and it had to get old, time after time, having guys in his face."

NU right rush end Chad Kelsay, on UW quarterback Brock Huard's situation during the UW-NU game last weekend

"I'm trying to steer away from character assassination songs. However, I am getting sick of Howard Stern."

Folk rocker Wally Pleasant, on where he gets his song ideas

"They have no idea that they can pedal for hours without seeing anybody."

Robert Fuller, physics professor, on two Dutch students' plan to ride 187 miles between Valentine and Norfolk as part of an international exchange project

"No one working on the Kennedy assassination today can ignore what the review board did. The true debate now begins."

David Lifton, author of "Best Evidence," on the release of millions of records on the assassination of John F. Kennedy

"If we went on the sound, we'd catch them in the middle of a stem. They'd be off-balance, and we'd knock the crap out of them."

NU center Josh Heskew, on the tactic of snapping the ball on the quarterback's first sound

"I believe the 'race matters' philosophy is wrong. It is morally wrong, and it runs against the core of American culture of equality that we have embraced."

Ward Connerly, during his speech about racial preferences and the government

"There's no sense of fear, of messing up, because we all will. It actually promotes a higher level of playing and makes us better musicians."

Cory Biggerstaff, one of the Monday Night Big Band bass players, who invite audience members to participate

"Basically, I just figure if I get angry with myself, it doesn't help anything. I just let things slide and try and relax."

Freshman golfer Amanda Sutcliffe, on her thoughts about succeeding at golf

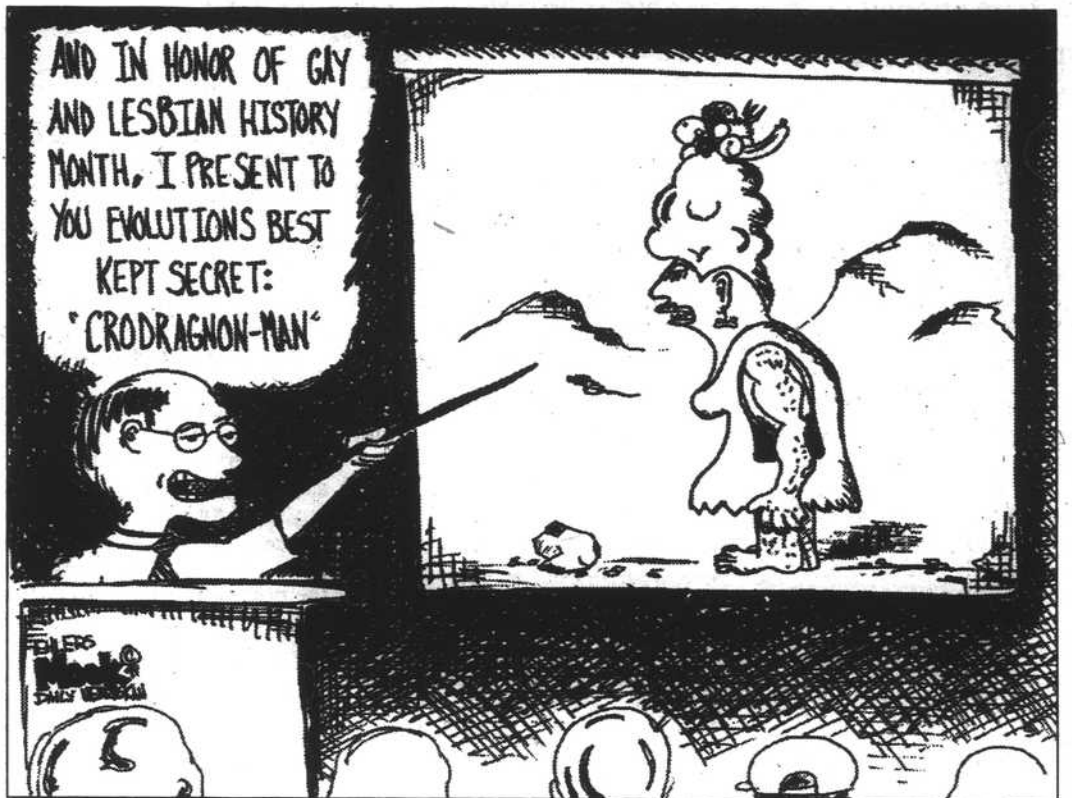
"The conversation is one that has to be had. It has to be civil and done in a way that moves people forward."

John Harris, assistant to the vice chancellor, on Ward Connerly's speaking

"All we need are toys and corn dogs and we'd be Gateway Mall."

Clay Lewis, employee of The Location, on the newly formed "punk mall"

Mook's VIEW



DN LETTERS

(Censored) censorship!

I appreciated the inclusion of two viewpoints on censorship in Thursday's edition of the Daily Nebraskan, but I found many of the points raised, especially those of Lesley Owusu, to be objectionable.

I was particularly disturbed by the statement "If people are allowed too much freedom, many people will take advantage of this right." It has been said that part of free speech is putting up with other people's right to free speech, which I completely agree with. The rights of others can't be taken away without detriment to others.

Mark Twain has written something to the effect of: An ideal society is one in which all members are guaranteed the right to free speech, but all have the prudence not use it.

Our society is not and cannot be ideal, and legally enforced censorship will not improve things.

Owusu also states in her article that she will "take an overall view on (censorship)." Her article focused only on the necessity of the censorship of sex and violence, which are only a fraction of the main debate on censorship. The serious problem with censorship, which went completely unmentioned, is the power that censors have to deprive the public of information.

In George Orwell's "1984," he portrays a society that is under heavy governmental censorship. The book has nothing to do with kids not being allowed to hear violent music lyrics or look at pornography; rather, it deals with the entire public being denied the right to know what is going on in the world or in their own community.

This same type of censorship is active in today's media. However, the censorship is not coming from the government, but from the businesses that are in control of the mass media.

In his book "The Media Monopoly," Ben Bagdikian reports that more than 80 percent of the Western news media is controlled by fewer than 10 global corporations.

Through various mergers and buy-outs, this number becomes smaller several times in a decade. Through this corporate power, anything that may not sit well with the executives will be excluded from the news, even if the issue is something that the American public should know.

For example, General Electric, one of the world's largest corporations, and also the world's leading producer of

nuclear arms, owns NBC and The Washington Post, along with about two dozen other corporate giants. If there is an impending threat to the public that is because of an error on the part of General Electric, do you think that NBC and The Washington Post are going to report heavily on why there is a possible disaster. Will they report the possible disaster at all?

This is but a small example of how censorship involves much more than keeping kids from watching "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" or listening to a 2 Live Crew album. I just want to show that there is much more to the issue than was reported.

Zachary Stork
freshman
undeclared

On equal ground

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to the letter "Equal Time?" (DN, Friday). On August 26, the first Wednesday of school, Homecoming royalty applications were made available to all students.

After placing applications at ASUN, RHA, UPC, Multicultural Affairs, Vice Chancellor James Griesen's office, the Culture Center, the Campus Recreation Center, Student Involvement, Greek Affairs and the Wick Alumni Center, I personally drove to the Athletic Department to deliver applications for each of the three tracks. These applications were to be due Sept. 9 at noon. There is no nomination committee. Each person who applies for Homecoming does so on his/her own initiative; however, a recommendation from a faculty member is part of the application requirements.

The publicity for Homecoming 1998 was more extensive than last year. In addition to the many venues one could pick up an application, fliers were given to all student assistants, and student organizations, and an advertisement ran in this paper the entire two weeks of the process.

I am sorry more athletes did not apply. My goal was to have more people apply than last year, especially in the athletic track. However, by providing so many options to pick up an application, I thought everyone who wanted an application would have had the chance to do so.

After the conclusion of the application process in early September, Homecoming Committee members

decided to expand the allotted time for applications, which will now begin in early April, 1999. It is ASUN's hope that perhaps this is a less busy time for students, and more applications will be filled out. I feel I did everything in my power to encourage a diverse group of applicants to apply. Therefore, I do not agree that our actions were negligent.

Becky Richter
senior
communications studies
Homecoming Royalty coordinator

I said what?!

I have read through the letter I submitted to the Daily Nebraskan several times, and I have yet to find where I made any sort of reference to skin color. However, (Wednesday) when I read the paper, I came across a cartoon (Mook's View) depicting an individual in a hooded robe saying "Down South, we generally still dress for comfort."

I hope that no one on campus questions why racial tension arises at UNL. Publishing that picture in the paper was using about as much common sense and racial sensitivity as burning a cross in a fraternity lawn or using the word "nigga" in an e-mail distributed to a large number of students.

I have never claimed to be entirely politically correct. However, I am intelligent enough to know that not too many positive things can come from an individual in a Klan robe. I did not write this letter because I have a problem handling criticism or satire.

I would have found it humorous if "Mook" had stereotyped me as a tobacco spitting, backwoods, incestuous redneck, but don't portray me as a racist.

I am the chairman of the HSSRA Health Education Committee. The responsibilities of the HEC committee entail racial/sexual awareness. For some reason, I don't think it is a great idea to depict the chairman of the student organization in HSSRA promoting racism.

I would like to ask "Mook" to think a little more before he draws any more cartoons for the Daily Nebraskan. A bottle of Southern Comfort wearing a dunce hat might have been funny, but a Klan robe usually doesn't make many people smile.

Tim Mahaffey
senior
psychology

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