

OPINION PAGES

Quotes OF THE WEEK

"Freedom is not yet free."

Rudy Smith, photography assignment editor for the Omaha World-Herald, on the continuing struggle for liberty in the United States

"I was not sure he was truthful. I thought he may be having trouble with his medication."

Karen Brown, former Lincoln Regional Center teacher, on Tony Galligo's confession to murdering Michael Schmader and why she did not report it

"The only two people who know the truth or any part of the truth of what happened in that tunnel is you and Mr. Galligo."

Kirk Naylor, Galligo's attorney, addressing Timothy Hopkins regarding Schmader's murder

"Well, we sure made it interesting, didn't we?"

NU gymnastics coach Dan Kendig, on his team's win at the Masters Classic on Monday

"It's going to be a challenge for them to rally their supporters again."

Marlene Beyke, ASUN director of development, on the runoff in the ASUN election next week

"This isn't the type of place where a guy has to walk in with \$20,000 in his pocket."

Mark Simpkins, co-owner of Guitarded, on the store's cozy feel

"I think you have to make the whole city 2 a.m. or none of the city."

Committee Chairman Sen. Stan Schellpeper of Stanton, on the proposed bill that would extend the closing time for Lincoln bars to 2 a.m.

"I'm still reacting. I can't tell you when I will stop reacting to this. I was born into this world under him."

Rakan Khirfan, an undeclared UNL sophomore, on the death of King Hussein of Jordan

"There's no way in hell Best Buy will buy back used CDs."

Travis Mills, manager of Disc Go Round, on used CD stores and their advantage over corporate chains

"When you get a couple of wannabe gangsters together with a gun, you get a wannabe homicide."

Tom Casady, Lincoln police chief, on the Pickinpaugh murder case

"I think he's sorry he got caught."

Monica Lewinsky, former White House intern, on the validity of President Clinton's apology

"I owe it to Him upstairs."

Andy Markowski, NU senior forward, on his participation in the Huskers' victory over Texas A&M

Lupo's VIEW



DN LETTERS

One side

As I looked at the Daily Nebraskan over the past few days, I couldn't believe what I saw and read, and I have never felt humiliated, angry and ... sad at the same time.

Since when did we, the Vietnamese students, become the perpetrators of the fraternity guys who were "just looking for some fun" by throwing at least five snowballs at an innocent Vietnamese guy? I thought at the open forum that we held on Monday night, with the only purpose of understanding and bridging the gap between the cultures, we could have a chance to discuss and share our beliefs about what happened, so maybe we could avoid the same situation happening in the future. I guess I was wrong.

At the forum discussion, if you listened to Duc Tran talk about how his family, like many other Vietnamese families, was trying to escape the oppression of communism in Vietnam to seek freedom in a new country, in hoping for a "better life," maybe you'll understand that we're not trying to seek unnecessary troubles or attention, or making a big deal out of nothing because we don't have anything better to do. *We have had enough.*

I've been here for seven years, and I've tried to avoid as many interracial conflicts as possible. And the recent incident when Tran finally spoke up, I thought here's our chance to be heard at last about the ignorance in the acts with "racial motivation," and the unfairness to minorities here. But the truth was greatly distorted in the three pieces (DN, 3/1 and 3/2): "Fraternity cited for snowballing" (a news story) written by Brad Davis; "The snowball effect: University proves itself scared of the 'racist' cry" (a column) by Sarah Baker; and Lupo's View (an editorial cartoon by Joseph Lupo). These make me feel like our efforts were in vain.

The voice that we raised failed straight through a chasm of ignorance that nobody heard, and it's only us who listened to our own voices. It's emotionally exhausting.

Let's take a look again at the article by Davis. He wrote: "One snowball hit Tran in the leg. ... Tran said he thought the snowballing was racially motivated."

To Brad Davis: Will you please get the facts straight and maybe more clearly before you put them down on paper to inform everyone about this incident. It was more than "just a snowball," it was five snowballs repeatedly targeting Tran. Also, after Tran came out again with a group of Vietnamese guys, they were pelted with more snowballs before they could actually talk to the fraternity guys.

To Joseph Lupo: I'm so disgusted with your twisted and mocking sense of humor toward us while we were just trying to raise our opinions. I don't think (your editorial cartoon was) funny at all, and I'm ashamed for what a "college-level mind" could deal with in such an important matter of diversity; and yet, you treated it like a joke.

To Sarah Baker: If you wanted to know more about the whole story before you wrote your column, you could have contacted Duc Tran or any members in the VSA and ASA group to find out more about the story, because it was not just "a snowball" like you repeatedly said.

Maybe it's not a big deal to you because you were never treated with such "ignorance" before. Quoted from your column: "The Vietnamese student is getting a lot of pity and a lot of support from the sympathetic majority."

Is "pity" what you think we've been looking for by raising our opinions in what we believe in? I can tell you that we're not a charity case! I'm writing this not to claim we're the victims, or pinpoint anyone here, but I just hope that this "snowball" will wake everyone up about racism and diversity.

educated.

To the members of Phi Gamma Delta: You were having a little fun that got out of hand. No problem. But when someone approaches you, don't run and hide. Deal with it.

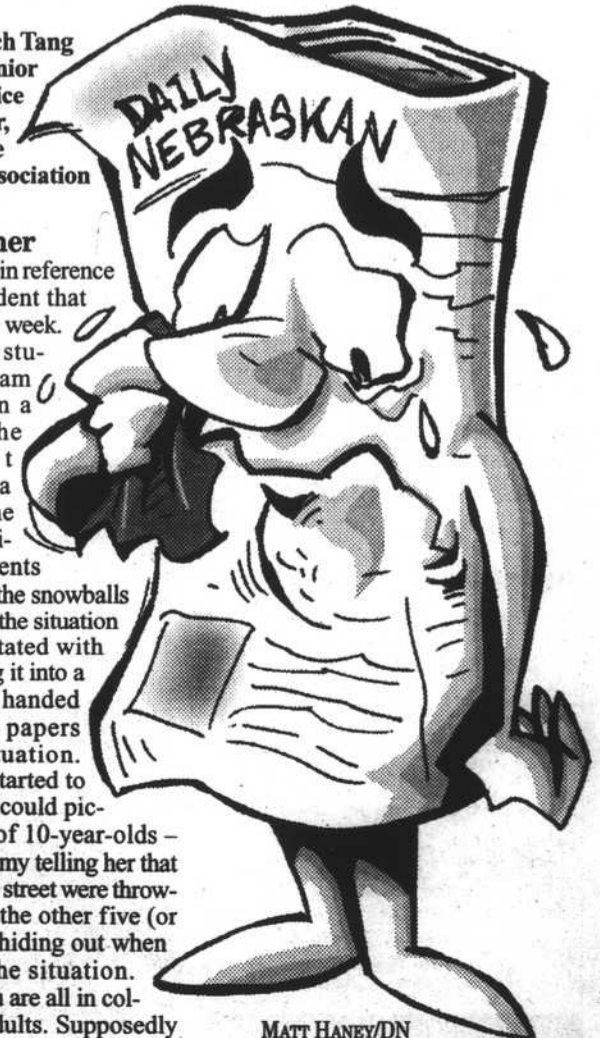
Duc Tran: I am not naive enough to think that there aren't racial conflicts, but realistically, flying snowballs are going to be the least of your problems. Why didn't you just walk to wherever you were going? The issue should have been that the fraternity fellas engaged in an activity that may have been dangerous to anyone. Not because you are Asian, black, Hispanic, disabled, female, blind, deaf, mentally incapacitated, vertically challenged, weight-sensitive or more mature in years. We all have a reason to complain at one time or another. Cross burnings, racial slurs aimed directly at someone, not being hired because of race or gender, etc., etc. *Snowballs aren't one of them!* There is an old saying that I shall paraphrase - "to win a war you must pick your battles."

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junior
finance

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junior
criminal justice
Treasurer,
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And another

I am writing this in reference to the "racist" incident that occurred earlier this week. I am an American student born in Vietnam who was raised in a small town in the Midwest (Columbus). I am a bit irritated with the whole situation - irritated with the students who were throwing the snowballs for not dealing with the situation right away and irritated with Duc Tran for turning it into a racial event. I was handed one of Duc Tran's papers explaining the situation. After reading it, I started to laugh because all I could picture were a bunch of 10-year-olds - one running to mommy telling her that the bullies across the street were throwing snowballs, and the other five (or was it only three?) hiding out when confronted with the situation. Come on, fellas, you are all in college now! Young adults. Supposedly



MATT HANEY/DN

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