

OPINION PAGES

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Our VIEW

Less than convenient

Bookstore must offer better organization

As part of its renovations to the 14-year-old design of the University Bookstore, the Follett Company promised convenience, service and ease of shopping.

We're still waiting.

This fall's changes to the bookstore may be welcome and even overdue, but they have yet to improve the store.

On any given day, students may experience a 20-minute wait to purchase a small item.

If the store is at all crowded, register lines extend toward the opposite register, breeding confusion, not convenience.

When these lines are full, the bookstore entrance is blocked, forcing students to either run the register gamut or wind their way through the less-than-convenient convenience store.

The NU Market is a prime example of the problems inherent in the bookstore.

Half of the people in line at the NU Market register are there to buy notebooks and pens from the supply area, which only clogs the two poorly manned registers there.

But finding your way back to a proper register requires a global positioning satellite system and only means more lines.

When NU Market opened, it was billed as the cure-all to late-night student woes, with hours that extended to 11 p.m. every day of the week.

Viann Schroeder, then acting manager of the University Bookstore, said last spring that these late hours were designed for students studying late and those with night classes.

This year both the Market and the bookstore have cut back on hours.

Last year's normal bookstore closing time of 6 p.m. has crept down to 5:30 p.m., and NU Market's heralded 11 p.m. closing has dropped to 8 p.m. Don't even bother trying to shop on Sundays. They're not there at all then.

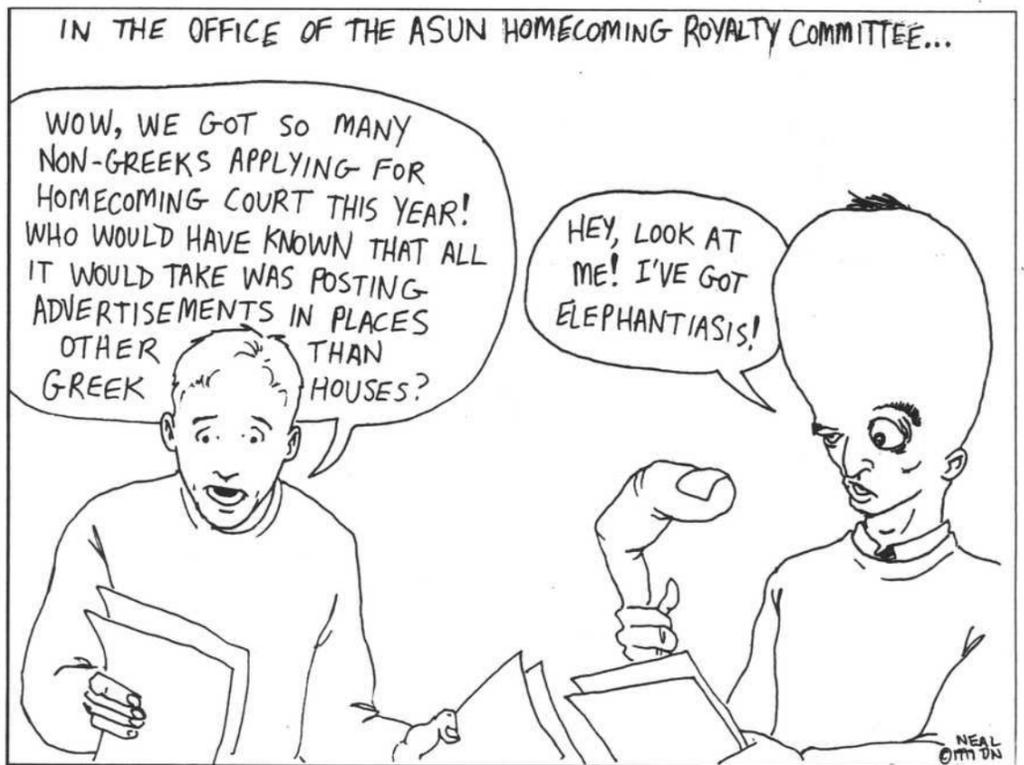
They cannot even stick to these shortened hours.

On occasion this semester, we have been at the NU Market well within their posted hours only to find a locked door and a clerk inside feigning innocence.

But if you are fortunate enough to make it inside the store, it doesn't get much better.

The bookstore's idea of a convenient shopping center is warped at best. Follett should work to live up to its contract with the university and strive to meet the needs of the students it serves.

Obermeyer's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Flanagain

Perhaps Ms. Flanagain (DN, Thursday) is making an annual event out of bashing the women's studies department, as her column seems to be a sad regurgitation of last year's puerile diatribe.

I won't attack this columnist's personal character because I don't know her, nor do I care to. However, I find it highly irresponsible of her to "warn" us, the student body, about a very valuable department on this campus.

The fact is that lesbians are women, so some of the material covered in women's studies will be lesbian-related. Other subcultures studied include African Americans, Chicanas, Native Americans, women writers, women activists and the list goes on.

But for some reason, Ms. Flanagain chooses to focus on lesbians, and you have to wonder why. I wouldn't go so far as to say that she is the spawn of the devil, but she clearly has a rabid streak of homophobia flowing through her conservative Christian veins.

And that's what this is really about. It isn't about the women's studies curriculum, and it isn't about righteous feminists or maniacal lesbians secretly infiltrating the university to convert each and every woman to the "other" side.

It's about Ms. Flanagain's narrow-minded attitudes, her discomfort and condescension toward diversity and a seemingly endless personal grudge match with the women's studies department.

She's entitled to her opinions, but is it really necessary to beat us over the head with them? I suppose the good news is that she's a senior, and next year, she won't be here to "shed light" ... err, darkness, on the women's studies program.

Roxane Gay
graduate student
English

Flanagain Again

Ms. Flanagain's column reveals far more about her own insecurities

than it does about the women's studies program.

This is particularly true in regard to her indignation that her previous column, and the rebuttals of students and faculty in the program, appear on the women's studies Web page.

Why shouldn't they be there?

The Web page material is more than fair, and it gives Ms. Flanagain's words a second chance to be heard.

But since her words are held up alongside those of others in the program, their factual inaccuracies, ludicrous homophobic misinformation and simpering self-pity don't seem quite so credible.

I'm quite bewildered about Ms. Flanagain's insistence that the program is all about "the study of lesbians." What is the criteria for this assertion?

One of the professors she criticizes demonstrated conclusively that the books by lesbian writers in the very course Ms. Flanagain took were the undeniable minority, hardly justification for the absurd claims Ms. Flanagain makes.

But it seems that any contrary opinion to those of Ms. Flanagain is an automatic attack on her, and that she is free to be as nasty as she desires, since she's right and everybody else is wrong.

She claims that women's studies faculty and students "hailed (her) as the spawn of evil."

Those are her words, not theirs.

If anything, while holding her accountable for the misinformation of her columns, the faculty and students demonstrated surprising consideration in their responses—a courtesy not reciprocated by Ms. Flanagain.

I'm not in women's studies, but I'm a non-Christian, liberal, gay Cherokee in English, so I guess I'd be right up there with the rest of those who are infecting the world with the evil blights of equality, respect, social conscience and responsibility.

A final piece of advice:

To paraphrase my favorite contemporary philosopher, Dolly Parton, I give you this, generously and with love: Get off the cross, Jessica —

somebody needs the wood.

Daniel Justice
graduate student
English

And Again

To all lesbians:

What the hell are you thinking? Has the thought ever crossed your mind that if it were not for heterosexuals (read: normal people) that you would not be alive?

Procreation is not just a good idea, it's necessary for the survival of our species.

Now don't give me this crap about how your condition comes from genetics ... how is this going to happen?

Did your two lesbian mothers pass this gene on to you?

It should be evident to everyone that homosexuality is completely ludicrous.

Likewise, to do any in-depth study of the subject is a waste of time. This is why I would urge all members of the women's studies program to consider a real major. I'd hate to see you end up saying "would you like fries with that?" for the rest of your life.

I thank Jessica Flanagain for her insightful article, along with the Web link to the joke of the day page. Oops, I guess that was a link to the women's studies program.

Harold Williams
junior
engineering

And Yet Again

The vicious attacks by women's studies on Jessica Flanagain come as no surprise to the College Republicans, who last year had the campus police sicked on us by the director of women's studies for posting an announcement she didn't approve of.

Clearly, no dissent will be tolerated by UNL's Stalinist Sisterhood.

Congratulations to Ms. Flanagain for her courage in speaking out.

Gerard Harbison
faculty advisor
College Republicans

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