

OPINION PAGES

Our VIEW

AIDS in Africa

Deaths won't stop without education

Africa, we need to talk. You have a problem, and your silence will be your own downfall. Denial is only going to make things worse, believe us.

You've got an AIDS problem. A bad one. Looking the other way isn't going to make things any easier on you. In fact, the problem will only get worse. It won't just suddenly go away.

Over the last 15 years, you've lost nearly 11 million people to AIDS. In some of your countries, as many as one in four people are infected. You, as a continent, are racking up four-fifths of our world's AIDS deaths.

It's time to admit you have a problem. Benny Mwiinga, housing minister of Zambia, died a few weeks ago, and though it was widely speculated that he died of an AIDS-related illness, mum's the word. Official denial has been the overriding response to AIDS on your continent.

AIDS is a disease that thrives on carelessness. We here in the United States know that AIDS can be spread through unprotected sex and shared drug needles. We've been inundated with it for years now. Avoiding AIDS is relatively simple, once you know how.

But your people don't know how, Africa. They don't even really know AIDS exists.

People are dying in droves, and they don't know why. They don't know that they can help themselves stay alive. You need to educate them to the risks and to practices that can stem the fatal tide. You need to own up to your problem and help your people.

Maybe you need someone else to help — an intervention of sorts.

We think it might be a good idea if you talked to the World Health Organization for help. If you won't go to them to ask for help, maybe they should come to you.

Every minute you hesitate is another minute for the disease to spread, not only within your own continent, but abroad.

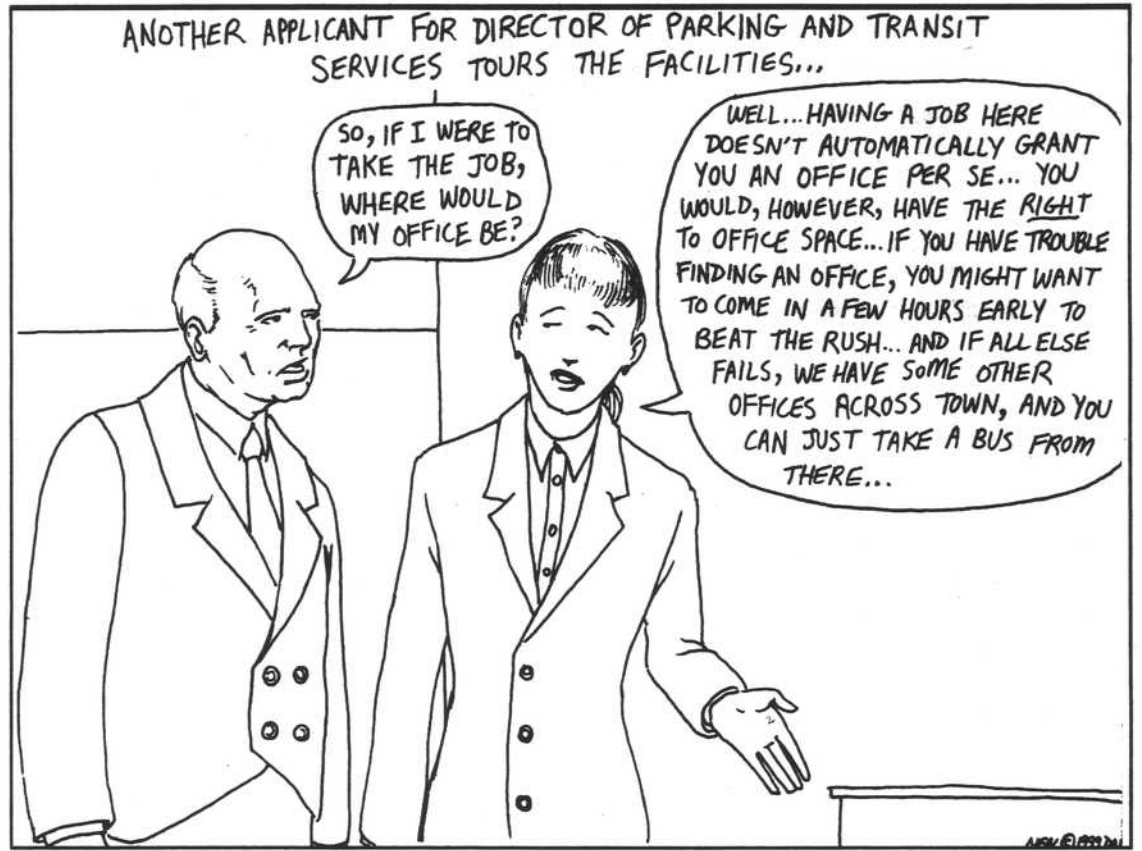
Every day you wait is another day hundreds of people die of AIDS-related illnesses. Every year is another year of death.

Come clean, Africa. Don't ignore your problem. Fight it.

It won't go away. Ever.

“Over the last 15 years, you've lost nearly 11 million people to AIDS. In some of your countries, as many as one in four people are infected. You, as a continent, are racking up four-fifths of our world's AIDS deaths.”

Obermeyer's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Ya' Want Fries Wit' That?

Uniforms in schools are not this stifling evil as portrayed in the closed-minded column "Fashion Victim" by Kasey Kerber (Thursday.)

In fact, having gone to both public and private schools, I experienced both sides of the issue, and I'd rather have a starched white shirt and plaid skirt nine months out of the year than any fashion "creativity" that might be smothered.

There are benefits to wearing a uniform in school. The statement that clothing "says a whole lot about your personality" is so hollow. I mean, c'mon, when you see someone looking like they walked right out of a Gap commercial, who says "now they've got a nice personality"?

Clothing says more about your economic status than anything! People dressed in Abercrombie can be dry as burnt toast, but hell, they look good, right? The people in thrift store hand-me-downs may not look so glamorous, but they could have the minds of poets and leaders.

Or vice versa. Uniforms teach respect for one's self through discipline and neatness. It's training for the real world, because even the people at McDonald's wear uniforms.

It creates a sense of unity, because it's an outward sign that you are a part of something bigger, whether it's a school, club, work place or faith.

Uniforms have the power to put all kinds of people from different backgrounds on an equal level so they can look each other in the eye and say, "So what are you really like?"

Uniforms can break down barriers, not create ones, especially for creativity. There are better ways for people to express themselves, like art, politics, sports and just conversation.

That's the First Amendment: freedom to speak your mind, not wear labels. Try opening your mouth once in a while instead of letting the clothes do the talking for you.

Melanie Mensch
sophomore
news-editorial

No Thanks Necessary

In his Friday column on abortion, Mr. Baldrige tells us that a fetus is cognitively no closer to us than a jackrabbit. We all need to thank Mr. Baldrige for giving us another example of medieval quackery.

This is yet another example of the fallacy that "ontology recapitulates philogeny."

Simply put, this idea holds that what something looks like in development is what, in fact, it is.

This kind of backward drivel should be recognized for what it is. The first step in subjugating any part of the human race is to deny its humanity.

That is what enemies have done to each other from time immemorial and what slave-holding societies have done to their "property" as well.

We must admit to the humanity of the voiceless fetus before we can begin to come to any understanding in this situation.

Mark Buhrdorf
senior
classics

Defending Delta Tau Delta

Once again, in your attempt to distort the image of NU's greek system, you have failed to mention a few things about the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity (Wednesday.)

The fund-raiser they sponsored on Sept. 8 raised more than \$3,300 for Clinton Elementary, but that didn't

make the front page or any page at all.

You have also neglected to inform the campus about the hundreds of hours these men have volunteered in the community and the thousands of dollars they have donated to charity within the past year.

In fact, they have been the recipients of the C. B. Schultz Award for Outstanding Community Service for the past two years.

I would like to commend these fine men for their attempts to address all risks associated with a social function of this nature: They provided transportation for their members and guests who might be drinking. It wasn't held on campus but on private property with the permission of the owner.

I am very disturbed that the disposal of beer is such a big dilemma for the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department. I feel very unsafe knowing that this is their main focus rather than the recent murders, thefts and many other problems the city of Lincoln faces.

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SHAWN BALLARIN/DN

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