

OPINION PAGES

Our VIEW

School shortage

Overcrowding signals bond passage need

Today the city of Lincoln will find out exactly how dedicated its residents are to its high schools and children.

Residents will vote whether to approve a \$100 million bond, which will be used to pay for two new schools.

A group called Yes! On Schools is the main group supporting the measure. But no official opposition has been organized.

Despite this, it probably won't be a breeze to pass the school bond. Last year, more than half of school bonds failed in Nebraska.

The main concern: cost.

The \$100 million bond will pay for two schools. Each school will cost about \$50 million.

To cover the bond, taxpayers will pay 8.33 cents per \$100 of their property values. For example, a \$100,000 home would cost owners about \$83 in additional property taxes at tax time.

To Lincolniters complaining about this cost: Come on. Even we as college students could afford that.

If you're really worried about it, hold off on buying that new pair of shoes this week.

Good. Now you have the money to help your children or your neighbors' children go to better schools. It's a small cost for what you'll get in return.

Smaller classes and schools mean more one-on-one interaction with teachers and more opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities.

The new schools are needed in Lincoln. The city limits are bursting at the seams.

And because of this, Lincoln's schools are bursting at their seams. They aren't past capacity yet, but they're close.

And Lincoln's growth isn't going to slow down any time soon.

In-town traffic congestion could be eased by schools placed away from city central.

And overcrowding of schools is of primary concern.

Currently Lincoln High and Southeast High schools hold more than 2,100 students each. Northeast High holds 2,062, and East holds 1,544.

Lincoln's goal is to keep all schools at 1,500 or lower.

The schools have to be built.

Taxpayers can't escape that. If overcrowding and safety issues aren't enough to persuade them, maybe the cost of yet another campaign and election next year will.

Today's special election is costing taxpayers \$80,000.

Build the schools now. The sooner the better.

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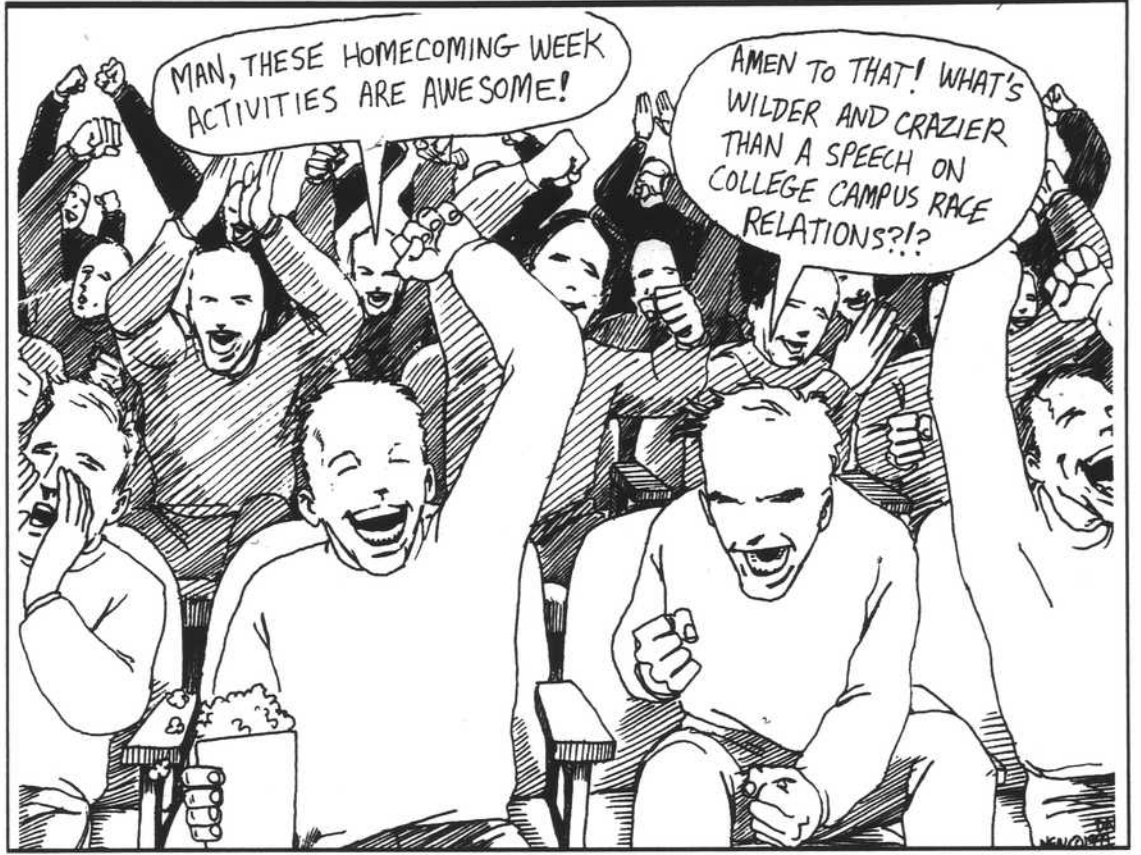
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Obermeyer's VIEW



DN LETTERS

In Black and White

I wanted to write and say the article about minority enrollment (DN, Thursday) is right on target. As a transfer student here, I can see why the numbers are so low.

There is definitely a climate here of discrimination. I can not tell you how many times I have passed someone and said hello only to be completely ignored.

People seem to think that all minorities got here by affirmative action. This is not always the case. I took honors classes in high school. In most cases, I was the only black in the class.

I am not afraid to go head-to-head with anyone on an academic level.

I came to this university because I wanted to be a Husker, but now I am not so sure. I am already asking if I want to spend four years here.

Having grown up in the South, I can tell you that many of the students here act worse than people in the South. On the whole, the South is not that bad.

In the transfer literature I received, one of the students talked of how much more friendly Nebraska was when compared with Iowa. Having lived and worked three years in Iowa, I find those statements hard to believe. I never felt any hint of racism there.

Then I thought that maybe this student was referring to the friendliness of Nebraska if you were white.

I do not know if I want to invest \$45,000 for the return on the investment. College does not have to be this way.

Ren Townsend
freshman
exercise science/
pre-athletic training

Scout on Over

Hey Brian O'Grady, (DN Letters, Thursday) If you don't like the way we bikers are "scooting along at .05 miles an hour" then pull your fat atrophied body out of your gas-powered baby carriage and talk to City Hall about it.

In case you've been too wrapped up in making sure your box of dough-

nuts doesn't fall off the dashboard, let me remind you that there is a little area called downtown where it is illegal to ride bicycles on the sidewalk.

Two weeks ago, I had a friend land on his face on the pavement after being hit by a car that ran a red light. Do you think most of us are riding on the street voluntarily when we are regularly reminded of the consequences in this manner?

If bikers are going to be forced to ride in the street, the least we can do is designate a bike lane for them.

Carl McCabe
senior
anthropology

Another Angry Bicyclist

This is in response to Brian O'Grady's comment on bicyclists (DN Letters, Thursday).

As a bicyclist, I hate riding in the street. Do you actually think I enjoy risking my life every day to get to class?

No I don't, but it is against the law for me to ride on the sidewalks in downtown Lincoln.

So just get used to it, and don't talk about lack of consideration.

You seem to be the only person who doesn't have any consideration!

Karey Erickson
senior
business administration

Harlots Dance Team

I was disappointed to notice at Saturday's football game that while the cheerleaders had the sense to put on more clothes in response to the cooler temperatures, the Scarlets dance team seemed to have lost some of theirs.

As a woman attending this university, I am offended by the fact that I am being represented in part by a group of young women sporting nothing more than bras with sleeves.

When I attend a sporting event, I want to enjoy the game itself, not become disgusted by the further objectification of women.

The members of the dance team are obviously talented dancers, and I

encourage their continued support and school spirit. But they do not need to strip down and sexualize yet another aspect of our culture.

Karen M. Benes
senior
secondary education/English

A Load of Crap

New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's main goal in his campaign against the Brooklyn Museum of Art's exhibition of British art, "Sensation," is to wage a war in which he puts Hillary Clinton in the position of having to defend art work she hasn't seen and probably won't ever see.

Don't believe Giuliani is the least bit concerned with Catholic sensibilities or public morality. If so, he would not have shown up last year at an awards banquet in drag as Marilyn Monroe! (I'm sure he offended someone with this activity - but not me.)

The really disturbing thing about all this is the frightening similarity to the Mapplethorpe dispute of the late 1980s. Artists didn't get on the Internet then, and the conservatives did.

We must speak up for the rights of all voices to be heard - whether we like or dislike what they say, do or make.

We must also speak out against those politicians who so abuse their power as to pit one group against another.

If you wish to voice your thoughts to Giuliani, he may be contacted via the Internet at:

giuliani@www.ci.nyc.ny.us
For myself, it is time to go into the studio and continue working on my newest sculpture.

It involves a non-virgin male giving birth to the first honest politician (female) and is made of pig feces, hog intestines, stale baptismal water from any church, used condoms, recycled Daily Nebraskans ...

Mo Neal
assistant professor, department
of art and art history
NEA in 1994 for non-urine
sculpture

P.S. Write Back

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