

# OPINION PAGES

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## Quotes OF THE WEEK

The last time I heard, abortion was legal.  
*English professor James McShane, in a letter addressing the fetal tissue research controversy*

I finally got them. I can die now.  
*Husker Mike Brown, on beating Texas*

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is going to be fascinating.  
*William Grange, associate professor of theater*

These matters should be discussed without reprisal threats.  
*State Sen. Don Pederson, supporting Gov. Johanns' promise not to cut funds to the University over the fetal-tissue research controversy*

People ask us about our budget, and we say pizza, beer, smokes and pie.  
*Steve Jackman, independent filmmaker*

We just have to find a way to get better.  
*NU Basketball Coach Danny Nee*

Working in space is a very harsh environment.  
*Physics professor Ed Schmidt, on the loss of NASA's Mars Polar Lander*

I'm crazy, I'm crazy.  
*Overheard statement of a 13-year-old-boy accused of shooting four people*

When society tells kids don't have sex, don't drink, don't use drugs, it's just creating forbidden fruit. Society needs to re-examine its way of dealing with kids.  
*Ben Smilowitz, a University of Connecticut freshman*

Nebraskans overwhelmingly support the death penalty, as do I.  
*Gov. Mike Johanns*

Some people call it lack of experience, but we feel that will be an asset.  
*ASUN presidential hopeful John D. Conley, Impact party*

Call me a moderate liberal, but I want to turn ASUN upside down.  
*ASUN presidential hopeful Heath Mello, Empower party*

No offense to Creighton, but some of our guys have never heard of it.  
*Cary Cochran, NU guard*

It's our job to provide music that doesn't offend anyone.  
*Rickio Woods, creative director of audio architecture at Muzak, on why it doesn't play "Silent Night"*

**AND IN TODAY'S ISSUE:**  
They definitely should not use corn. Whenever out-of-state people think of Nebraska, they think of corn. When the pioneers settled this area, there was no corn here. We need to break that stigma.  
*Andrew Hammond, on brainstorming for the design of Nebraska's entry into the commemorative quarter realm*

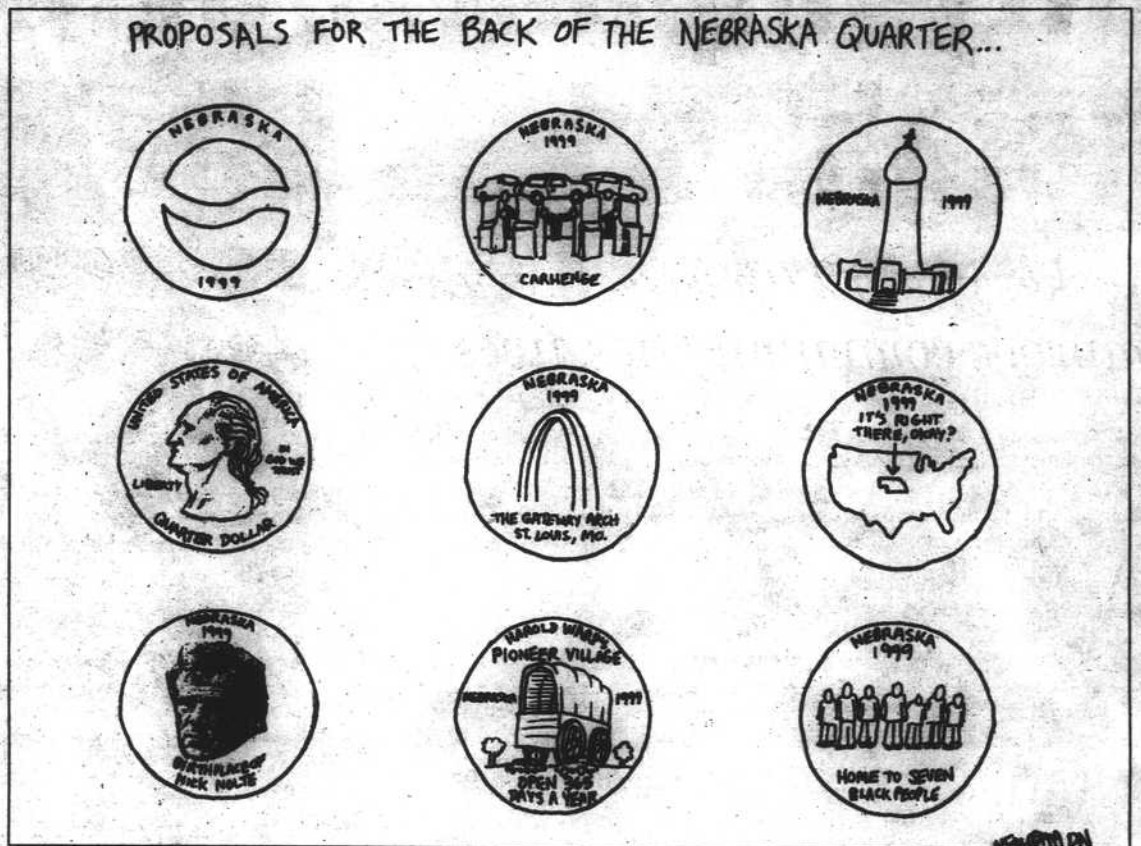
### Editorial Policy

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### Letter Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor and guest columns, but does not guarantee their publication. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Submitted material becomes property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Those who submit letters must identify themselves by name, year in school, major and/or group affiliation, if any. Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. Lincoln, NE. 68588-0448. E-mail: letters@unl.edu.

## Obermeyer's VIEW



## DN LETTERS

### Homophobia

I am writing in response to Josh Moenning's column (DN, Thursday) concerning a so-called media double standard in regard to reporting of homosexual crimes.

I must say that I'm sick and tired of DN columnists cloaking their various prejudices (particularly their homophobia) under the aegis of "fairness."

In this case, Moenning recounts a recent crime in which two gay men were charged with the murder of a boy. Moenning claims that "the liberal mainstream news media had no use for this story" because it "would be detrimental to a new media that strives to mainstream and legitimize homosexual behavior" and "the mere casting of any members of the homosexual community in a negative light is disallowed in the mainstream press corps."

Which country's, and for that matter which planet's, news media has Moenning been watching? First, for decades, the news media has vilified gays and lesbians often and without conscience and headlined crimes perpetrated by "homosexuals."

Second, this negative reporting was, and is, complemented by the media's disregard for issues pertinent to the lives of American gays and lesbians.

Third, Moenning's ploy to use the Matthew Shepard case as his sole evidence for his thesis is despicable. As any thinking person knows, this case was an aberration in terms of the national attention it garnered.

Gay bashing is a national epidemic, and that is not reported. There have been so many cases of brutality perpetrated against gays and lesbians (equal to and beyond that of the Dirkhising case) that have not been reported by Moenning's so-called "liberal news media."

That, Mr. Moenning is the REAL double-standard. Why don't you make your homophobic assertions outright and not hide behind a poorly thought-out and researched column? And, by the way, how did you hear about the story?

Robert Aguirre  
graduate student  
English

### Homophilia

The headline "Award created for GLBT Community" (DN Wednesday) and Thursday's editorial

cartoon ("We're not gay!") make clarification necessary.

Any faculty, staff or student who has contributed to creating a more respectful, safe and inclusive climate at UNL, regardless of sexual orientation, is eligible for nomination and selection to receive this award.

The award was not created for the GLBT community or for GLBT members of the UNL community. The award was created to recognize the courage, dedication and conviction it takes to work toward the development of a welcoming and inclusive community for everyone, including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people.

Nomination or receiving the award should not be construed as an indicator of a person's sexual orientation. Unfortunately, many people who are supportive of GLBT rights and who work toward the development of a respectful and equitable environment are presumed to be non-heterosexuals.

But heterosexual allies are vital and appreciated members of the UNL community and society in general.

No one deserves to be treated as a stereotype for supporting a respectful, safe, fair and inclusive community.

Pat Tetreault, Ph.D.  
Sexuality Education Program  
Coordinator  
University Health Center  
Community  
Health Education Department

### Sis Boom Bah

I wish to extend congratulations to Matthew Hansen for his editorial on the century's great sports moments. It is the best insight I've yet seen into the idea of sport and of what "epiphany" means in our individual lives.

The intelligence of this essay extends beyond its "insight," presenting a quiet and eloquent "voice" of its own making.

Michael Knisely  
continuing studies

### MUZAK Attack

I think we all have to get our priorities straight. Why should we care, on top of everything else there is to worry about during the holiday season, what music is being played in a DEPARTMENT STORE??  
Last time I checked, I went there

to shop, not to sit around and enjoy the ambiance. Chances are, you are so busy at one of those stores (and there is so much background noise, anyway) that you won't notice the music unless you're out looking for conflict.

If you really want religious holiday music, go home, sit on your couch, get a glass of eggnog and throw on a CD. Why make life so much more complicated than it is already?

Amy Jirsa  
1999 graduate of UNL  
Ross Film Theater employee

### Normal Guy

I am not happy with the Daily Nebraskan dropping The Norm. Why would you cut such an interesting, thought-provoking strip?

Although I do not agree with Mr. Trofholz's (DN, Letters, Thursday) scathing response to The Norm's replacement, Planarian Man, I fully back his proposition to "bring back The Norm."

Those students, staff and faculty who miss The Norm, or would just like to correct a wrong, need to contact the DN and demand it return The Norm. For those who would like to catch up with The Norm, all strips are available on the Web at [www.thenorm.com](http://www.thenorm.com).

Jon M. Bellum  
graduate student  
educational administration

Editor's Note: For those who would like to catch up on Planarian Man, all strips (from this story arc) are available on the Web at [planarian.tripod.com](http://planarian.tripod.com).

The Norm returns Dec. 14.

### Abnormal Guy

I believe I speak for 99 percent of this campus when I say Planarian Man couldn't suck more if he was genetically spliced with the Backstreet Boys.

Also, please do not bring back The Norm. I would rather read a comic that has Ziggy talking about different types of protein diets every day than read The Norm.

Bring back The Far Side....

Chris Imm  
senior  
computer science