

## Guilty until proven innocent

Committee has little basis  
for decision to fire Reinhard

More than a week ago, UNL professor Karl Reinhard received notice that a faculty committee recommended he be fired.

The special panel, appointed by the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee, presented Chancellor James Moeser with a list of charges brought against Reinhard that stem from his role in the university's alleged mishandling of American Indian remains.

A majority of the members of the committee felt Reinhard's behavior was severe enough to result in termination.

In dealing with the complaint, the group of faculty had to take on the role of investigators.

They had to examine documents. They had to interview witnesses.

We question whether a group of faculty, not trained in the practice of investigations, can really uncover all the facts, documents and witnesses necessary to make a truthful decision.

Reinhard has been investigated - twice - on many of the same charges brought up in the committee's report. Both times, professional investigators determined that there was not enough evidence to prove Reinhard's guilt.

Yet the faculty committee still cites violations of this same law, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, as grounds for firing. If two professional investigations found Reinhard innocent, what basis does the committee have for its charges?

In its report, the committee states that a preponderance of evidence exists on some of the charges - enough to prove his guilt.

But these standards are not stringent enough to convict anyone of a crime or recommend his or her termination.

In this case, it seems one's guilt should be judged to be beyond a reasonable doubt, just as it is in a criminal court.

Some of the rationales for decisions in the committee's report seem to be based on assumptions and inferences.

In judging that he transmitted unethical and immoral values to his students, the committee heard no testimony from students.

The committee wrote that because Reinhard co-published articles with his students, he involved them in his research and set a bad example.

Without interviewing multiple students under his guidance, it seems risky to make this assumption.

We are not in a position to judge Reinhard's innocence or guilt.

But after reading the rationales for firing and the committee's conclusions, we question the process used to determine Reinhard's guilt.

### Editorial Board

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Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448 or e-mail to: letters@unl.edu

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### Obermeyer's VIEW



### Letters to the EDITOR

#### Where's the Tidball?

Last week, nine faculty, staff and students were honored at the Sue Tidball Award for Creative Humanity ceremony. These honorees were nominated by their peers and students for making a difference on the campus. The nine nominees all contribute to a more humane, caring and creative environment here at UNL.

I was extremely disappointed that you did not even provide a brief about this event or the two people selected as award recipients. It is disappointing to me that people who do something right on campus and deserve our thanks and appreciation are ignored. Shouldn't we make an attempt to recognize and promote the good things happening in our community?

The fact that this event was ignored by the newspaper of the institution that sponsors this program is disheartening. It is even more frustrating because so much space was given to a week's worth of re-hashing a campaign that already happened. It is a shame that you could not find a few column inches to cover a current, newsworthy event such as the Sue Tidball Award, instead of dredging up old news.

Angela Splittgerber  
Sue Tidball committee member  
second-year law student

#### His, hers and undecided

The beach of openly gay soldiers cited in John Kastning's letter was either an isolated incident or one of very few in the U.S. military's history. One major reason straight soldiers would not want to work with openly gay soldiers is the lack of privacy in the military (especially on a ship).

Most males do not want to get dressed or shower while being watched by a homosexual male. This situation would be equivalent to making female soldiers have to share showering and sleeping areas with males.

I have to admit that I would prob-

ably catch a few free looks if I were allowed in the female living areas. Do you really think a gay soldier wouldn't do the same while he lived with a bunch of guys? Either the military creates "His," "Hers" and "Undecided" living areas, or openly gay soldiers shouldn't be allowed to serve in the military in order to prevent a hostile working environment.

Sean Krause  
senior  
electrical engineering

#### Overseas Nebraskan

I am a former UNL student and Lincoln resident, now in the U.S. Marines. Currently I am in Suva Reka, Kosovo. We have limited Internet use here. I use it to keep in touch with family and friends. Being able to read the Daily Nebraskan online makes me feel a little bit closer to home. Thanks.

Cpl. Plurien NM  
24th Marine Expeditionary  
Unit

#### Following precedent

Having found Karl Reinhard guilty of transmitting "unethical and immoral values" to students, I can't for the life of me understand why the UNL Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee didn't follow historical precedent and recommend he be forced to drink hemlock.

Gerard Harbison  
professor of chemistry

#### Soccer mom strategy

The Daily Nebraskan editorial writers and columnists seem to think the answer to high gasoline prices is for all of us to just "stop complaining" about being "greedy" and "stupid" and walk or ride our bikes.

Thanks for giving me my solution.

I am a mom and I have a mini van; yes, my boys play soccer. Call me a soccer mom and accuse me of

being selfish; that makes fun columns.

I also represent many families who struggle to make ends meet. We work hard, and we economize. We don't eat Twinkies; we spend our time clipping coupons, making box lunches and growing vegetables for our families. We live in small homes and our property taxes rise every year.

While the costs of living, food, clothing, transportation and medical care escalate faster than our raises, we are faced with decisions every day that affect our family "bottom line."

College students also are faced with these decisions. We can't forgo pizza on Friday nights because we gave it up long ago to pay our other escalating bills. The phenomenal increase in my transportation cost is a cause for alarm, both for myself, my family and for all consumers, because it is beyond our control and our means.

While we can cut back on some of our consumption (and I appreciate the Daily Nebraskan urging us to economize), I am not the only one who feels like a victim of the politics of OPEC and world trade agendas. I absolutely believe that the price situation could have been avoided, and I will not apologize for looking to my government representatives to explain what happened or to work for a solution. That is their job.

It is also all of our jobs to continue to look for strategies long-term and worldwide, which I agree cannot be found overnight. If I am being greedy by saying that I cannot afford my gasoline bill, then I guess I will continue to be so.

Soccer moms, dads, senior citizens, college students and all consumers staying silent and throwing more of our non-existent extra cash down at the register for gasoline will not solve the problem. It will only get worse. This affects more than just the greedy, but our entire economy.

Kelly Bartling  
journalism alumna '86

### P.S. Write Back

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