

Gay Scout controversy erupts on national scene, avoids Lincoln

Group's support remains

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Many different community groups, such as churches, use LPS facilities, Myers said.

Groups need to file an application to use the buildings, but most get accepted, he said.

Along with public schools and the United Way, Lincoln businesses buck the trend seen in some parts of the country by continuing to support the Scouts.

The Lincoln branch of Wells Fargo Bank contributes money each year to the Holiday Lights program sponsored by local Boy Scouts at Mahoney State Park, said Angie Jones, a Wells Fargo spokeswoman.

Wells Fargo will contribute to the project this December, she said.

Every decision about the bank's donations is made at the local level, and the Boy Scouts' ban will not affect local contributions from Wells Fargo, she said. Wells Fargo's corporate offices are in San Francisco, where some businesses and public entities have withdrawn support for the Scouts.

Regardless of the conflict surrounding the ban, the United Way and other community organizations said they'll continue to support the Boy Scouts, whose positive benefits far outweigh the gay controversies.

"We really want the money to go to kids who could not join the Scouts otherwise," said the United Way's Mahoney.



Craig Reinsch says he supports the ban of homosexual troop leaders by the Boy Scouts of America. The Supreme Court decided in June to uphold the ban.

Josh Wolfe/DN

Local Scouts extol gay ban

BY GEORGE GREEN

As controversy over the Boy Scouts' ban on homosexuals continues around the country, local men associated with the Scouts and the university support the organization's decision.

"I wholeheartedly support the ban," said Dick Johnson, a UNL shuttle bus driver and Scout Master of Troop 54.

The ban was not so much for homosexuals, but for "perverts," Johnson said.

He believes the ban will make the organization safer for Scouts by excluding men who could be sexual predators.

Despite his support of the ban, Johnson said he does not believe homosexuality is wrong.

"My personal philosophy is that it's OK if they are not bothering anyone and not pushing it on anybody," he said.

It's not proper, though, for charities such

as the United Way to withdraw funds from the Boy Scouts, Johnson said.

The United Way is supposed to be representative of society, Johnson said, and only a small fraction of Lincolnites believe that funds should be withdrawn, he said.

Craig Reinsch, a sophomore civil engineering major and leader of Troop 72, agrees the ban is good for the Boy Scouts.

The Boy Scouts should stand up for what they believe in even if it's not popular with everyone, he said.

Adult gay leaders could confuse young Scouts because their parents have one type of lifestyle and gay leaders have another, he said.

"The adult leaders are surrogate fathers to the Scouts," Reinsch said.

Reinsch works during the summer at Camp Cornhusker, the Scout camp, where boys swim together and shower in community bathrooms.

Having gay men at the camp would make the young boys, who he said were already uncomfortable with their bodies, more uncomfortable with themselves.

Reinsch said the Scouts will always receive donations because organizations want to give to groups that stand up for what they believe in.

"We talk a lot about diminishing morals and the Boy Scouts stand up to that and hold true to the values that make us who we are," he said.

Steve Jones, an associate professor of animal science and a Boy Scout volunteer, struggles with the ban because he has associations with gay people.

But Jones, Scout Master of Troop 572 and Cornhusker Council Commissioner, said he still supports the ban and thinks it is good for the organization.

People have a right to associate with who they want to, Jones said.

The Boy Scouts is a value-based organization and wants its members to follow its moral guidelines, he said.

If the standards are not met, Scouts will

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Craig Reinsch leader of Troop 72

meet with negative repercussions, Jones said.

The Boy Scouts want to have leaders who exhibit standards consistent with the group's beliefs, because young Scouts emulate the behavior of their leaders, he said.

He said the Boy Scouts will be a viable organization for many years because charities and other groups see the value in helping young men develop.

Jones, though, still has trouble with the ban because he knows good gay people and believes homosexuals can do positive things.

"It is a difficult line to tread," he said.

Clubs found violating touching ordinance

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Lincoln Police Officer Joe Kaufman testified that he had observed numerous instances of sexual contact at Mataya's.

One of the most common examples of the contact Kaufman cited was dancers using their breasts to remove tips from a customer's mouth.

The Mataya's dancers brought their chests close to the customer's face, and then pressed their breasts together to pinch the dollar bill, Kaufman said. Often the dancer's breasts touched the customer's face, said Kaufman, who also experienced the contact firsthand while tipping dancers undercover.

The Daily Nebraskan, along with Mataya's security officer Brian Hughes, visited both The Night Before, 1035 M St., and Foxy Lady, 1823 O St., on Friday, and on Saturday again visited The Night Before.

On one night, Hughes was equipped with clandestine video equipment to document the touching violations. Mataya's owners plan to use the tapes for legal defense.

At both of the city's other clubs, dancers also used their breasts to retrieve tips from a customer's mouth.

Sexual contact violations at both clubs were observed firsthand by Hughes and the Daily Nebraskan, and viewed from a table near the stage.

Kaufman, the undercover officer, described the practice as the dancer "wrapping her breasts around my face to get the dollar bill."

The exact same technique was used at The Night Before and The Foxy Lady, as dancers tried to encourage more tips.

But the most flagrant sexual contact violations came during stage dances at The Night Before Lounge on Friday, where Hughes said he saw two undercover Lincoln Police officers sitting in a corner table watching ordinance violations.

Hughes used to work for the State Patrol investigating security violations at the Department of Corrections,

and he is familiar with area law enforcement agencies and their techniques.

In a stage dance, customers lie on their backs with a folded dollar bill held in their mouths or sticking out of the pants waistline.

The dancer then gyrates inches above the customer, waving her crotch in the customer's face and moving over the customer's body.

The most flagrant violations came when a woman would lie on the stage. Several of the women customers would lift their shirts and expose their own breasts for the dancer.

Then, as the topless dancer moved across the customer's body from head to crotch, the two women's bare breasts would touch. The ordinance bans contact whether through clothes or not, but naked contact is clearly taboo.

The dancer would also bury her face in the customer's crotch, and shake her head vigorously.

On several occasions, dancers made contact with customers in this way.

Overall, no great difference existed in the dancing offered at each club, with the exception of private dances, which are only offered at Mataya's and The Night Before.

At most clubs, private dances are a one-on-one dance, usually performed on a couch away from the main stage. Though no-contact rules also apply to private dances, at some clubs, dancers touch their patrons.

In the meantime, Ways is preparing to defend himself and his employees at trial in early October for their alleged violations of the city ordinance.

Ways asserts that his business is not substantially different from other strip clubs in town. The Daily Nebraskan investigation would indicate that, like Mataya's, Lincoln's other clubs allow the same kind of touching for which Ways is being prosecuted.

"I may lose my case, but if I do, nobody else will be in business either," Ways said.

UNL goals set in blueprint

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But Latta said some people focus too much on the numbers rather than the true message she said the report sends.

"The core of the report is about campus culture and how we can stimulate research," she said.

Steps in this direction include supporting faculty careers, strengthening hiring, building research communities and increasing interdisciplinary research, she said.

When faculty become involved in more than one academic discipline, ultimately, the students reap the benefits, she said.

"The curriculum becomes more integrated and less isolated," she said.

Ross Thompson, psychology professor and task force member, agreed that although the report focuses on research and graduate education, it also speaks to the broader academic culture at UNL.

"I hope students don't feel that this vision is not relevant to them," he said.

Thompson said improving research and graduate education at UNL will help all students.

If the university makes great strides in improving these specific areas, the growth of the

school will benefit everyone, he said.

"I hope it will make UNL (diplomas) increase in value over time," he said.

But the challenge of bringing the university back to its grandeur of the past should involve not just the faculty members, but the students as well, Thompson said.

"I'm quite amazed at how students define the intellectual environment on campus," he said.

For example, Thompson said he was impressed with the discussion that is generated by stu-

dents in his introductory psychology class.

The enthusiasm and interest from the students rubs off onto the faculty members, which benefits both groups, he said.

"Students would be astonished to see things from a faculty member's point of view," he said.

But students play a greater role than just discussing key issues in class, he said.

"I would love to hear students talk about issues in the current political campaign as much as they talk about partying on O Street Friday night," he said.

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