

## Daily Nebraskan

Since 1901

Editor: Sarah Baker  
Opinion Page Editor: Samuel McKewon  
Managing Editor: Bradley Davis

### Quotes of the Week

"I think that such a strong vote should send a message to administration and the Board of Regents that this is what students want. Twenty-five thousand of us want this, and students won't ignore domestic partner benefits."

**ASUN Sen. Angela Clements on the passing of a bill that allows ASUN to support domestic partner benefits**

"We don't want to erect a fence and have an armed guard out there declaring the value of the objects. We don't want this to mean that people can't sit on or touch the sculptures. That's what we have them for."

**Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery Curator Dan Siedell on the possibility of stricter security around the building after a rash of vandalism on sculptures**

"Can't you see? You are all going to hell."

**A visiting preacher outside Andrews Hall on the certainty of UNL students' fate in the afterlife**

"We think gay students are safer in Abel Residence Hall because of the pink triangle stuck on the hall's office door. We also believe the religious zealots outside the union are really Catholic priests, and Tom Green may just get asked back for another homecoming pep rally."

**Daily Nebraskan editorial regarding the Allies Safe Space bill that passed in Abel Residence Hall**

"After explaining that it was always safe, they had gone ahead and let her give blood. We had assumed the same rule applied to men, but you know what they say about the word 'assume.'"

**DN columnist Jeremy Patrick on the FDA ban on blood donations from gays**

"At Nebraska you don't have to reinvent the wheel every year."

**Nebraska Receivers Coach Ron Brown on staying with the Cornhusker staff rather than taking other offered positions**

"It's smash-mouth, straight to the point, we're going to break your back, have you crying, have you wetting your Depends like an 80-year-old man, and you're going to go crying to your momma talking about how you don't want to play football anymore."

"Our defensive playbook looks like a telephone book. All our veterans seem like they're running at 4.3-speed, and you can't keep up with them. The tight ends are too big to block. They smash me around. The offensive linemen are killing me. But off the field, I know it's making me better."

**Nebraska Rush End Benard Thomas on Nebraska football**

"Boys are driven by their testosterone. Their brains are less organized than females' brains. Because of this, they need a lot of care to figure out how to manage their energy."

**Family therapist and author Michael Gurian on raising healthy boys**

"It can't be expressed any simpler. The rest of the songs on this album could be vomitous, and this would still be a 73-star album - they'd only let me give it four - on the strength of this one song and what it represents."

**Neal Obermeyer in his review of Super Furry Animals' and Paul McCartney's 'Liverpool Sound Collage'**

### Editorial Board

Sarah Baker, Bradley Davis, Josh Funk, Matthew Hansen, Samuel McKewon, Dane Stickney, Kimberly Sweet

### Letters Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes briefs, 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@unlinfo.unl.edu.

### Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials are the opinions of the Fall 2000 Daily Nebraskan. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, its employees, its student body or the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. A column is solely the opinion of its author; a cartoon is solely the opinion of its artist. The Board of Regents acts as publisher of the Daily Nebraskan; policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. The UNL Publications Board, established by the regents, supervises the production of the paper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its employees.



## 'Facts' create confusion about love

Journal entry - 8:16 p.m. Girl gets home from aerobics practice two minutes later than yesterday. The restraining order tells me I'm not supposed to see her anymore, but the voices in my head tell me differently.



Mark Zmarzly

As I hide in the bushes outside her apartment in camouflage, I can't help but think, what's happened to love in America?

Scholarly research in the areas of psychology, communication studies and sociology have filled my head to the point where I don't know what love is anymore. I still want to believe that love is simply a feeling in your heart. Assuming the love is pure, marriage and procreation will follow.

But how can any of us still hold onto this when it's been proven that feelings of love and lust can actually be traced to chemicals that your brain produces? Am I sitting in these bushes with my sack lunch and night-vision goggles because I'm in love or because my brain is producing a chemical that tells me so?

Cosmopolitan, Playboy and FHM have articles dedicated to pleasing your partner, keeping your partner or finding a partner. Has it always been so confusing? Did previous generations put up with this kind of confusion, or is this a product of our self-help society?

Every time you turn on the TV, listen to the radio or read something, the message tells you that you follow a certain rule to be successful in a relationship. De Beers tells us that diamonds are forever and even uses the slogan, "How often will you give her something she'll cherish for the rest of her life?"

I guess your soul isn't good enough. Durex condoms tells us: "The human body has more than 45 miles of nerves." (Guys are neglecting about 44.99 miles.)

Avia states: "She knows true beauty comes from inside, but she doesn't mind finding it in the mirror." The ad should say: "She knows true beauty is staring at her in the mirror, so she'd better get her fat ass on the StairMaster."

Journal entry - 8:45 p.m. Girl is on phone with a friend. Need to brush up on lip-reading skills because I'm not sure if she's talking to Nathan or Satan.

Let's go over a few tidbits of information concerning relationships that I have been able to gather from sources a little more reliable than advertisements.

Strength of commitment is a better indicator of a couple's ability to remain together than strength of love (Mary Lund, 1985).

Someone may choose to remain in an unsatisfying relationship if no better alternatives are observed (Julia Wood, 2000).

Everyone has a unique odor signature. Scientists believe its purpose is to help us determine if a potential mate has a sufficiently different genetic makeup (Playboy, 2000).

Apparently pick-up lines such as "Why don't we go back to my place and play G.I. Joe? I'll lie down, and you can blow the hell out of me" don't work. (Common sense should have told me so, but being the dedicated columnist that I am, I tested it anyway, and damn does my face still hurt.)

Men and women had better get moving. They have to go out and find someone who smells genetically good, commit to that person and then make damn sure they don't find anyone else appealing. Also, don't use that G.I. Joe line.

Journal entry - 8:56 p.m. Girl I'm stalking - I mean loving - moves from the couch to the floor.

Wasn't there a time in your life when you just trusted your heart and something truly wonderful happened? What happened to that optimistic person?

I'm guessing you started listening to all of this propaganda and have become someone who analyzes interactions with a negative attitude. We look at every situation by breaking it down into a set of rules or relationship secrets. What we need to start doing is to stop listening to all of this information and start thinking for ourselves.

Stop trying to find a successful relationship at the news stand; it will only leave you with 25 sex secrets and nobody to use them on. Stop watching porn for tips; it will only leave you with the disillusionment that all women want to be spanked or have sex with the gardener or be spanked while having sex with the gardener.

Journal entry - 9:33 p.m. Girl's brother comes over and investigates noise in bushes. Must be very still, so very still.

It's really simple, God created man and woman. He didn't tell them how to love and procreate. It happened naturally. For the evolutionists out there, we basically came from monkeys right? Well, I'll bet they never read an article called "How to Please Your Little Monkey in Bed." No matter perspective, society has given us a world where love has been replaced by rules.

I am not going to sell out. I'm going to sit here and wait for the woman of my dreams to walk out of her security-enforced front gate and say: "Take off that ski mask, and let me get a good look at you." Then, and only then, will love truly win.

### Letters to the editor

## Abel Strikes Back Residents respond to DN editorial

As the president of Abel Residence Association, I find it difficult to reply to the Sept. 27 editorial without using four-letter words. The opinions expressed by the editors have not been true for as many years as I have lived here.

This is my third year, and I will gladly tell anyone that I don't have plans to move anywhere else as long as I am in college.

ARA has been working for many years now to remove the labels campus has placed upon it. The opinions expressed in Wednesday's DN have thrown many people's work, including my own, out the window.

Ever since I have been in Abel government, I have seen nothing but good things. We have raised more than \$1,000 for local charities, we contribute to families in need yearly with our Adopt-A-Family program, and we have had single programs that have packed a room full of more than 200 people on several occasions.

How's that for community? The editorial board thinks we have done a disservice to the GLBT community. If that is the case, why did we have speakers from Allies volunteer to come to our hall to persuade the passing of the bill on many occasions? It also thinks we have done the residents a disservice by posting the pink triangle.

It's not like the hundreds of residents, who debated over the issue and got to know their own floors a little better and talked about an otherwise suppressed issue, would have done it on their own time had we not brought up the subject.

Furthermore, since the writers of the article think the residents of Abel Hall do not care about the meaning of the pink triangle, instead of taking their word for it, why don't you walk around Abel for a while and try to find a floor that does not have an Allies card on a door.

If you don't believe what I am telling you, don't ask the editorial board since none of them actually live in Abel Hall. Instead, why don't you ask any one of the active ARA members or one of the more than 900 people that live here, and I think you will get a slightly different response to life in Abel Hall than the DN portrayed it to be.

Andy Krejci  
Electrical Engineering  
Junior  
Abel President

In response to the opinion the editorial board wrote about the declaration of the Abel Residence Hall safe space, in one way you are correct. I do not think the declaration of a "safe space" will change any of the stereotypes you wish to put on Abel or its residents.

However, the ignorance that the editorial board has shown by saying the pink triangle is nothing but a meaningless symbol at Abel is amazing. How can the DN editorial board not understand the relief felt by any person who was afraid to ask Abel government for money or support simply because they thought the organization might discriminate against them?

The Abel bill was amended simply because the government realized the "safe space" declaration could not realistically be enforced in all parts of the hall.

The most important part of the bill is not whether members of Abel feel the sign has significant meaning, and truly most people in Abel probably don't care one way or the other.

The important part is that a certain group feels they need an affirmation of their rights as humans, and Abel's government has given this affirmation to them.

Richard Brown  
Cather Senator  
Chemical Engineering  
Senior

I was in awe of how many stereotypes and exaggerations were used as reasons in the Sept. 27 editorial not to have the pink triangle displayed.

First, the symbol would be placed on the ARA door, which is not even in Abel Hall anymore. The

office has been moved into new office space that was created in Sandoz Hall's old fishbowl.

The intent of placing the pink triangle on the door is to let people know that, while a small minority of the residents may hold discriminatory views, the student government does not.

Second, is it Bash-on-Abel-Hall Day? If so, no one told me about it! The way the editorial portrayed Abel residents, you would think there were swastikas hanging on every other door. I'm not saying that people don't hold anti-gay, lesbian and bisexual views, but let's get real.

As for Abel being a party dorm, what does that have to do with anything the editorial is supposed to be about? Yes, there are a lot of freshmen living in Abel who get a little wild with their newfound freedom. There are also a lot of freshmen and upperclassmen who can handle being away from their parents, and who don't have "alcohol-induced vomiting" on Saturday mornings.

Deidre Martin  
Architectur  
Sophomore

It is a very well known stereotype around campus that Abel is a party hall. Abel Residence Association and its housing staff have worked very hard to dispel that stereotype, and in my opinion, have been successful.

There are currently learning communities in Abel promoting academics in a variety of majors. Housing has also worked hard to make Abel more appealing to both freshmen and upperclassmen. It now offers two floors of upperclassmen, with the option of a single room on those floors.

I often defend the Daily Nebraskan to those people who choose to feed into the stereotype that the Daily Nebraskan isn't worth the paper it's written on; however, you have proven to me that that is not a stereotype but a fact. It sucks when stereotypes haunt you forever, huh?

Tiffany Quinze  
Elementary Education  
Senior

As an elected official of Abel Hall, I was struck by Wednesday's editorial.

When you attack my constituents as drunks and less-than-conscientious students, I have a problem. Do not attack my constituents as a bloc without fact or documentation.

Abel is not perfect, but my constituents are not evil, discriminative alcoholics whose moral characters deserve to be questioned by the DN Editorial Board.

Journalistic integrity is important. Next time you attack the entire residency of our hall, please give current instances of the violation.

Even in this circumstance, you should attack the individual perpetrator, not all residents of the hall. Such a blanket attack is unfair, and I would hope you would have the integrity to withdraw your unfounded attack.

A well-formed opinion is fine, but a misinformed opinion declares one's own bias. I ask you not to mask ARA's attempt at tolerance with your own ill-conceived prejudices.

I would ask you to refrain from attacking my colleague, ARA treasurer Kate Grafel. I was at the meeting where the bill was passed. Ms. Grafel's quotation was taken completely out of context. If you had had a reporter present at the meeting, a reporter who was invited to attend, that person would have noticed that the same student who raised the concern about the "gay dorm" offered to place the triangle on his door.

Attacking the policy is okay, but attacking Ms. Grafel as uncaring and unconcerned about GLBT rights is a gross misstatement. If anyone is a crusader for GLBT concerns, it is Ms. Grafel. Next time you choose to attack our hall, or our officials, I ask you to get the facts straight.

Dashiell A. Rohan  
Abel Hall Vice President  
History  
Sophomore