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A Letter to my *Alma Mater*:
Letter to the Editor

My four years on campus as a doctoral student and instructor were some of the best of my life. I was an ideological minority, but it never affected how I was treated. I even won the Parents Association Teaching Award, with several others, in 1998. I received my PhD in May of 1999. I love UNL and proudly speak of it as my *alma mater*. Yet what I've been reading recently has my blood at a boil.

This letter is directed to those self-proclaimed apostles of tolerance and peace who've pompously partaken in the ritual denunciation of Dan Kleve. This is an artificially contrived "uproar" over a student in the sciences that, last I checked, has hurt no one. When I read about the basketball team wearing those corny tee-shirts, that was the last straw.

Does the team really fear this skinny biologist? Maybe they think the defensive linemen for the Huskers are cowering in their dorms, afraid to venture outside? Mr. Kleve's harmed no one, but he might well be next time he's on campus. Back in 1995, famed Husker Lawrence Phillips beat his girlfriend to a pulp. The campus outrage was minor. Does anyone recall who Courtney Lawton was? Or Kaitlyn Mullen? This is not much different. The big difference is that you hardly know what Kleve's views are. Your stereotypes and caricatures are not facts.

As I understand it, this young man has, privately, expressed several non-PC statements on various issues that have "offended" those who control campus life. You claim he was a member of National Vanguard, a small nationalist group you discovered the other day. In your lengthy research into their ideology, you've unearthed the fact that some members express interest in National Socialism. Since they don't instantaneously and moralistically condemn it, you conclude logically that the Fourth Reich has arrived.

The absurd, maudlin letter from the permanency neurotic Zach Makron states that this has already occurred. Dan is all-powerful in his mind; he's built him up into an idol that he now fears like a column of Panzers on campus. He's projected all his concentrated fears and neuroses on this easy target and, in destroying him, hopes they too will disappear.

To protect America from the immanent takeover of the new Brownshirts, you've organized in self defense, with many hysterically demanding his expulsion. Calls for physical violence against him is a common occurrence. Dan is certainly one powerful student. And it turns out, he's not even a member!

The purpose behind this artificial uproar is intimidation, its to force all non-PC students to live in fear. Mr. Kleve's education has been interrupted. He's been bullied. He's no doubt been scarred by this experience. That means you've done more actual harm than he. Crusades like this are hardly done from a position of intellectual strength. Its to maintain the Leftist ascendancy that has all but destroyed honest academics. No one wants their ideological bubble burst.

Insecure and intellectually soft Leftists have projected their stereotypes onto this lone student. They can then congratulate themselves in their conformist ideological compliance by transferring all their sins and problems onto the almighty Dan. You guys need to get out more. Something tells me that the Nebraskans you take tax dollars from are as anti-PC as he is.

You are all well aware that this campus has hosted communists, including Maoists, for decades among its professors and students. I know more than a few. Mao's rule is discussed daily on campus without the slightest problem and sometimes, sympathetically. I know this from experience. Yet Mao slaughtered well over 20 million Chinese. Lenin is discussed positively on a daily basis. Castro is more of a UNL mascot than Herbie. How many of these protesters know who Mao even was?

To the student protesters: You guys are like, 12. You don't know anything yet. You're protesting because it makes you feel good, like you're "making a difference." None of you know the first thing about Nationalism, National Socialism or Integralism, but it makes you seem "involved" and "intellectual" to take part in this contrived outrage. This is to make *you* feel better. Unfortunately, Dan's not as powerful as you think. This kid shouldn't be tormented because the faculty's capacity to tolerate cognitive dissonance is extraordinary.

Its true the administration piously states that the First Amendment protects him, though it bothers me that this obvious fact needs to be mentioned on a college campus. It might come as a surprise to some of the faculty that this Amendment can be used to protect people other than pornographers and filthy stand up comics.

At the same time, however, the self-congratulatory uproar has been created by the same campus authorities. Your silly ideology is not worth the destruction of a kid who's harmed not a hair on your head. Torturing students in the name of openness and peace is Orwellian. I'm truly sorry the facts expressed by some of these groups you've just heard of yesterday are inconvenient for your newfound ideological commitment, but that's life. There are other, more healthy, ways to deal. Look into them. Please.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Johnson, PhD, UNL, 99

Their response:

Dear Dr. Johnson:

Thank you for your letter to the editor submission. Unfortunately, we will not be publishing your piece in The Daily Nebraskan. We have no intention of creating a platform for ad hominem attacks against members of our staff, nor would it be responsible for us to allow the targeting of the University of Nebraska's faculty with an unsubstantiated "Red Scare" narrative. I hope you understand our decision.

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