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Eyes turn to draft in fight for equality

Equal rights raises one consideration, whether another draft is still necessary

Elliot Gonnella
Antelope Staff

Just after my eighteenth birthday, I had to fill out a government form that would be with me until I turned twenty-five years old. I then received a coupon that I keep in my wallet with my name, address, and a serial number. In the event of the government needing warm bodies to fill some void, I may have a chance of putting my life on hold and going off to serve in whatever way they see fit.

That was the Selective Service program, and I had to fill it out if I wanted to stay in good graces with the law.

Despite not having a draft since the late years of the mess that is known as the Vietnam War, all males residing in the United States, both citizens and immigrants of all kinds, need to sign up for the Selective Service by thirty days after they turn eighteen. They also have to be a part of it until they turn twenty-five years old. Despite the military interventions in the Middle East sparking some concerns for the possibility of having the draft revived, nothing has become of it. It has simply been a tradition that almost all males go through as they reach adulthood. The program was brought back into the public light recently when a federal court in Texas ruled that the Selective Service should be considered unconstitutional on the basis of exempting women from the draft. This was seen as a violation of the Constitution’s equal protection clause.

While no injunction has been made to stop the program or to include women yet, it is now in the hands of the courts and the lawmakers to fill the void.

While I hate to give even the consideration of praise upon a group called the National Coalition for Men, or any men’s rights group, the argument of having women sign up the same as men for a service that has not been activated for forty-six years is plausible since women can now serve in practically all roles.

“The Selective Service program offers a solution to a problem, but I do not think that it is a problem a modern nation like the United States will face again.”

So while I do think that this ruling is a step in a direction toward equality, I do not think that the draft is something that we need to have to begin with.

The Selective Service program offers a solution to a problem, but I do not think that it is a problem a modern nation like the United States will face again. Gone are the days where all you needed to serve was a pulse and the ability to follow orders. Simply increasing military numbers during a crisis does not guarantee victory. Soldiers need to be educated, properly trained, and conditioned. Rushing that process to fill a quota can lead to devastating consequences.

Looking at a non-military example, when the US Border Patrol had a hiring surge in the late 2000s, they doubled in size from ten thousand agents to around twenty thousand. There was a labor pool that was willing to fill this void, but to ensure that they met their growth goals, the Border Patrol cut corners.

Training was cut back from twenty weeks to twelve weeks, including practical areas of foreign language and physical training. The screening of applicants or more specifically the lack thereof, saw corruption and excessive force accusations skyrocket.

That is just for an agency, now consider that problem could happen to the armed forces when it needs to draft tens of thousands a year. The solution
Fraternity suspended by international organization

Sigma Lambda Beta ordered to suspend operations until further notice, member arrested for sexual assault

Brett Westfall
Antelope Staff

The campus fraternity Sigma Lambda Beta received orders from the organization’s executive office to suspend activities at UNK.

The order from the Executive Office of the International Fraternity involves the “suspension of operations, prohibits fraternity social events, academic programming, new member activities and other on- and off-campus events until further notice” according to a Feb. 28 article from the Kearney Hub.

Sigma Lambda Beta member Miguel Guzman, 20, was arrested on February 26 on charges of 1st-degree sexual assault, which is a felony, according to the Buffalo County Law Enforcement Center’s public bulletin.

Guzman was arrested at a residence on 1st Ave. two days after the incident allegedly occurred on 12th Ave. in Kearney.

Court records with details of the incident are sealed. There will be a preliminary hearing on March 19, and if convicted, the accused could face up to 50 years in prison.

Until court records are made public, limited information on the investigation is available.

According to Todd Gottula, Director of Communications at UNK, from a media release the university is aware of the allegations and is investigating potential violations of the student code of conduct alongside law enforcement’s investigation.

Neither the Sigma Lambda Beta Executive Office nor UNK has commented on whether the fraternity’s suspension is related to the alleged sexual assault.

As the investigations and documents become officially public, The Antelope will be releasing more details on the matter.

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to national security is not to simply have more, but to have better and well trained individuals.

We need soldiers who willingly want to do their job to the best of their ability, not thousands of soldiers who were told to be there in a conflict they may not support or perform tasks that they are inadequately prepared for. We’ve seen it happen in previous conflicts, and we see it today in other agencies and groups.

If the Selective Service is still going to be around, then we need to have it available for all, regardless of gender, orientation, or any other factor. Simply having those numbers and relying on them does not mean anything if we cut corners, lower standards, and decrease training to meet those demands. It will, without a doubt, make a bad situation worse.

Tune in Wednesday at 6 p.m. KLPR 91.1 FM - Antelope Speaks

by Rachel Overby

the antelope
Wind ensemble performs, competes

UNK Wind Ensemble makes return to Nebraska Bandmasters Association for first time since 2003

Ian Kahler
Antelope Staff

Along with a local performance on the UNK campus, for the first time since 2003, UNK’s Wind Ensemble is heading to the Nebraska Bandmasters Association Convention.

The Nebraska Bandmasters Association Convention is where Nebraska’s best band groups come together to share their passions of music and performing. Ranging from high school to college level, music lovers from around the state are coming together to show their stuff.

Cole Chancellor, a business administration major with an emphasis in management, has been involved in the Wind Ensemble for an ongoing eleven semesters.

“I was in band in high school, which is similar, but at a different level,” Chancellor said. “The ability to share music with others is my favorite part for sure.”

The group had a performance on Feb. 27 but is heading to the Nebraska Bandmasters Association this weekend. “It’s an honor because a UNK band hasn’t been selected through a blind audition to play in this event since 2003,” Chancellor said.

Wind Ensemble is an audition only group on the UNK campus, consisting of 35-40 players. It provides the best wind literature available at the university level.

Breana Dobesh, a Biology education major, plays the clarinet.

“Being a member of the Wind Ensemble is a wonderful opportunity, both personally and as a musician,” Dobesh said. “This is my third year in the ensemble and every year we are given more and more challenging pieces to play. Dr. Bierman believes that it’s important to continually challenge ourselves as it will help us grow and improve.”

Dobesh was involved in multiple music groups in high school as well. “I was in marching band, concert band, wind ensemble, choir, show choir and theatre. It was exhausting but so worth it.”

Chancellor is grateful for the opportunity for being involved in the ensemble and preparing for the performance.

“You spend so long working on the little things of the composition, you sometimes lose sight of the larger aspect of it” Chancellor said. “So when all the little things are together in the final essence of the piece is a new and rewarding experience. When we finish a performance we see ourselves within a new light and we can reach for even greater heights.”

The Nebraska Bandmasters Association Convention runs Feb. 28-Mar. 2.
Imagination Day sparks creativity

Art department gives high school students, teachers chance to explore art on campus

Hanna Hake
Antelope Staff

The UNK Art Department hosted its annual Imagination Day on Wednesday. It is a day for area high school students to visit the campus and get a taste of all that the UNK Art Department has to offer.

“Imagination Day provides an opportunity for art students at area high schools to take a peek into the programs offered in the Department of Art and Design,” Assistant Professor Samuel Rapien said. “It also allows them to meet and sample the personalities of the faculty, take a look at our facilities and the quality of work our students are producing, ask questions about college life and what they can do to prepare for it, and really have an enjoyable day of creating. For us, it’s about showing these students that our community of faculty and students at UNK Art and Design have a lot to offer those interested in exploring studio art, visual communication and design, and art education.”

The students were able to make several projects throughout the day ranging from paintings to ceramics and even experimenting with ‘Hollywood photography’.

“(The students) got to start their day off at Museum of Nebraska Art this year with personalized tours and a scavenger hunt to really get to look through the art, so that was cool to be a part of,” said Hailey McBride, a senior Art Education major.

The event also gives current UNK students like McBride the chance to represent the department and get experience with high school students.

“It’s so special to us because it gives us the opportunity to teach students alongside our professors the same way we were taught when we first came to college,” McBride said. “My favorite part of the day was the students, it really helped me gain experience for someday working in my own classroom and shows some projects that I could do with the future high school students I will teach.”

The event is also a special day for the professors of the department, giving them the chance to help recruit high school students to UNK’s campus.

“For me, my favorite part of the day is seeing these students from different high schools—complete strangers—interacting with one another, problem solving together, laughing and enjoying this experience,” Rapien said.

The department hosts Imagination Day once each spring and fall semester. This event also allows area high school art teachers to connect with each other and exchange ideas amongst themselves and with professors from UNK.

“Being a high school student is tough because you’re having to consider an eventually make some pretty important decisions regarding your education and your future career path,” Rapien said. “That's a lot of pressure! I think coming to an event like Imagination Day, experiencing what our talented and exceptionally personable faculty have to offer, and experiencing just some of the possibilities within our programs helps to make that decision a little easier. Plus, it’s a break from the normal school day in a creative and fun environment. What young artist wouldn’t love that?”

Left: UNK Art Department professor Doug Waterfield presenting a painting demonstration to high school students on Imagination day. The pictures that were painted this year were characters off of the TV show “The Office.”
Right: Professor Matt Ziemke making inflatable sculptures with high school students visiting on Imagination Day.
Students react to (lack of) snow days

Icy roads, sidewalks are safety concern for all students say

By Haley Pierce
March 6, 2019

Jose Perez
Antelope Staff

On Feb. 20 of this year, another snow storm took place across the state of Nebraska. As a result, most schools across the state made the decision to close their institute for the day due to the harsh conditions that followed. However, UNK was one of the few schools in Nebraska that didn’t close down for the day, leaving many of its students in disbelief.

It didn’t take long before UNK students turned to social media, expressing their frustration as to why the school would be open rather than closing like the other schools around them.

Last week, a story published by Hanna Hake on The Antelope explained the procedures UNK does when deciding to close their school. Many factors have to be taken into consideration before making this drastic call. At the end of the day, UNK Chancellor Doug Kristensen always makes the final decision.

A significant number of people, even outside of UNK, questioned the university’s decision to remain open. Although the decision was made in the best interest of UNK, some students felt that the school should have been closed.

Getting to class in an orderly fashion is not an easy task when a UNK student doesn’t live on campus. Odwuar Quiñonez, a UNK senior from Lexington, still recalls the many difficulties he faced when he realized she left her car and tried to walk to class on that Wednesday.

“It was disappointing that UNK didn’t cancel classes. Even though the weather wasn’t bad, the roads in Kearney were pretty bad,” Quiñonez said. “I almost got into a car accident just driving to class. Thank God I made it to campus in one piece, but I was still frustrated.”

Depending on the vehicle, students that commute to campus can arrive to UNK with ease. Walking on campus, however, is a different story.

Ashton Kirwan, a sophomore majoring in Health Science from Holdrege, faced a difficult task when the sidewalks were barely cleared.

“As it was so hard when I walked to my 8 am class at West Center” Kirwin said. “The sidewalks should have been completely cleared before UNK decided to stay open. It’s a safety concern when everything on the ground was too slick, especially the grass. Not all professors consider weather as an ‘excused’ absence which can affect our final grade.”

The same article posted in The Antelope last week quoted Jon Watts, Vice Chancellor of Business and Finance, as saying “the number one priority is to be open [at UNK].”

Kirwan and Quiñonez both disagree with this statement, claiming that the number one priority for UNK is the safety of the students and all faculty and staff members.

“Some organization on campus should really send out a survey to all UNK Students and Faculty members” Quiñonez said. “That way UNK as a whole can vote to keep the school open or closed when the weather is severe.”

“I understand that UNK can’t just close all the time when it snows, but no harm would have been done if other schools especially in Kearney were doing the same thing” Kirwan said. “The least UNK could have done is have a late start for classes, that way the custodians had enough time to clean the snow and ice off of UNK.”

In a way, the voices of UNK were heard and campus did close down on Feb. 23 and 24. This frustrated individuals even more since the days cancelled were a Saturday and Sunday.

“I was surprised UNK closed on the weekend” Quiñonez said. “No one really does anything on campus that day. It should have happened during the weekdays when students actually have class.”

“I’m not even on campus on weekends. Most students either work or go home when there’s no class” Kirwan said. “It makes sense why so many people were confused on the decision.”

What do you think?

The Antelope welcomes input from UNK students, faculty, staff and Kearney community members. Send us your story ideas, photos, comments and letters to the editor.

Contact us by
Facebook: facebook.com/unkantelope Email: antelopenews@unk.edu

Letter to the editor policy: In order for a letter to the editor to be considered for publication, it must be signed and include a phone number or email for the author. The Antelope will publish no more than two letters to the editor from an individual or group throughout a semester.
Minor league hockey team faces relocation as crowd numbers dwindle

To make this new community monument feasible, the owners of the building must rent out and contract with entertainment brands to fill the seats and obtain profit. But, for consistent and constant earnings, a good owner finds someone looking for a home. More often than not, this is where sports lines up with the interests of the owners of these event centers.

In large scale examples, this is the same as the Denver Broncos operating at Sports Authority Field at Mile High Stadium. For a more local sample, the Nebraska Danger (Nebraska's own professional indoor football team) reside inside the wings of the Heartland Event Center. For the Viaero Event Center, the Tri-City Storm have made their home on the ice in Kearney.

An event center that houses a potential of 5,000 roaring fans, including glass side seating and luxury boxes, had Central Nebraska residents foaming at the mouths back in 2000 when the team announced its start-up. As a resident of Kearney at the time, I myself remember going to games as a child. I recall owning the purple and gray Storm t-shirts and foam fingers. Games were always a family event, and at relatively low cost.

That attendance waned through the years, and has hit lows this season especially. The home opener for the Storm this season on Oct. 12, 2018 had an attendance of 1,689. And yes, I hear you sports fans in the back. That number does sound good for team in Kearney, Nebraska. Let's break down that number more, shall we?

By taking the season opener’s attendance of 1,689 and dividing into the maximum capacity of the Viaero Event Center of 5,500, the percentage attendance on Oct. 12 was 30.7%. Still think that sounds okay? Apply that to Memorial Stadium in Lincoln for a home Husker football game. The beloved Huskers, at 30.7% capacity of around 90,000, would be playing in front of 27,638 scarlet and cream clad fans. That's comparable to a home game at Troy University in Alabama, who did beat the Huskers in Lincoln this year (sorry for bringing that up again).

I hear you again, peanut gallery. The other major entertainment options in the area that weekend included: an away Kearney High football game at Lincoln High (a two hour drive away from Kearney), a Fleetwood Mac concert at Pinnacle Bank Arena (nothing against the artist, 'Dreams' is still a classic), and to top it off, the Huskers played a road game in Evanston, Ill. the following day. There simply isn’t a viable excuse for the low numbers at a season opener, a game that the Storm won 3-0.

That doesn't follow the recent trends of the Storm’s owner and Las Vegas businessman Kirk Brooks. Brooks recently had installed an estimated $250,000 center ice scoreboard to enhance fan experience, is a constant philanthropist to the community donating well over $75,000 in 2018, and has kept an engaging and competitive team on the ice.

Be ready UNK students and Kearney community, because if the Storm pass through and leave town, your ten minute drive south of town may turn into a two hour excursion. And we’ll have no one to blame but ourselves.
Nebraska ties run deep in Baker-MaGrath
Minnesota native easily accustomed to the good life

Jack McLeay
Antelope Staff

The University of Nebraska-Kearney is home to many out of state student-athletes.
The transition to a new state can be difficult for most, but for Weston Baker-MaGrath, the Sophomore forward from Minnesota, moving to Nebraska was nothing new.

Baker-MaGrath, whose parents both were UNK alumni, says that Nebraska has been in his life long before his commitment.

“I have spent my entire life with a lot of family in Nebraska,” Baker-MaGrath said. “I was raised as a die-hard Husker Football fan, we went to a couple games a year at Memorial Stadium, and Nebraska has always kind of been my second home. I’m not surprised at all that I ended up here.”

Baker-MaGrath spoke about his first experience as a recruit on campus at UNK.

“The first time I visited UNK, it felt like home,” Baker-MaGrath said. “I may be from Minnesota, but Nebraska holds a special place in my heart.”

Baker-MaGrath, who is currently averaging around 6 points per game, is most notable for his ability to provide a spark on the court and maintain a presence in the post.

“Weston as a player is relentless, and a defensive machine,” said Henry Penner, the freshman forward from Aurora. “Playing with him is a lot of fun because his positive attitude and energy are very contagious and you can’t help but feel more energized playing with him.”

Though it may not show up in the box score, Baker-MaGrath is one of the best in the conference at altering shots inside.

“Weston’s ability to be a rim protector on defense helps make our team more successful,” Penner said. “Both in games when he is blocking opponents shots and in practice. If you are on the team opposite of, “Wes” in practice you have to be ready to adjust your shot if you take it to the hoop. He is a huge help.”

Penner goes on to talk about Baker-MaGrath’s off the court presence.

“He is very approachable off the court,” Penner said. “When I committed last year, he was the first guy on the team who contacted me and is someone I got to know pretty well, very fast. He is selfless and always looking for ways to help others on the team anytime anyone needs it.”

The Lopers this year are currently 10-17 this season and have not had the success they had hoped for.

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That being said, Baker-MaGrath has learned valuable lessons from this year and is excited for the future of Loper basketball.

“I have learned so much this season and we have improved a lot this season no matter what the record says,” said Baker-MaGrath. “I just love going out there and playing with these guys. It does not matter who we play, when we play, or what our record is, we go out there prepared to fight as hard as we possibly can and that’s all anybody could ever ask for.”