

Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"There still will have to be budget cuts. There's no way around that."

— State Sen. Scott Moore, after Nebraska's projected \$65 million budget gap was reduced by \$33 million.

"It's really sad when top high school students have to look elsewhere . . . when the university no longer looks attractive for the best and brightest."

— UNL freshman Julie Duerfeldt, who had to change her major to pre-physical therapy after last year's budget cuts eliminated the sports medicine program.

"One of my greatest fears is that (university administrators) are going to cut major programs and faculty to the point that students will have to leave the university."

— ASUN President Andrew Sigerson.

"They talk the talk, but they don't walk the walk."

— Gabriel Lardizabal, evaluating the performance of ASUN officials after they are elected.

"Since the football program generates millions of dollars and the function of the program is to maintain a winning football team, it's only reasonable that these young men get something in the way of a cash return."

— Sen. Ernie Chambers, justifying his proposed bill that would require UNL to provide a stipend to its football players.

"There's a pretty good crop of running backs and there's not a high demand for them in the first round."

— Craig Ellenport, Sport Magazine's college football writer and the former editor in chief of College & Pro Football Newsweekly, evaluating the draft prospects of Nebraska running back Derek Brown.

"Even a man like Christ has to meet with unbelief."

— David Koresh, Branch Davidian cult leader, who claims to be Jesus Christ.

"A condom would work better to prevent disease than a stick of bubble gum."

— Catherine Yronwode, editor for Eclipse Enterprises non-fiction, on the company's decision to include condoms with its new line of AIDS cards.

"Kevorkian seems to enjoy his role as Michigan's resident Grim Reaper, but what he's doing is wrong. By killing people he's playing God."

— Michigan Sen. Doug Carl

"I am so numb that I can't feel anger."

— Ernest DiGiovanni, whose brother John was killed in the blast at the World Trade Center Friday.

"All across America we have problems that demand our attention. National service is nothing less than the American way to change America."

— President Bill Clinton, announcing his national service plan, which would allow college students to repay loans through community work.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1992 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents. Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily 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 students.

LETTER POLICY

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others. Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted. Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parking

Obviously, Bruce Marsh (DN, March 1, 1993), you are one of those students who doesn't read the brochure provided with your parking permit. Otherwise, you would know that the faculty and staff — unless they pay \$205 or \$270 — have to scramble for parking spots just like the students. Yes, some of our areas are close to our offices, but when we pay \$54 (like I do), we scramble like the students.

You are correct on one account, I don't have to scramble for a spot. The reason I don't is because I come to work at 6:30 a.m. and do physical training with my cadets. If you would like to join me for PT, you, too, will not have to scramble for a parking spot.

Stephen E. Goodrich
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
professor of military science

'Ridiculous'

In reading Sam Kepfield's article (DN, March 3, 1993), it took all of three minutes to surmise the profession he will take part in. Only an attorney — or an aspiring one — would attempt to shift the blame of the "Home Alone" characters so to make it appear that the real victims are the parents, not the children that have been left to fend for themselves. This is ridiculous!

Is the mother of the Lincoln 3-year-old child a victim for leaving her child alone in the evening to go out for a few drinks? No! Even the most skilled architect of twisting words and facts would have to admit that this act is extremely wrong. A parent's first responsibility is to ensure the welfare of a child, not to see that her social life is realized.

I believe it is within the state's right and responsibility to ensure the safety of its citizens. In this case, a 3-year-old child has been neglected by her mother, and I believe the state has a probable cause to both take the child away from the mother and file criminal charges against her for obvious neglect.

Finally, if this were a perfect world, we would not have to interfere in citizens' personal affairs. But if a citizen is not taking a basic responsibility seriously, then we must not wait until some harm comes to a child before we do something to stop it. After all, some parents are no more able to parent than a law graduate is to see the real victims in this case. Perhaps more schooling is needed for Kepfield in order to see this issue more clearly.

Rusty Gard
sophomore
criminal justice



David Badders/DN

'Nauseous'

One of your often-published columnists has grown tired of hearing the words "home alone," but two words that appear in the Daily Nebraskan make me no less nauseous: Sam Kepfield!

"Government's job not parenting" (DN, March 3, 1993) is yet another column that Kepfield can add to his thick stack of inaccurate and insensitive editorials. Once again Kepfield has disparaged a very serious matter by advancing an argument that is as insane as it is extreme. It is apparent that Kepfield is neither a parent nor a caring or concerned individual.

Leaving a 3-year-old child alone (or any child alone, for that matter) is abuse, and such abuse should not be trivialized with euphemisms such as "bad parenting." If a parent is willing to leave a child alone for hours or days, one can only wonder whether the child is being subjected to other forms of parental neglect.

I find it appalling that Kepfield would "applaud" the Shoos. Granted, they have every right to fight off charges levied against them, and, in turn, the two little girls left alone for 10 days during the holiday season have the right to feel safe and enjoy a secure and happy childhood. If their parents refuse to offer basic protection and care, I thank God for the people (the district attorney, Child Protective Services and other child advocate groups working long hours for little pay and with little support) who are willing to fight for these children's rights.

For someone who has expressed strong pro-life sentiments in the past

to condone the endangerment of children is shocking. His warped sense of reasoning leads to the conclusion that it is permissible to endanger the life of a child as long as it is outside the womb.

Child abuse — including leaving children alone — will never become "tiresome." Perhaps Kepfield, because of his insensitivity and lack of tolerance, may grow tired of hearing about child abuse, but caring individuals will continue to fight for the rights of this precious, albeit silent, minority.

Bernadette Lally
third-year law student

Guns

I'm writing in response to the editorial "Misrepresentation" (DN, March 2, 1993). Once again someone is writing on a subject he or she knows nothing about. The bill — LB83 — had good intentions but was a bad idea. Since I am a gun owner and a member of the NRA, I feel I know more about the subject than most. To say that the NRA doesn't care about children is not only absurd, but it shows the ignorance of some people. The NRA sponsors many different programs to educate youth on safe gun handling and shooting skills.

LB83 would require gun owners to lock firearms with some type of trigger-locking device. Some of these devices can be found on firearms on display in gun shops and large discount stores. A firearm intended for home defense would be rendered useless with this type of device.

The bill was intended to prevent accidental shootings at home, yet there is no law to prosecute homeowners of accidental poisoning of children. There is no law on how to lock up the dangerous home-cleaning chemicals, nor is there a law on how to lock up scissors or matches.

More children drown or are injured by accidental poisoning or cause property damage and even death by setting fire to homes with matches than are injured by firearms. I don't see any laws to prosecute people for not childproofing their homes. It all comes down to making sure that the home is safe for their children. This bill unfairly singles out gun owners, and the NRA is standing up for our rights. Without the NRA, we honest gun owners and caring homeowners would be subject to many stupid laws like LB83. Instead of singling out gun owners, let's create a law that would make irresponsible homeowners responsible for their actions. Obviously, whoever wrote this editorial thinks it's OK for children to play with matches or drink household chemicals or play with knives.

Kelvin K. Kreitman
senior
political science