

to the editor



Dear editor:

I was disappointed to see a National Guard recruiting advertisement posing as a letter to the editor. Having been expressed as an opinion, I should like to subject it to fair comment.

The disadvantages of belonging to the Guard are too numerous to state briefly, so I will concentrate on a few.

First, signing the enlistment papers is the same as signing a contract carrying the compulsion of state and federal law. It causes you to agree to a regime of authority which restricts certain rights. If you do not conform to the demands of this authority, it can, and does, result in your being sent to active duty.

Second, the contract you sign is for six years. You cannot quit. When you graduate, the Guard follow you in looking for a job. Employers often dislike the idea of an employee who will be unavailable for five weeks out of a year, independent of whatever vacation you would have.

Third, there are the often discussed grooming standards. They are strict and they are, at this time, being strictly enforced. You would do yourself a service, if you consider joining to note the hairlength and appearance of the recruiter. If it does not appeal to you, or if you feel it will hinder your social life, I would suggest not joining.

Finally, there is the inconvenience factor. The Guard doesn't go away during finals or vacations. It is an albatross which you must plan around.

In all fairness, generally you would be allowed to miss a drill for a good reason, but it must be made up.
R. C. Stone

Nothing funny in cartoon

Dear editor:

There was nothing funny about the *Ralph* cartoon depicting foreign students on campus (*Daily Nebraskan*, March 12).

Maybe the cartoonist intended to make Ralph look like a real idiot for the stupid remark he made about a foreign student. Ralph didn't come off like one, but the foreign student did—and so did the cartoonist.

This ridicule of foreign customs or dress gives support to a guest opinion written earlier this year by one foreign student who said narrow minded UNL students can't fathom or tolerate any culture different from their own.

In the past the *Daily Nebraskan* has done a good job of uncovering some of the problems minority and foreign students face. An offensive cartoon like Tuesday's *Ralph*, however, easily can undo any good accomplished by past reporting.

Lynn Silhasek

Rub two sticks

Dear editor:

Natalie McClendon has missed the whole point of Wes Albers' point is for us to pull our heads out of the sand and let technology advance with the proper amount of safety restrictions, not to condemn something because it is new.

Albers just mentioned a few examples of things people were paranoid of when they were first introduced. He happened to mention airplanes and automobiles, two parts of our technologically advanced society. McClendon proceeds to tear down one example, the automobile. Her way of doing this

condemns the first wheel invented by the caveman.

I suggest that the next time McClendon needs to see in the dark, she rub two sticks together and make a torch to see by. No, I guess McClendon couldn't do this. Smoke creates pollution.

Bruce Cummins

Lack of knowledge

Dear editor:

Wes Albers has once again displayed his ineptness with the knowledge (or lack of it) concerning the 55 m.p.h. speed limit.

In his editorial last Thursday he made the claim that the lower speed limit is the reason for the lowered death rate. I disagree and have the statistics to prove it.

There has been a dramatic decrease in traffic deaths this past year. However, the connection between lower speed limits and lower traffic deaths is thrown in grave doubt by the fact that reduction in deaths has not taken place on our freeways and highways. According to statistics released by the California Highway Patrol, the exact same number of traffic deaths have occurred on the freeway systems as in previous years. The decrease in fatalities has occurred on city streets and rural two-lane highways.

Colorado's Department of Highways has released the first quantitative analysis of the 55 m.p.h. speed limit's effect. Their conclusion is that only 30 per cent of the fatality reduction can be attributed to reduced speed, 25 per cent to reduced traffic volume and 45 per cent to ongoing safety programs such as those generated by the National Safety Act which went into effect in 1967.

The state of Arizona and Nevada never adopted the 55 m.p.h. speed limit. With 75 m.p.h. and no highway limit respectively, they showed 42 per cent and 29 per cent fatality reductions in January 1974.

John Winemiller

It's rodeo time again in Lincoln! On April 11 & 12 it's our 8th annual NIRA approved rodeo in the Coliseum at the State Fairgrounds. The evening performances begin at 8:00 and the Saturday afternoon rodeo begins at 1:30. Come join the fun!

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