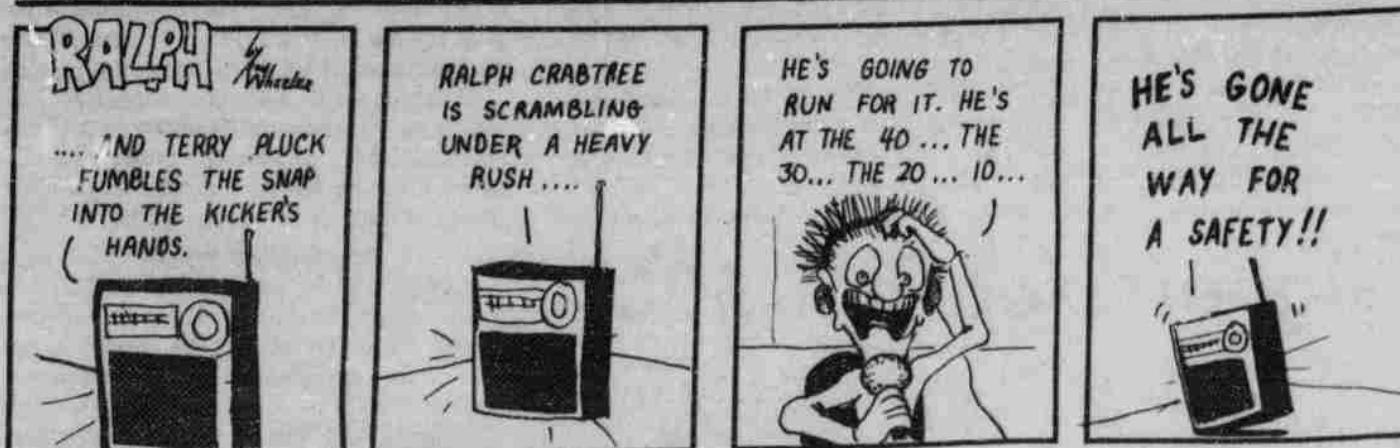


# editorial / opinion

the word **unheard**

## Handgun control no solution

By Del Gustafson

In the wake of two assassination attempts upon President Gerald Ford, it is not surprising that bill upon bill has been introduced in Congress designed to soonenow increase governmental control over private possession of firearms.

Walter Fauntroy (dem-District of Columbia) has introduced one of the toughest bills, which would make the possession of any handgun illegal.

Fauntroy maintains that his bill, if passed, would halt the soaring murder rate. I doubt it. More over, the implementation of such a policy would have many undesirable consequences.

Since the ownership of a gun is almost a traditional aspect of American life (nearly 50 per cent of all American families have at least one gun) the immediate effect of such a law would be a black market for handguns.

The higher prices of the proscribed weapon on this black market would deprive only the poor of their guns, as Prohibition deprived only the poor of booze.

If the federal government decided to enforce the provisions of the law—that is, to make certain no house in the United States sheltered a pistol—a costly and massive agency would have to be created for the sole purpose of ferreting out handguns.

That agency would have to engage in the most systematic and ubiquitous invasion of individual privacy this country has ever seen. The phone-tapping and house-searching now reserved generally only for the elite, would become the experience of Mr. Middle America.

And after the agents were finished and the American populace had been deprived of its guns as well as its civil liberties, where would we be? Organized crime would no doubt still have its guns, along with a profit from the illicit sale of firearms large enough to fund its own army. Sorry to say it, but the murder rate probably would be about the same.

Statistics released by the United Nations reveal that the most definite conclusion one can draw about the relationship between the availability of guns and the homicide rate is that one can't draw any conclusions.

Most of the 39 nations with homicide rates higher than the United States also have stricter regulations on the private use of firearms. Switzerland, which has the world's highest number of guns per population, also has the ninth lowest homicide rate.

It becomes apparent that one must look beyond the murder weapon into the very soul of the murderer, if the force which drives a man to kill his fellowman is to be found.

It is a sad commentary upon the level of rational discourse in our modern age that, were Brutus to kill Caesar today, The New York Times and Ted Kennedy would call for stricter regulation of knives; Brutus would no doubt be mentioned as a possible presidential candidate; and, after his delivery of the funeral oration which laid the blame for Caesar's death on Brutus's head, poor Anthony would be denounced as a rightwing knife nut. Progress is certainly marvelous.

### Slanted journalism

Dear editor,

Rebecca Brite's editorial on Perkinton is the best example of cheap, slanted journalism.

Brite writes, "KFMQ's action was deplorable, and their defense for the firing, that Perkinton's professional performance had been unsatisfactory, is very weak under the circumstances."

In my opinion, just the fact that Perkinton was told "three or four hours prior to her dismissal not to announce the women's program" is a good enough case for being dismissed.

Is it the opinion of the Daily Nebraskan that because Perkinton is a woman she has the right to be insubordinate?

The owner and managers of KFMQ, to which I am in no way attached, set the format and policy of the station. An announcer is hired and well aware of these circumstances before she or he goes on the air.

It is part of the job to conform to the policy of the station. An announcer is hired and well aware of these circumstances before she or he goes on the air.

It is part of the job to conform to the policy of the station. The owners and managers are held responsible by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the public for what is played and announced on their station and it is their prerogative—the owners', that is—to decide what is to be played and said on the air.

Meanwhile, as the Daily Nebraskan supports someone who in my opinion deserves no support, somewhere a woman who is qualified for her job is being turned down or fired just because she is a woman. I support the National Organization for Women and most of their policies and I believe that a woman is equally apt to be fired for good reasons as a man.

I would like to point out that KFMQ is well aware of Women's Strike Day and had been for sometime. So it is doubtful they would fire Perkinton right before the strike day, knowing it would be picked up by the newspapers, unless they had sound reasons.

R. David Graupner

### Closing mistake

Dear editor,

I think that the proposed closing of the undergraduate library is a bad mistake. The library is one of the best things going on campus for undergraduates. It is so easy to locate materials, the location and hours are very convenient and it is one of the best places to study on campus.

I urge all members of the university community who feel as I do to write Dr. Rudolph, Love Library 106, and Dr. Breckenridge, Administration 309, to express their opinions on the closing. If enough support is shown, the decision should be reversed.

Lee Doren

innocent bystander

## Female traits suit Presidential role

By Arthur Hoppe

My sister dropped by the other evening to break the news. "I'm running for President," she said.

"That's nice," I said. "Of the P.T.A. or the Garden Club?"

"Of the United States," she said. "The latest Gallup Poll says that a record 73 per cent of the public would now vote for a woman President. Our time has come! Why are you frowning? Don't you want a President in the family?"

"I have nothing against Presidents," I said. "But I certainly wouldn't want my sister to be one."

"I always suspected as much. You're a male chauvinist pig."

"Nonsense. You know very well I have always placed women on a pedestal and treated them as equals."

"If you think I'm your equal, why don't you want me to be President?"

"Because it's no job for a woman. You know how women are."

"How are they?"

"Charming. But they tend to be flighty. When it comes to decisions, they never can make up their minds."

"What are you talking about? I make hundreds of decisions every day—which bills to pay first, what to cook George for dinner, whether the children are too sick to go to school, where we should go on our vacation, who to..."

"I mean crucial decisions—like whether we should recognize Albania."

"You're right. I often let George make those."

"And another thing. If you were President, who'd take care of the kids? After all, there is no more important, challenging and rewarding role in our society than raising the next generation. We relegate this task to women because they have the love, understanding and wisdom to accomplish it."

"George says he'll take care of the children."

"Well, that lazy idiot's probably not much good for anything else. But the main thing is that women are too soft. Name two women who are tough enough to..."

"Golda Meir and Indira Ghandi."

"...be vigorous leaders. Anyway, you know how women are, always worrying about looking their best, expecting people to open doors for them and talking too much."

"That sounds like a President to me."

"And besides being soft, flighty and indecisive, women are constantly telling people what to do, bossing them around."

"I think a woman would make a great President."

"Not on your life. Do you realize a President has to work twelve hours a day? What poor, weak housewife could stand the strain? It's a job for a real man. And furthermore... Put that down!"

My sister's emotional outburst didn't surprise me. You know how women are—so irrational. What surprised me was that a member of the weaker sex could swing a 32-pound floor lamp that hard.

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### UN misconceptions

Dear editor,

Last Friday's Daily Nebraskan contained an outpouring of anti-United Nations letters, all of which included major errors and misconceptions.

First, it was not the UN that limited U.S. forces in Korea. It was President Truman and the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, who believed, as General Omar Bradley put it, that McArthur's proposals would involve us in "the wrong war, at the wrong place and at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy." In any case, the writer never did show any causal link between bombing north of the Ualu in Korea, and Dien Phu in Vietnam.

Second, the term "tyranny of the majority" as used by U.S. Ambassador Moynihan refers to the idea that the majority in any democracy has the duty to respect the rights of the minority, a concept notably lacking in today's UN.

Furthermore, remember that the nations who usually combine to produce a numerical voting majority include such large nations as Fiji (population: 567,520—about the size of Omaha), Malta (at 325,000—the average size of an American congressional district) and Bahrain (222,000—the size of Lincoln).

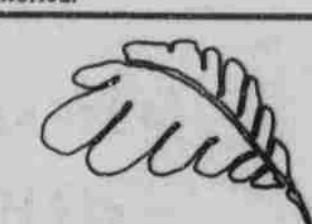
Thus we find that many 'majorities' in the UN actually represent the wishes of nations with a combined population equal to or less than that of the United States.

Finally, a letter condemned Moynihan because he called Uganda's Idi Amin a "radical tyrant." The writer contended that this was because Amin had threatened to kill an Englishman and insinuated that Moynihan couldn't care less about Jews or Blacks.

Very interesting point, for Newsweek (Oct. 20, 1975) states that Moynihan's condemnation of Amin was because "Amin had called for the extinction of the state of Israel," and because "anywhere from 25,000 to 250,000 Ugandans (including blacks) have been murdered since Amin seized power in 1971."

Michael Gibson

to the  
editor



Dear editor,

Your handling of the Ann Perkinton story was a classic example of irresponsible and shoddy journalism.

First, editorials belong on the editorial page and not in the news section. The Daily Nebraskan presented one opinion from an outraged person with the deepest will for revenge, and gave the other side in one paragraph at the end of the story.

The story itself contains more than one outright lie. Ann stated that she is absolutely sure she is the lowest paid DJ at KFMQ. I know of at least one that is lower paid... me!

She also stated that Sunday evening DJ Jeff Taylor is quitting because he "can't" understand limitations put on employees". If you had contacted him, you would have discovered that Taylor has accepted a bartending job in Colorado because he likes the mountains.

Finally, if KFMQ were a feminist, rip-off station (as the banner in front of the Women's Resource Center so proudly proclaims) why would they have hired a female DJ (the only one in Lincoln) in the first place?

Maybe the Daily Nebraskan should strive more for accuracy instead of speed in rolling a story off its red hot press.

Dick Deitemeyer

### Professionalism, not feminism

Dear editor,

Disc jockeys are not program managers. It is the responsibility of a program manager to develop and approve programs that satisfy both the station policy and the incredible mass of legal requirements imposed by the FCC.

These points are basic knowledge for any person who has taken even the most fundamental broadcasting courses.

Your attempt to make a feminist issue out of Perkinton's dismissal from KFMQ is way off base. The issue is professionalism, not feminism.

The conflict between Ann and the KFMQ management over Ann's desire to alter the format or strike on Women's Strike Day should have been resolved off the air. The matter was not kept off the air; hence Perkinton's dismissal.

Just because an issue involves a female, it does not automatically become a feminist issue. It seems that just as there is a right way, a wrong way and the Army way, that the attitude of supposedly professional women reflects a right way, a wrong way and the feminist way.

Capricom