

A nice reaction: parking prices up, sales down



Daily Nebraskan Photo

The campus parking situation seems to be a wonderful example of the economy at work—permit prices were raised so fewer permits have been sold.

John Duve, UNL parking and traffic coordinator, reports that parking permit sales are down from last year.

The sales drop suspiciously follows a price hike from \$25 a year to \$35 a year. And, if you'll recall, there was talk of an even bigger price hike at one point last spring, until student reaction prompted reconsideration.

Duve says it is too early to tell if the price increase affected sales.

It's sort of heartwarming to see the economy chugging along the supply and demand curve. There's no question the price increase and last spring's controversy had some affect on sales.

In this case, it is hard to complain about the sales decrease. For years parking lots have been oversold and Duve did not complain that costs

were not being met with fewer sales. The point is: isn't it nice to see direct (for the economists, an elastic) student response to a policy change.

Last Friday, Lincoln Regent Ed Schwartzkopf questioned student credibility because the NU Board of Regents failure to approve alcohol on campus and 24-hour visitation for residence halls did not decrease occupancy.

Well, Regent Schwartzkopf, there were extenuating circumstances. Apartment prices and the costs of living off campus have risen.

And, let's be honest, you can find a drink on campus and it does not take much creativity to arrange an all-night visit.

But, with parking, the price went up and the sales went down. The same thing could happen with other things—like football tickets.

Maybe there is student power to be tapped—a pocketbook sort of power—but power, nonetheless.

editorials



Capital punishment would be an empty solution

New York—It is different when everything becomes real.

A few days ago in a New York City courtroom, Judge Burton Roberts called for George Adorno, 18, to stand up and be sentenced for murder.

Adorno, a finger hooked into his mouth, remained seated for a few moments. Then he stood, clasped his hands in front of him and carefully inspected the ceiling as Roberts spoke.

"I've been in this business a long time," Roberts said. "Nothing I've ever had hits me as hard as this."

In the second row were Dr. Ruselle Robinson and his wife, parents of Steven Robinson, 26, whom Adorno killed Feb. 23. Robinson, driving a cab to pay for his education, had two credits left for a college degree and intentions to study law when he was killed behind the wheel of his cab.

Roberts leaned forward and his voice rose. "This individual before me can't pass a first-grade reading test and the young man he shot and killed had a book with him in his taxicab. The book was *Wind, Sand and Stars* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery.

"I haven't heard that author's name since I was in high school and I was compelled to read him. But Steven Robinson read that book because he had the soul of a poet. He wanted to contribute. He never will because George Adorno said, 'Let's go get a couple of bucks from a cabby.'"

that those in their charge don't get the chance to hurt anybody. The juvenile courts don't have the funds for this. The public should be told that it has to face this.

"I'm not running for office. I can take an unpopular position and say to the public that if you want to put an end to this crime, then it is going to cost you more money. I don't have to call for capital punishment. That's the phoniest of phony solutions. You won't have one execution in years even if there is a law.

"Society has the right to determine an extreme penalty. Therefore the legislature should put in a life sentence that means life. No parole. In this case before me now, a plea of guilty was taken so that there would be no possibility that he might escape with a trial. Under the plea, he is to serve a minimum of 15 years to life.

"But at the end of 15 years, the parole board does not have to release him. It is not mandated that he be let out. The court states that the parole board should seriously reflect whether he should be allowed out at the end of 15 years."

Roberts hunched forward and stared at Adorno. "As I look at you now, certainly, if ever we have had a fit subject for capital punishment, it's you. But we in our society never will sink to your level. It is not necessary to sink to the level of the George Adornos and wring their necks and soil society's hands with their blood.

'Encourage violence'

"The public is going to realize the fact that capital punishment only encourages further violence. In the meantime, you are going to be in jail. I do hope you spend many sleepless nights. I hope what you have done bothers you and causes you anguish."

A guard tapped Adorno on the shoulder. Adorno, wearing a green T-shirt and red sneakers, shook hands with his lawyers, looked around the room with a half smile on his face, and walked out with his guards.

He grew up in this city without going to school, and no truant officers grabbed him. He robbed and the juvenile courts let him go. He murdered and they let him go. So he murdered again.

And now, as he goes to prison, he suggests the need for an alternative to capital punishment—life sentence without parole—that will not reduce society to the level of a murderer.

Out on the streets, during the recent New York City mayoral campaign, the call for capital punishment has gone through the streets like a devil's moan.

Deterrent

People who live in nights that drip with fear have listened as politicians tell them the death penalty is a deterrent and, if not a deterrent, then it is a proper instrument of vengeance. And then the politicians go elsewhere and the people are left with their anger, expectations and untruths told them by the candidates.

For where justice becomes real, not a way of pandering for votes, the idea of capital punishment becomes empty.

George Adorno, a murderer, walked in and out of juvenile courts that cannot handle the crush of cases. The idea should be to catch a George Adorno at 13, and not to

waste time arguing capital punishment.

When it was over yesterday morning, Dr. Ruselle Robinson and his wife walked slowly down the dim corridor to the elevator banks. They stood in silence and then rode downstairs and walked through the crowded, shabby lobby.

Outside, Robinson took a deep breath.

"What did you think?" he was asked.

"Oh, I guess capital punishment wouldn't do any good," he said.

"He's gone," his wife said.

"He's gone," Robinson said.

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letter to the editor

In response to your editorial of Sept. 12, the executives and senators of ASUN report that we are not smiling at Big Red's defeat last Saturday. Our opposition to the expansion of Memorial Stadium should not be confused with opposition to a strong, vital athletic department and winning football team.

In fact, it is our intention to strengthen the position of the athletic department by helping it avoid the \$3.2 million to \$3.4 million debt that stadium expansion would entail.

It is also our intention to help the morale of the football team by insuring an attractive, full stadium at every game, not an unattractive stadium that will be partially empty during some games.

Finally, it is our intention to help the fans of Nebraska football by keeping ticket prices as low as possible, especially for students.

Elected representatives of ASUN feel that the more than 2,100 students who joined in last week's petition drive to halt the expansion of Memorial Stadium share these sentiments and will join with us in wishing the Huskers the best of luck this Saturday.

BURY THE BEAR! BEAT 'BAMA!

Ken Christofferson, ASUN second vice president, for the executives and senators

Editor's note: We apologize for any misunderstanding. The intention was to indicate that opponents of stadium expansion might smile at the possible end of the controversy, not the Husker loss.

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes letters to the editors, guest opinions and op/ed pieces. Material submitted must include the author's name, address and major or occupation. A pen name can be used if requested.

jimmy breslin



Adorno's record

Roberts recited Adorno's record. At 4, Adorno set fire to his sister. Before he was 16, he was arrested 16 times.

"First thefts, thefts and then we come to the big ones. Murder. Arrested four times for murder. He confessed to one of the murders in Family Court. He was let go because his mother, who can't speak a word of English, wasn't present.

"The psychiatrist states that he's 'a monstrous human being.' " Adorno's head tilted and he smiled. "Nothing ever happened to him. He plays the courts like a concert player plays the piano. Is there ever a time when a red light goes on and you say, 'We have to control this person?' So at age 16, he finally gets a three-year sentence and he is out in 18 months.

"This record indicates to me that, rather than people getting together and saying, 'Let's restore capital punishment, let's put powder and rouge on crime, let's put a Band-Aid on cancer,' rather than all this, the public has to think about strengthening a criminal justice system to prevent somebody like this from slipping through it for so long.

'Ultimate goal'

"The ultimate goal of a juvenile court is to make sure