

opinion/editorial

Enforceable campus alcohol policy is encouraged

Now that the regular football season is over, ending on a sour note in more ways than Saturday's final score, UNL officials need to address what we perceive as a serious problem.

There exists what seems to be a double standard toward drinking on campus, and the standard held for students might be a contributing factor in some of the violence that occurred Thursday night.

It is absolutely shameful that students face disciplinary actions if they drink on campus, but alumni and others who attend Cornhusker football games drink openly as they walk across campus, apparently with no reason to fear enforcement of policy.

Drinking is illegal on campus. If it's illegal for students, then faculty, alumni and regents who violate the policy should face the same punitive action that students face. But they don't.

University Police Lt. Joe Welner said fans at Saturday's game caused fewer problems than normal, partly because "We had quite a few less than normal tailgate parties" before the game. There is a tendency for the UNL police, obviously, to view tailgate parties on campus as harmless, but drinking students as dangerous.

Thursday night's setting of bonfires and destruction of property by UNL students was a disgusting display.

But isn't it possible that if authorities didn't automatically assume that students are responsible for disruptions of all sorts that students would be less likely to let their enthusiasm lead them toward violent behavior? If students do it, the police show up. If non-students do it, it's OK.



Granted, alumni are past the days of bonfires. But it is this attitude toward students that might lead to the nasty tone of some group disturbances in recent years.

Really, what caused the ugliness of UNL students engaging in destructive behavior Thursday night is not the issue of this editorial.

The point is the double standard that is obvious on football Saturdays, and the policy that does not allow students to drink in the privacy of their dorm rooms or anywhere on campus.

In the Big Fight, only NU, Missouri and Oklahoma State prohibit possession of alcohol on campus.

If the present NU policy is not enforceable, it should be changed. It is obvious that either the policy cannot be enforced or that enforcement is selective. Therefore, work should be made toward change that allows students who are of age to enjoy their full privileges of citizenship.

The Residence Hall Association is working toward such a policy. We endorse that effort, and urge UNL officials to cooperate to the fullest.

Cosgrove lauds 'fighting for peace'

My friend Cosgrove was sitting beside me on the bus, reading the daily paper. I hoped that would be enough, that he wouldn't strike up a conversation with me, but after reading page one he turned to me and said, "You know, whoever said that nobody ever really wins in a war was dead wrong."

"Lousy pun," I responded, hoping to break his chain of thought at the first link.

clark

"No, really. I have been following this thing with Iran and Iraq for a few weeks now, and I'm telling you it's the best thing that could have happened to either nation."

"Is that just your opinion, or do you have experts behind you on this?"

Cosgrove folded up his paper as neatly as he could. "Just listen to the news reports. Every day Radio Tehran announces that the Iranians have shot down five more Iraqi planes, right?"

"Right," I said hesitantly. "And every day the Iraqis announce that they are about to take over another town, right?"

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"Well, maybe not every day ..."

"Almost every day, then."

"I concede the point."

"So both sides are winning the war, and whoever said that nobody really wins a war didn't know what he was talking about."

I tried to reason with him; not always the best idea, but I didn't know what else to do.

"Cosgrove, I think you're missing the point here. The person who said that nobody wins a war was trying to explain that the destruction isn't worth the effort, that there's no good reason to make war."

"But they were wrong," countered Cosgrove. "This is a very noble, important war we're talking about here, and they are fighting for a good cause on both sides."

"Do tell. What are they fighting for?"

"Peace."

I hoped that the bus would get to my stop soon.

"Fighting for peace. But if they stopped fighting, there would already be peace, wouldn't there?"

"You don't see The Big Picture," he said. "Sure there would be a cease-fire, but both sides would still be hostile, and both would still have the capacity to wage war."

"So how does this change in The Big Picture?"

"Figure it out mathematically. If Iraq has, say, 1,500 planes in its air force, and Iran downs two a day, the whole air force can be kaput in less than a year."

"So?" I countered cleverly.

"So the Iraqis would have no way to wage an air war. Then they would buy more planes with their oil money."

"But as long as the war is on, they can't produce as much oil, so they can't afford more planes."

"So then they would drag Jordan or someone else into the war, and pretty soon you've got the whole Middle East at war."

"Perfect!" said Cosgrove, clapping his hands with delight. "Pretty soon every airplane in the whole Middle East would be shot out of the sky."

"Then they would go to a ground war," I said. I thought I took him by surprise with that one. "And they can't just fire at each other until they run out of soldiers."

"No, but they can fire until they run out of buildings to fire at. See, you have to take away the motivation for war to end it forever. Mark my words, when those countries reduce each other to absolute rubble, then we will finally have peace in the Middle East."

to the editor

We would like to thank all who helped with the Angel Flight/Arnold Air Society Coffee Day for LTS passengers. We feel it was a successful program and increased the awareness of the community services provided by LTS.

By riding buses, four benefits are achieved. First, money is saved by those passengers who did not have to buy gas. Second, our streets are less congested because of fewer cars. Third, our air is cleaner because less cars are on the streets emitting pollution. Finally, we conserve energy, a noble goal at this critical time because it limits our dependence on foreign oil.

A final special thanks goes to all those who helped, especially McDonald's, Kuhl's Restaurant, and the Citizens for Environmental Improvement, as well as all who better Lincoln by using public transportation.

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'Just what economy needs'

I feel I must respond to Kathy Chenault's editorial in the Nov. 17 Daily Nebraskan, in which she asserts that space exploration is too expensive for our "troubled economy."

Setting aside my own opinion that increased knowledge is always worth whatever it costs, may I suggest that renewed funding for our space program may be just what our economy needs.

For example: Funding the space program would provide employment for a large number of scientists, many of whom hold non-science type jobs because there are not enough science ones available. This would then make their current jobs available for other people who may now be unemployed, costing the rest of us money rather than contributing as taxpayers to the cost of our government (and partly to the space program).

But scientists cannot work alone, any more than businessmen, doctors or lawyers. They need laboratory technicians, secretaries and other clerical assistance, computer programmers and keypunch operators, draftsmen, tool-and-dye makers, etc., etc., etc.

Continued on Page 5