

letters to the editor

Of students and cattle

It is unfortunate that some students fail to respect communal property in their efforts to save a few steps and a few seconds time. In doing this they trample the rights of present and future students to an aesthetic campus just as they trample the few struggling spears of grass now trying to grow between Andrews and Burnett Halls.

I am referring to James S. Story's complaint about the newly-erected fence between Andrews and Burnett Halls as a means of preventing students from walking a convenient path.

Ranchers use something similar in pastures called a drift fence to force livestock out of their normal path of travel or to force them into unused areas. It is sad the university must practice the same methods to protect state ground. One expects more of students than one does of a cow.

Cheryl Alberts
Junior, College of Agriculture

No deterrent, no theory

Brady Wiebeck attacked Doug Teten's logic in defending handguns; he should be wondering about his own logic.

The "no deterrent" theory, so popular in attacking the death penalty, has now spread to the handgun controversy. If there is no mandatory jail term or other punishment for people who use handguns, what's the purpose of having handgun control in the first place? Is Wiebeck saying it's OK to walk the streets with a handgun once it has been purchased, legally or illegally?

"No deterrent" would not apply in this

case at all. If it's no deterrent to know you will be punished severely for walking about brandishing a handgun, then what is?

Let's face it. Some punishments, believe it or not, do serve as effective deterrents. Have you ever noticed the signs in stores that say "Shoplifters will be prosecuted?" Believe me, if there was no punishment for shoplifting, everyone would be doing it.


Wiebeck makes some good points. There is no comparison between prohibition and the possible control of handguns. Likewise, he is correct in saying that handgun control will not "take the guns away from the American citizens."

One sound belief in favor of handgun control is that you can hide a handgun but not a rifle or shotgun. No one is going to be walking about with a hidden rifle tucked inside, unless it's of a type I'm not familiar with.

If we have handgun control, by all means let's have a mandatory sentence to go along with it. The two should go hand in hand, not one without the other.

Tom Shelton
Sophomore, Journalism

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