

## letters to the editor

### Handguns simple method

In their letters of Oct. 29, Lance Olson and Joel Williamsen make two rather porous and sophomoric arguments against the control of handguns. That's a little-disguised alternative version of the assinine American bumper sticker claiming that guns don't kill people, people do. Bunk.

Bullets kill people, fired from handguns, by people. And Americans kill each other with bullets from handguns like nobody else: In a recent year the United States recorded 10,725 handgun murders, compared with 52 in Canada and 55 in England. That's a whopping difference, and while that astounding statistic may simply reveal Americans to be far more barbarian than the citizens of Canada or England, it may also be a result of the ease with which any citizen in this country can obtain handguns.

Olson allows that "some citizens have hastily shot their loved ones after heated arguments." He should have said many. A majority of handgun murders are the result of heated quarrels between friends, lovers and neighbors, not rampaging criminals seeking out innocent victims to murder.

The fact is that picking up a loaded handgun in a fit of rage and firing a bullet across a room or yard or parking lot at someone else is quick and easy; it happens instantaneously and there is physical distance between the victim and the perpetrator.

Handguns are convenient. For at least some of the murderers, it would be much harder to have to plunge a knife into the flesh of a living person, or to strangle or choke someone by hand, for example. These means are slower, cruder, more deliberate; they require closer proximity between the two parties; they require that someone do the work of murder himself rather than relying on the ease of his gun, on the convenience of distance.

If either Olson or Williamsen are really interested in reducing the number of handgun murder victims in this country, and neither mentioned that they cared a whit about these victims, then they would work to reduce the number of "lethal tools" with which murder can so readily be committed.

Mike Cooper  
NEH Resident Fellow

### ASUN loses local focus

This letter is written with respect to the article entitled "ASUN Senate opposes nuclear weapon growth" which appeared in the Oct. 29 issue of the Daily Nebraskan. I, as well as most other logical people, oppose nuclear weapons growth if such a doctrine would realistically increase the possibility of peace. However, we do not live in such an illusory world.

I ran with the SURE party as a business senator last year and well remember our pledges to students on how we would restore credibility to ASUN by concentrating on student services and problems that are encountered here at the university level. The SURE party swept the election and hopes were once again raised that ASUN might reverse the tailspin it has recently been experiencing. The resolution in question is evidence that ASUN has in fact sped up this demise by indulging in exactly what it campaigned against.

Tim Rinne and Fran Grabowski's resolution only states the obvious and has no constructive purpose whatsoever. I certainly respect their cause, but feel ASUN is the wrong vehicle for such a policy. Why does ASUN feel the need to concern itself with international affairs that it has no power to influence when there are a myriad of problems right here at UNL? Does it inflate the egos of our senators when they look over their landmark decisions on gay rights, El Salvador, or Solidarity?

Tim Chandler's recent resignation is further evidence that more and more people are fed up with Rinne's constant dedication to occupying ASUN with problems that do not affect the educational concerns of UNL students.

I was impressed with the foresight of ASUN in that they saw fit to warn President Reagan and other assorted dignitaries of their most recent resolution. The crudely simplistic rhetoric found throughout this and other similar Rinne-sponsored ASUN productions is a sad reminder to all of us that ASUN is indeed digging a hole that may well be too deep to escape from in the future.

Carl Sjulín  
Junior

## daily nebraskan

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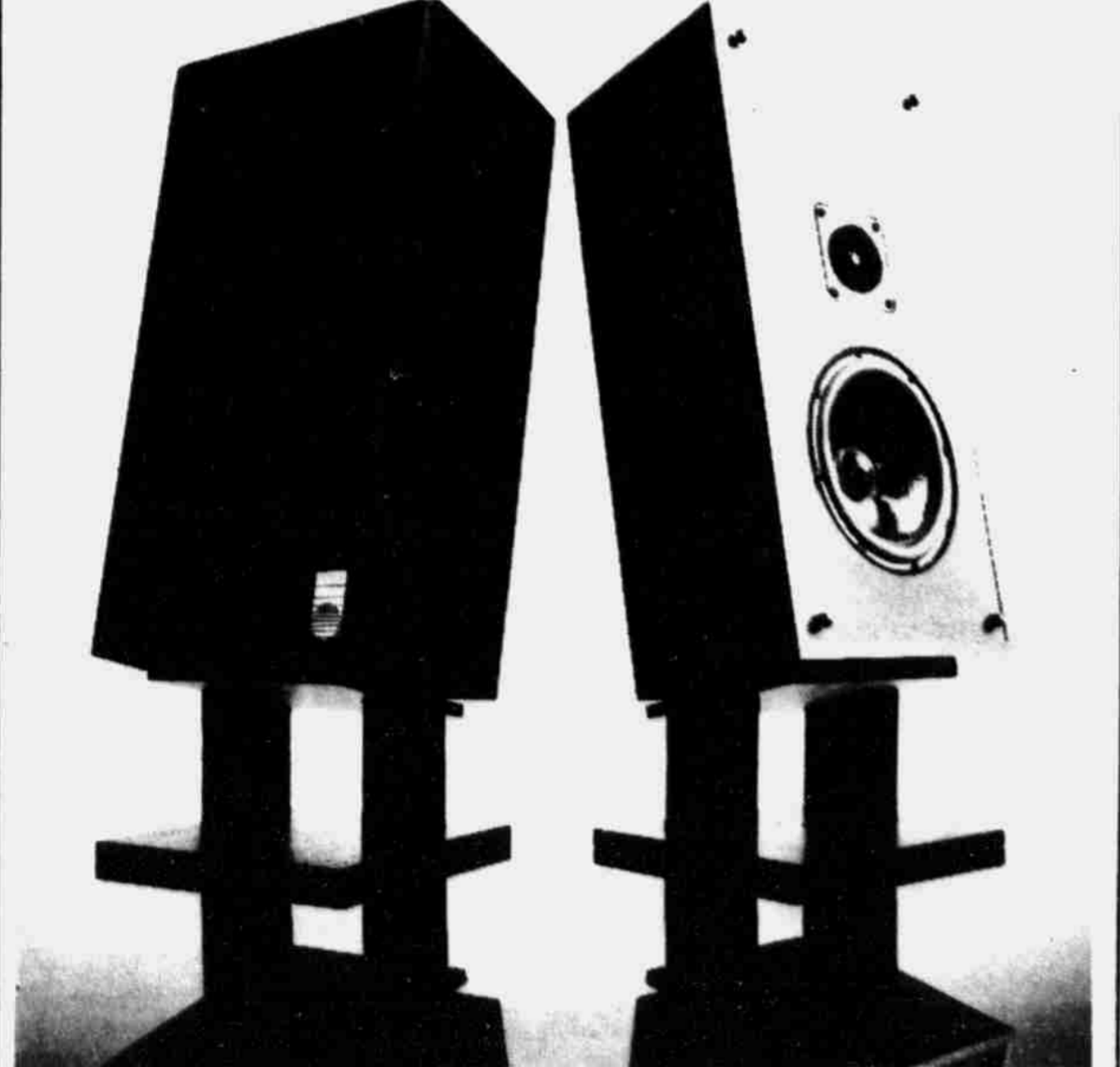
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