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Pacifist ideal good

In response to John Vargas Jr. (Nov. 19 letter to the editor) regarding David Wayte's refusal to register for the draft:

1) This is not an act of "vital treason." If Wayte is guilty of anything, it is civil disobedience.

2. Wayte was not acquitted because of any leniency on the part of the court. He was acquitted because the law was found invalid.

3. Wayte only would have been a "gutless hypocrite" if he had registered for a draft that he did not believe in. Instead, he had the courage to risk a fine of up to \$10,000 and a five-year prison term by exercising his right to express his beliefs. Freedom of expression is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

4. The United States flourishes upon a

free exchange of ideas, including those that may be contrary to the conventional wisdom. Wayte and others like him may prefer to see conflicts resolved by non-violent means rather than by armed aggression. This pacifist ideal is based on the belief that all human life has intrinsic value. This belief in the value of human life goes beyond national boundaries and should be encouraged, not oppressed.

To those who see violence as the only means to resolve world conflict we say, this is our world - love it or please leave it!

Liz Barker
 graduate, anthropology
 Nina Cuellar
 graduate, anthropology

Few die in the ring

Jeff Goodwin and Janet Chu must be from a planet outside the Milky Way. What else could explain the erroneous statements and irrelevance of their writing.

Goodwin (in a Nov. 18 column) called Duk Koo Kim's death tragic and Chu (in a Nov. 22 letter to the editor) called it senseless. Tragic - not likely. Senseless - hardly. What it was, for their information (because neither apparently watched the fight), was unfortunate.

Kim was the top contender in his weight-class and was in top condition for his fight with Ray Mancini, the champion. His death, following a brilliantly contested bout, overshadowed the greatness of the fight. It was unfortunate because Kim died participating in a sport he evidently (he was paid only \$20,000 for the fight) loved.

Thousands upon thousands of fights are staged and contested annually, but only a handful of fighters have their careers or lives ended in the ring. In football, the major crippling injuries are more frequent, but nothing is done because it would endanger the integrity of the sport.

Chu asked, "How many times must this sort of thing happen before we do something about it?" Adding head protection, as football players and high-speed motor racing enthusiasts will tell you, will not prevent injuries or deaths and rarely lessen their severity.

Winning may be everything, according to Vince Lombardi but not to Mancini. My prayers are with Mancini as they were with Kim. I hope that this fight will not psychologically scar him as Johnny Owen's death did Lupe Pintor in 1981 (Pintor was another fighter, who after causing a fatal ring injury, never regained his championship form.)

If Chu and Goodwin know of a way to curtail deaths in all sports, I would like to know about it. We as students have little recourse on this subject; we are not apathetic.

Karl Vogel
 freshman, journalism

Work to prevent war

In regard to Mat Tinley's letter to the editor (Daily Nebraskan, Nov. 23), most resisters to draft registration do not "forget how loyally so many Americans have performed to protect the freedoms which our forefathers fought so courageously to gain." In fact, they do remember the wars so many loyal American "performed" in. But - wars are not something you "perform" in. Wars are something where you kill and die.

Also, if Tinley hasn't noticed, there currently isn't any war going on to "perform" in to "protect our freedoms." What is going on is an unnecessary buildup to war (the draft, MX missiles in Wyoming, etc.), not the prevention of one as President Reagan would have us believe.

Yes, we do have a small responsibility to our nation, but we have an even greater responsibility to our conscience and life on this planet. The contributions of the people of the United States could be much more constructive than learning how to kill our fellow men. We could be working harder on better ways to prevent war and more peaceful ways of helping other countries besides giving them arms.

If Tinley is so gung-ho about "protecting our freedom," why doesn't he enlist?

Dave Hughes
 graduate

Letter policy

The Daily Nebraskan encourages brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available in the newspaper.

Letters sent to the newspaper for publication become the property of the

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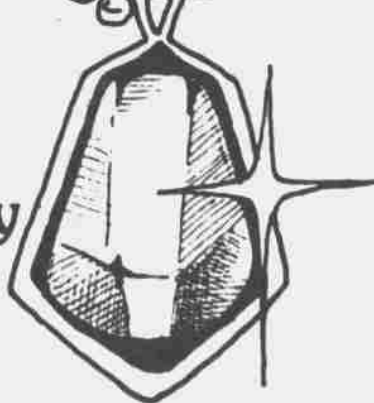
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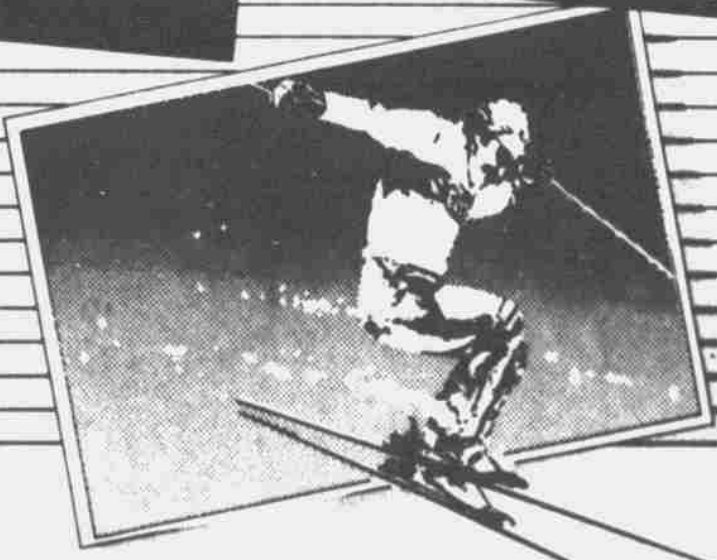
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