

Editorial

Soviet plane downing must never be forgotten

The Soviet Union's downing last week of Korean Air Lines flight 007, which had strayed off course into Russian air space, gave the world a lesson on Soviet government, and its respect for human life.

Soviet leaders have made a hobby of portraying their country as a peace-loving nation. Far too many people, both here and abroad, have fallen for their publicity stunts and blatant lies which make the Soviet Union out as the peace-seekers and the United States as the aggressors of the world.

But now we know better.

No nation with any desire for world peace would intentionally shoot down a passenger airliner, even if it had entered restricted airspace. But most evidence indicates that's exactly what the Soviets did.

It doesn't take an aviation expert to tell the difference between a military jet and a passenger jet. The Soviets knew what their target was, but chose to fire anyway.

This total lack of respect for human life can easily be compared to the concentration camps of Nazi Germany. The magnitude of this incident is much less, of course, but the barbaric tactics of the Soviet Union are no better than those of Adolf Hitler.

The 269 people who died on flight 007 — innocent men, women and children who left behind family and friends

to mourn — will become little more than statistics, if that, to the Soviet Government.

In fact, those people may never be known to most Soviets. According to news accounts in this country, Soviet citizens have yet to learn the full story of their government's actions.

But while the Soviet government hides the facts from its own people, the rest of the world must not let these deaths become a forgotten issue.

The incident should awaken the citizens of this country once and for all to the brutality of the Soviet government and its constant threat to the free world.

It should serve as a reminder that the Soviets chose not to cooperate with other countries, that they refuse to live by the standards of humanity many other nations live by.

And it should serve as a reminder that this country must maintain a strong defense in order to fight off Soviet aggression.

That's not to say the two countries should discontinue arms control talks. We cannot ignore any avenue that might lessen the chances of conflict.

But neither can we continue to deal with the Soviet Union as a country that shares our desire to live in harmony.

The Soviets have given us a lesson on how they view the world. It is a lesson that should not be forgotten.

Russian Dictionary

Spy plane: Any plane entering Soviet airspace without a note from the Kremlin. (see example)



Spy: Any person who is not a faithful member of the Communist Party (see examples)




300

Magarons



Letters

Certification illogical

In his editorial, "Certification argument ignores legal equality" (Daily Nebraskan, Sept. 1), editor Larry Sparks claims that Faith Christian School in Louisville ought to be closed by the state of Nebraska, and that this is taught by his "lesson on organized society and why it has laws."

Several responses would aptly serve to discharge his "lesson" as incorrect.

In any reasonable society, if we have two paths of legislation which reach one goal, yet one path wounds some individuals' conscience, but the other does not, it would seem to be the most reasonable action to opt for the path which does not wound the conscience. Such seems to be the case with respect to teacher certification requirements.

Given the case that the goal of a public education system is an educated populace, and that we have two means of ensuring that goal is being met (student competency examinations and teacher certification requirements), and given that competency examinations do not ready upon some individuals' conscience whereas certification does, it seems that the reasonable society would opt for the path which meets the goal and does not offend some people, thus, in Nebraska, we would opt for testing and not a certification requirement.

But Nebraska is currently seeking alternative methods of teacher certification rather than alternatives to teacher certification and thus, it, along with Sparks, is acting unreasonably.

Jim Rogers
first year
Law School

Letters 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. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

Freak shows are the dregs of state fair entertainment

"See the Wild Woman, banned from society, holding her only friend, a snake . . . \$10,000 if she is not actually alive."

"This woman may appear to be normal, but she is not . . ."

A circus midway, such as the one at our very own Nebraska State Fair, has a way of bringing out the worst in people.

Proprietors of "games of skill" leer at females and harass men and women alike, trying to goad fairgoers into attempting their games.



Christopher Burbach

Sideshow barkers tout their "freaks" — a man whose eyes pop out of his head, a young man driven over the brink by drug abuse. A huge mural depicts several distorted humans, including a woman with scales covering much of her body — her naked breasts somehow manage to escape the curse of the scales.

The whole midway, with the exception of corn dogs and fresh lemonade, appeals to the baser side of our human nature, and makes money doing it.

One can get cheap thrills from machines that spin around at incredible speeds and incredible angles, leaving one's internal organs in a state of disarray. Exciting.

The ferris wheel operator is likely to slam one's seat bar down, spill cigarette ashes on one's lap, and growl, "Hold on." Romantic.

One can spend up to \$20 at a "game of skill," trading in each cheap prize for something a little less chintzy all the way up to a really big prize, which would have cost much less at a retail store.

"Freak shows," however, are the nadir of the midway. Insanity or scales notwithstanding, no human being deserves the disrespect of being treated as a curio.

The people who run sideshows do not bear the entire blame for the mistreatment of their fellow humans. Making a profit from the woes of people who happen to be different than the rest of mankind is only slightly more despicable than paying the freak show proprietors in order to satiate some perverse curiosity. If no one paid, there would be no shows.

The state fair offers a large variety of fun,

interesting and wholesome activities, and one can succumb to the lure of cheap thrills on the midway while suffering only financial harm. But the so-called "freak shows" not only demean the "freaks," they insult the humanity of those who attend them.

Daily Nebraskan

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