

**Rape trials...**

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The question now is whether that change of consciousness has become part of our own day-to-day lives. In some ways, rape is the brutal, repugnant extension of an ancient ritual of pursuit and capture. It isn't just rapists who refuse to take no for an answer. It isn't just rapists who believe that a woman says one thing and means another.

In the confusion of adolescence, in the chase of young adulthood, the sexes were often set up to persist and to resist. Many young men were taught that "no" means "try again." Many young women were allowed to excuse their sexuality only when they were "swept away," overwhelmed.

The confused messages, the yes-no-maybes, the overpowered heroines and overwhelming heroes, are still common to supermarket gothic novels and *Hustler* magazine. It isn't just X-rated movies that star a resistant woman who falls in love with her sexual aggressor. It isn't just pornographic cable-TV that features the woman who really "wanted it." In as spritely a sitcom as *Cheers*, Sam blithely locked a coyly ambivalent Diane into his apartment.

I know how many steps it is from that hint of sexual pressure to the brutality of rape. I know how far it is from lessons of sexual power plays to the violence of rape. But it's time the verdict of those juries was fully transmitted to the culture from which violence emerges. If she says no, it means no.

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**Letters**

**PAU misused Boohar name**

This is an open letter to all those faculty members who, on March 22, received in their mailboxes under the initials of the PAU (Professors Against Unionization) a letter, in which my name appeared several times. Just to set the record straight:

1. I was not involved in the formation of the PAU and was unaware of its existence until that letter appeared.

2. I was not involved in the writing of the letter and was not aware that it was being written until it appeared.

Richard K. Boohar  
associate professor  
life sciences

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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.

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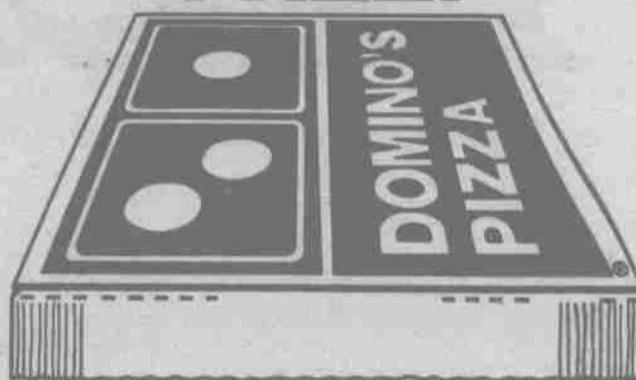
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