

Editorial

Daily Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Chronic traffic violators Suspension Solution

Instead of chasing recurring traffic violators with arrest warrants, Nebraska law officials found a much more logical answer to the problem — suspending driver's licenses.

In the past, courts issued arrest warrants for people who failed to appear in court to either pay or contest a ticket. According to an Omaha World-Herald article, the new law allows the State Department of Motor Vehicles to suspend the licenses of people who fail to pay their tickets. So far, the system has been successful. During a period from Nov. 1, 1986 to Oct. 31, 1987, the state suspended 22,845 licenses — 9,603 of which came under the provisions of the new law.

There are several advantages to this system. First of all, it gives the traffic violators a chance to pay their tickets before law officials take harsh action. Violators are sent a notice telling them to pay

their fine or their license will be suspended.

According to Douglas County statistics, 67 percent of those notified during a six-month period paid the fine after receiving the warning.

In order to have their license reinstated, violators must pay an additional \$50 on top of fines and court costs.

Law enforcement officials predict that the new system will save money in the long run. Administering the new system costs about \$6,000 a month, according to the World-Herald article, but officials have said the reinstatement fees have picked up and should at least offset the administration costs.

The new system also saves police a lot of time hunting down traffic violators. Traffic warrants are generally the lowest priority for police because officers concentrated on more serious crimes, the article stated.

Psychologists dissuade rearing 'superbabies'

At the annual convention of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, psychologists chastised parents who are trying to rear "superbabies."

While encouraging young children to learn is great, pushing them to overachieve can result in burnout, the child psychologists say.

Twenty-six states have bills pending in their legislatures to allow children to enter public schools at age 4.

In Scandinavian countries children don't begin forced education until age 7. Illiteracy is rare.

The trend of early achievement is especially evident in the yuppie generation. The motto "early ripe, early rich" is backfiring, said David Elkind, president of the education association.

"We have to recognize that

education is not a race, child-rearing is not a race," Elkind said.

In this time, some early preparation is necessary to gain an "edge" over the competition for some universities and certainly out in the "real world." But pushing 3- and 4-year-old kids with flash cards, music lessons and other early training methods is too much.

The early stages of a person's life are the most impressionable. Kids need time to be kids. They need time to play sports and watch TV. There's plenty of time later to worry about studies.

Some children react to parental "encouragement" by doing exactly what they don't want them to do. They rebel and eventually reject learning. This, in turn, defeats the entire purpose of education. And when kids start the formal education process, they could be already turned off to learning.

Editorial Policy

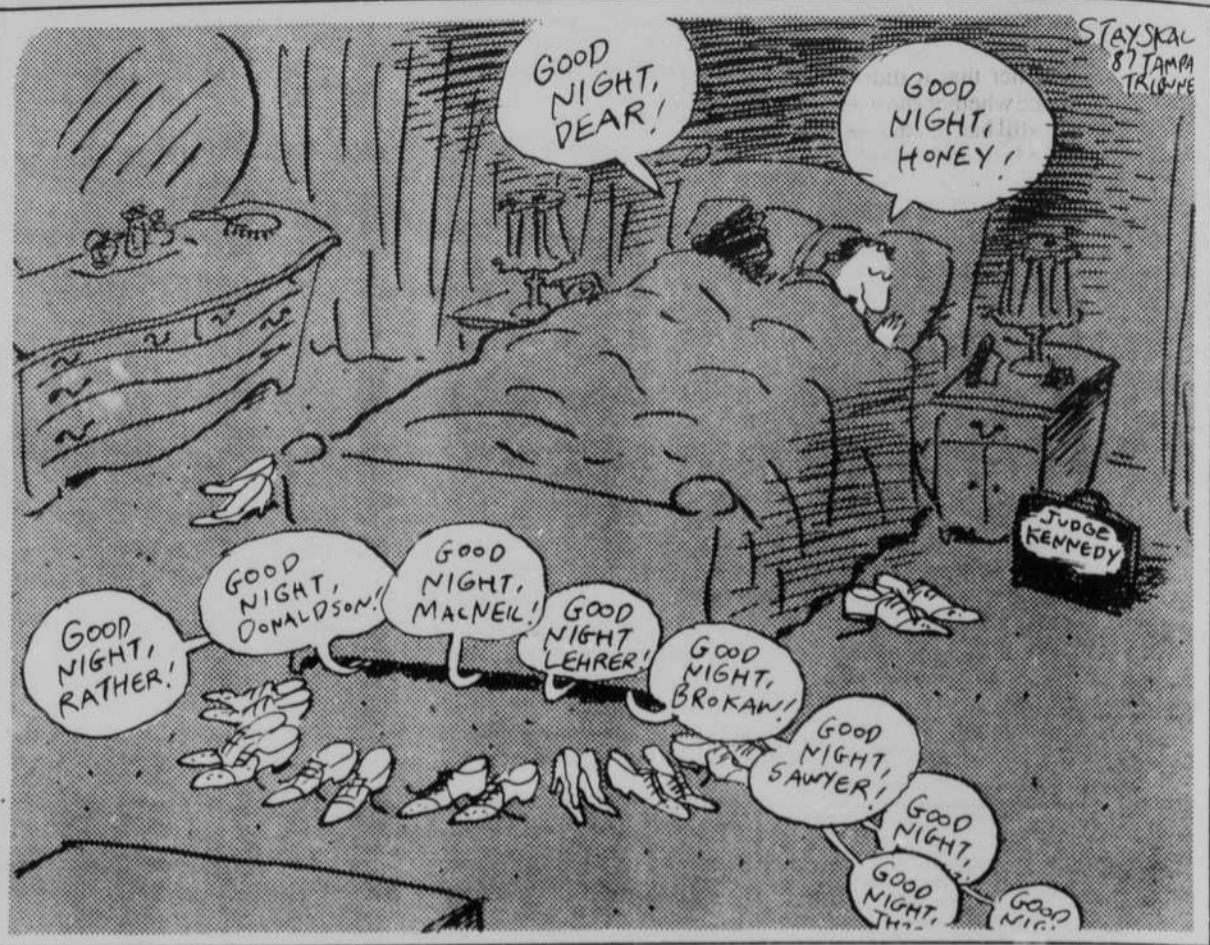
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Bragging about bestiality

While officials condemned for adultery, public admits furry fetish

A month ago, my mother, Ann Landers, ran a column devoted to pooh-poohing the whole idea that children can be born from the unholy sexual union of humans and beasts of the field, meadow and pond.

She talked to scientists, social workers, experts on the subject of sodium and people who, strangely, just seem to know a lot about such things. In Mom's humble opinion, there have been no drool bunnies produced by creature coitus. Good going, Mom.

Charles Lieurance



You'd pretty much think that would be the end of that issue, but it wasn't to be so. No, the next week Mom was deluged with people who knew of children born of such, uh, relationships. Mom sat on the floor and opened envelope after envelope, each relating a more grisly tale of psychotic hillbilly perversion than the last.

"My grandmother had a child with a beagle's head and dog paws but a human body. It lived two hours and my great grandmother took it into the woods and buried it in a secret place . . ."

"My grandmother gave birth to a baby with fur like a sheep. My grandfather killed it and buried the body in a secret place . . ."

"My uncle was born with feathers like a chicken. He clucked off to live in a secret place . . ."

I knew Mom's readers were occasionally a few peas short of a pod, but I suddenly became concerned for her safety.

Images coursed through my mind of drooling, syphilitic, inbred, barely

bipedal monsters roaming through the Appalachians in Oshkosh B'Gosh overalls six sizes too small and stained with chicken blood, waiting behind bushes for a passing herd of milk cows or a possum stunned and wounded by an automobile.

Do these people realize what they're bragging about?

If Mom wrote that there was no one alive whose diet consisted solely of blister skin chewed off the soles of basketball players' feet, would all these people write in to say their friends, relatives and loved ones not only lived off this skin but made clothes out of it as well?

It's a bleak time for liars when people feel compelled to drag wretched skeletons like this out of the attic or some other "secret place" into the harsh, conspicuous light of day. Anonymity or no anonymity.

This new age of self-actualization, stimulated by the inherent ego-deprecation of Woody Allen films, has brought us to the point where people will tell the most horrific things about themselves in public and people will consider it charming. I understand this yuppie glasnost is all part of the dawning of a new age when we can all be ourselves and where people who like and admire barnyard animals in that special way can say so without fear of moral reproach.

But while we plebeians are free to corner household pets at cocktail parties for a cheap thrill, poor lying political candidates still have to keep good, wholesome American adultery and presidentially condoned recreational drug use under their wide-brimmed hats. How Gary Hart must hate it when he picks up the paper and reads some letter to Ann Landers where a rube openly admits to bestial bed-hopping, or stable-hopping, whichever the case may be. (My place or yours? Wink, wink).

Although I really wouldn't want it to be public knowledge that my grandmother's lone morning horse rides were actually excuses to roll in

the animal's dinner for a few blissful hours, I have to admire someone who feels that piece of genealogical trivia is essential to the rest of the world.

Of course, I trust Mom's judgment on this thing and, although I admit to going out in the country and picking around with a stick for some "secret place," I assume claims of furry fetuses are in the realm of American low-brow folklore.

For someone who likes to exaggerate — OK, lie — it's disorienting to live in a world where people are making such fascinating claims in the interests of honesty. Liars and politicians have it bad in such times. Whereas it used to get you attention to say your father was the head of a major corporation, now it's popular to have known someone who's had a carnal interchange with a quadruped. Here you are lying about how much money you make and some joker steals the limelight by saying his uncle had to be buried in a secret place because he bleated when the midwife slapped his behind.

And I don't feel particularly comfortable lying about things like that. It's just one of those things you have to believe or people will suspect you right away. There's a certain unmistakable look a liar gets on his face when he's trying to lie about what a slime he is. The liar can go on forever straight-faced when playing himself up, but things get shaky when he tries to refer to himself as an ex-heroin user or a master pederast.

Perhaps if Gary Hart had just come out and told Mom in print that he and his wife had given birth to a lovely 9-pound foal and buried it in a secret place, he wouldn't be in the political trouble he's in now. The press would be out poking desolate ground in the hills of Colorado instead of tracking him to secret love nests.

Lieurance is an English, philosophy and art major, and Daily Nebraskan assistant arts and entertainment editor.

Letter

In response to Tuesday's Daily Nebraskan editorial, I would like to explain why rejoining the Nebraska State Student Association would be a good idea.

First of all, as a senator of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska and the vice chair of the Government Liaison Committee last year, I was a staunch supporter of

the NSSA withdrawal. I truly felt the organization was not working well.

However, what we propose to join is not the old NSSA. It is a new and completely different organization. We have completely rewritten the Constitution and even changed the name to emphasize this fact.

The Nebraska Student Interest Coalition is a completely new and

different organization. NSIC's primary purpose is to give Nebraska's universities and state colleges an opportunity to communicate new ideas and opinions. In addition, the executive commission provides an opportunity for all Nebraska students to work together and show common support for higher education.

The structure of NSIC does not al-

low it to act as a full-force advocacy lobbying group. There would be no hired staff and no paid lobbyist. Consequently, the cost of NSIC would be simply enough money to pay for letterhead, postage and traveling expenses for NSIC conferences.

NSIC simply provides Nebraska's universities and colleges with a structured means of helping each other

strengthen our own lobbying programs through the sharing of ideas. And, when applicable, to take a stand and have a unified voice for all Nebraska students supporting higher education in general.

Jeff Petersen
chairman
ASUN Government
Liaison Committee