

Daily
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Quibbles & bits

Extinct classes, Klan at KU make news

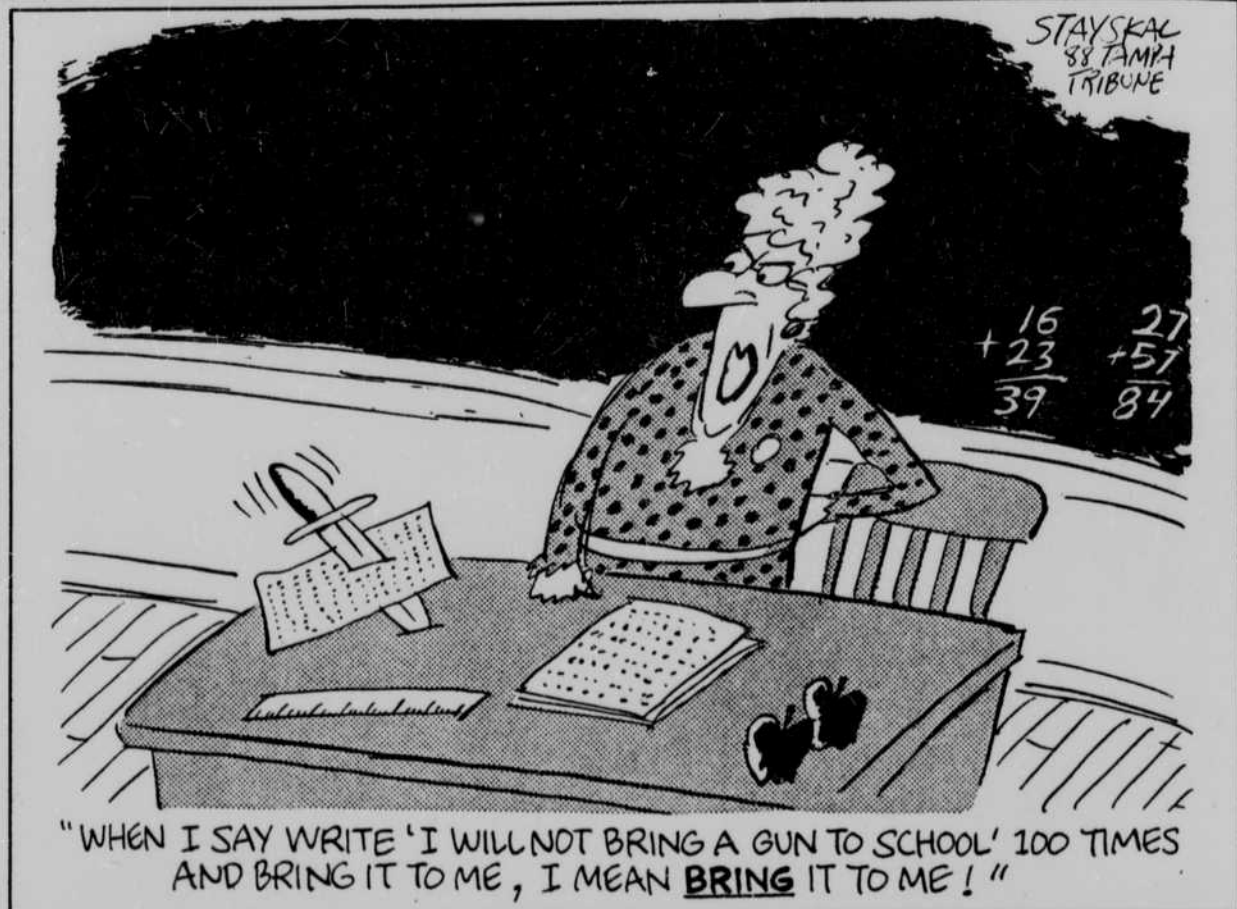
• About 300 extinct classes at the University of California-Berkeley will be removed from next fall's course catalog. Some hadn't been taught in "centuries," according to a recent issue of National On-Campus Report. Hans Sluga, chairperson of the Academic Senate's Committee on Courses, said, "We just wanted to be more realistic. It's a fraud to pretend we have this large array of courses."

• In light of the death of Martin Luther King Jr. Thirty-two years after the first black student at the University of Alabama was expelled, the school may revoke the dismissal. In 1956, Alabama expelled Autherine Lucy Foster after a riotous mob protested her attendance at the all-white school. A court battle followed and Foster's attorneys charged that trustees had conspired with the mob to keep Foster away from the university. However, their charges were not substantiated. Now, Alabama officials are thinking about revoking Foster's expulsion. It was not until 1963 that two other stu-

dents integrated Alabama.

• The Ohio National Guard will no longer use its tuition scholarship program as a recruiting tool. In fact, it will drop the program entirely, although current enrollees probably will receive funds through at least 1989. The biggest factor in the showdown was the program's cost: 4,800 guardsmen are currently eligible.

• After denying them permission, University of Kansas officials decided to allow Ku Klux Klan members to participate in a campus forum on free speech after all. More than 2,500 protesters shouted anti-Klan epithets outside the building in which the forum was held, while inside, hecklers repeatedly tried to interrupt the proceeding by shouting and singing gospel songs. State, county and campus law enforcement officers (even the FBI showed up) carried nightsticks and donned bullet-proof vests and riot helmets. But they were not necessary. The protests ended peacefully and the Klansmen were quickly escorted out of town.



DWI costs more than fines

Moral justice should prevail, but moral truth is more important

The other day a friend of mine was waiting for the bus. She had been charged with driving while intoxicated, and she was on her way to see her lawyer.

She had no qualms about her charges, no question of guilt or innocence in her eyes. She was drunk, she was driving and she was caught. Between her, me and whatever mildew might have been growing inside the bus shelter on that rainy day, she confessed — guilty as charged.

Her dilemma was: Should she tell that to the judge or should she try to get out of it. She could exploit some technicality, water down the charge through a plea bargain or something of that ilk. Oh sure, she could discuss it with her attorney, at least from a legal standpoint. She wasn't interested in the legal struggles, but the moral ones, something lawyers don't seem to have a great grip on.

In other words, does she lunge at any opportunity the legal process or a great lawyer might afford her to lessen the crime, or does she take her lumps? After all, in her heart of hearts, she knows she's guilty.

I realize for many this comes down to socio-economic terms. Affluent people can shell out the bucks for the high-priced lawyers who have the savvy and connections necessary to get them off. Those who can't afford the prices get the overworked lawyers who, even if they have the resources of the high-powered lawyer, can't devote the time.

But for a minute let's suppose everyone can afford the F. Lee Baileys of the world.

All our lives, up until college at least, we are taught to do the "right" thing. Somewhere along the way, we

learn to "CYA" — Cover Your Ass. Certainly the business world operates this way, but I've never had a lot of faith in the ethics of the business world. Even our legal system, what philosopher Edmund Burke referred to as "the pride of the human intellect," seems to favor "CYA" instead of doing the "right" thing.

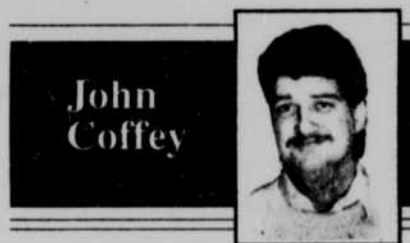
these examples). These men have taken no great strides in becoming examples on how to 'fess up to wrongdoing. When was the last time a public official admitted — cleanly — to a wrongdoing? My memory fails me. (Jimmy Swaggart doesn't count. Efforts to subvert damaging evidence failed before he took to tearing up on the tube.)

So what to do in this situation? Do we do what's morally right and suffer consequences that may trail us for the rest of our lives? Or do we become moral weasels and try to come out what would be perceived as coming out smelling like a rose? Who would know, besides ourselves (and maybe our lawyer — see note on lack of moral scruples).

One more thought: If the system can work to reward those who attempt to weasel out of their shortcomings, doesn't it equally damn those who stand up for principles? What if Ed Meese or Evan Mecham are doing what they see as the "right" thing, and the black cloud hovering above their head was wrongfully placed? Highly unlikely perhaps, but not unreasonable. Certainly their lives would have been much easier if they stepped down and faded away as quickly as possible.

This dilemma troubles me. I'd really (in my heart of hearts) like to see moral justice prevail, to have the scales of justice tip overwhelmingly in its favor. But in analyzing real-world "truths," it's difficult to see how moral "truths" carry a lot of weight on the scales.

Coffey is a senior in political science and is a Daily Nebraskan arts and entertainment reporter.



John
Coffey

Consider this: what incentives do we have in "taking our lumps"? Moral satisfaction perhaps — and a record. None too flattering.

Look at the other side of the coin. What incentives have we for trying to get off the hook? Everything, except we're left with an empty moral soul. I realize for some people this is no problem.

For example, in the past 10 years DWI has gone from "well, everyone does" on the public scales to ranking in popularity next to child molestation. It's a damning thing to have on your record. Besides the social stigma of being a drunk driver, it wreaks havoc on your pocketbook, including loss of license privileges and skyrocketing insurance rates.

Drunk driving is just a microcosm of the whole. Look at the example set by some public officials — people like Iran-Contra figures, Ed Meese and former Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham (by no means limiting it to

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1988 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Mike Reilley, editor; Diana Johnson, editorial page editor; Joan Rezac, copy desk editor; Jen Deselms, managing editor; Curt Wag-

ner, associate news editor; Chris Anderson, associate night news editor and Joel Carlson, columnist.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

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According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.

Letter Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes 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.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letter should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

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

Letters

Give, take away credit when deserved

Although I am not an avid supporter of Michael Dukakis in his quest for the presidency, I am more concerned with Joel Carlson's defense of the President Reagan legacy (Daily Nebraskan, April 4) than with his spurious and often unfounded attacks on the Massachusetts governor.

Carlson can trot out all the biased and selective statistics he likes, but the fact remains that the Reagan administration has constituted on unparalleled assault on the economic rights of poor and middle-class Americans. He notes the abundance of high-paying service-sector jobs, but fails to mention the cuts in programs designed to inform and train people for these jobs. He argues that America's rich have been burdened with increased tax rates, but neglects to state that the concentration of wealth in the American economy is at a level unparalleled since 1929.

Ask the farmer what the Reagan Revolution has done for him and he'll paint a picture of bank foreclosures, heavy debts and broken families. Ask the working men and women of America what they have gotten under the Reagan administration and they

will tell you about massive layoffs as a result of corporate greed and a ravaged industrial base. Ask blacks, Chicanos and native Americans what Reagan has done for them and they will respond with a list of affirmative-action programs opposed by the president and with figures describing disgustingly high rates of unemployment, poverty and infant mortality in their communities.

In 1968, another native of Massachusetts, Robert Kennedy, had the courage and foresight to challenge the oppressive policies of an incumbent administration. Twenty years later, we have in our hands the same opportunity — the opportunity to propose a vision of America and where it needs to go in the next decade. Dukakis has this vision and the ability to act upon it. Carlson does not give him the credit he deserves, and he gives the president much more credit than he deserves.

Brian Svoboda
junior
political science
Nebraska youth coordinator
Dukakis for President

Use voting right to make a difference

Politics are going to be exciting this year. The doldrums of the past eight years may be over. The Reagan era has only created apathy, wealthier rich, increased military buildup, increased poverty and crime in his own branch of government. Our Republican leaders in Nebraska are so close to Reagan's philosophy that they are indistinguishable.

We have a chance to change our world and create new tomorrows. Some exciting leaders are running for election. The race for Senate by Bob Kerrey is stimulating. Candidate Kerrey is a good candidate for this job. He's intelligent, well-rounded and charismatic. I say away with the antics of Karnes and Daub. They can't hold a flame to Kerrey's candle.

On the presidential scene, we are going to see an invigorating race. Jesse Jackson is the most uniquely qualified candidate we have got. He is not swayed by corporate America. Jesse has a farm policy, an education agenda, a peace platform, and shows humanitarian concern for all minorities. I say vote for the people's candidate — Jesse Jackson, not for a "corporate puppet" like George Bush.

Above all, register to vote. Make a difference, use your voting power. Students need to return to times prior to the Reagan era. It was then that students pushed for social change. Do we want another four years of policies that don't work?

Rodney A. Bell
Lincoln