

Readers ponder the effects of gun control

Education exists

I agree with Craig Heckman (Daily Nebraskan, April 6) that there are many environmental problems not being met with adequate solutions. But I beg to differ with him on one point.

The education of people about the environment and ecology of organisms is an important tool in ensuring the future of our natural resources. Something is being done about that right now on our campus.

The UNL Wildlife Club is actively involved in educating Lincoln Elementary School children about the environment and ecology.

Through the use of volunteer club members and slide shows on various topics, the wildlife club educates nearly 3,000 youngsters.

The Wildlife Club has been doing this for years, which brings up another point. Some things are being done to prevent environmental problems, but no matter how hard their promoters try, they cannot get adequate press coverage.

It seems to me Mr. Heckman, that yourself or any other journalist has no right to complain about environmental problems. Until the media realizes that complaining and the reek of dirty laundry will not solve environmental problems, their efforts will be wasted.

I encourage you, as a journalist, to do your part by publicizing the solutions to environmental degradation instead of pondering its problems.

Erik Wagner
natural resources

Guns save lives

In response to Keith Richter's letter (DN April 18): The only form of life lower than the criminal that preys upon innocents lives, raping, murdering and robbing others, is the one that would strip those very citizens of the only realistic protection they have -- firearms. Don't even open your

mouth to tell me that the police can protect everyone all of the time, they openly acknowledge that they can't.

The case in a large city a few years ago is a good example. A woman being attacked in her home was able to contact the police operator on the phone. The 20-minute response time to the woman's call for help was sufficient time for her to be raped in her home, crying for help all the while to an operator who was powerless to help her. I guess she was a simply "S.O.L." as you so intelligently put it.

If guns are outlawed, only criminals will have guns, unless you are stupid enough to envision something else for a country with a sieve for boarders in a world awash in weapons. (Many of them fully automatic. Oh, no!) Even if you are that stupid, criminals will simply resort to clubs, knives, unequal physical strength and the force of numbers, whereas the firearm is the only really effective means of defense for the average citizen.

Keith, if you wish to ignore all of the relevant facts of the matter, swallow all of the outright lies and uniformed slander that is the province of the anti-gunners, I can only hope that someday you will be man enough to pull your head out of the sand and open your eyes to see the blood and the pain and the suffering that is on your hands when you advocate throwing helpless citizens into a world filled with criminals that don't give a damn about anyone but themselves.

David P. Blazek
senior
computer science
NRA member

What is a pig?

The more I read Scott Dyer's letter in the April 20 edition of the DN, the more I agree with him that the term "pig" is very subjective. For example, when a police officer raids, say, a freshman philosophy party

where copious quantities of contraband liquid are being served to minors, he might be called a pig. But when said police officer captures a thief who has stolen a student's philosophy book, he is called a hero. Similarly, if a member of the armed forces is tasked with an unpopular duty, he may be called a pig, but if the cause is popular, this same duty might label him a hero. If carried further then, if a freshman philosophy major writes a letter to the editor, he is exercising his right to free speech and is a champion of freedom. However, when he chooses to pass judgment upon those he does not know, he too may be called a "pig." So Dyer, before you begin to indiscriminately label people, perhaps you should examine your own frame of perspective.

Darin Werkmeister, USMC
senior
political science

Stop gay bashing

Sexual orientation must be added to section 18 of the University of Nebraska Charter. Gays, lesbian, bisexuals and straights have no protection from discrimination in recruitment, hiring, placement, transfer and promotion (of faculty, staff or students,) administration of educational policies, scholarships and loan programs, athletics, admissions or any benefit of such admission.

Incidents of discrimination on campus include, but are not limited to, harassment, restriction of civil liberties by the administration (e.g. UNL Condom Day, COLAGE court case and the removal of the Newsweek on Campus Gay Rights issue from the DN in the Student Union in 1985 ordered by Regent Margaret Robinson of Norfolk).

Further discrimination is actuated by omission and commission that is often covert, pervasive and unethical. Why do events such as the display of anti-gay banners in front of a fraternity house in 1985, the NOFAG party

in 1987, the denial of fee funding for COLAGE and the mock COLAGE newsletter have to occur? Homophobic people need insecure ways of expressing their own insecurity about their sexual identity.

A list of colleges and universities with non-discrimination policies numbers 121 across the United States. The campuses extend from the West to the East Coasts.

The sexual orientation clause must be added now to change the climate of fear to one of acceptance and diversity. Herbie Husker, are gay and lesbian people discriminated against? Most certainly, one need only to open their door and see

Rodney Allen Bell, II
Incorporator UNL Gay and Lesbian
Alumni Assoc., Inc.
student and alumnus

Amendment touted

Poor Professor Blaha! You talk, real good. Too bad the Constitution ain't about talking, it's about understanding. And you don't understand.

The men who wrote the Constitution weren't worried about grammar, they were worried about future generations of Americans. These men fought tyrannical rule, for freedom. The Constitution was written to insure this freedom, for future generations, so that they would never know life without it.

The Second Amendment was, and is, a safeguard. No government should have complete and total control over its people. It should, in fact, be the other way around. The Second Amendment is there to help make it that way.

I do agree with you on one point, professor. Americans are vastly undereducated. But tell me professor, whose fault is that?

Ed Owens
construction management
president, UNL Rifle Club
member, UNL Rifle Team
member, NRA

Bill denounced

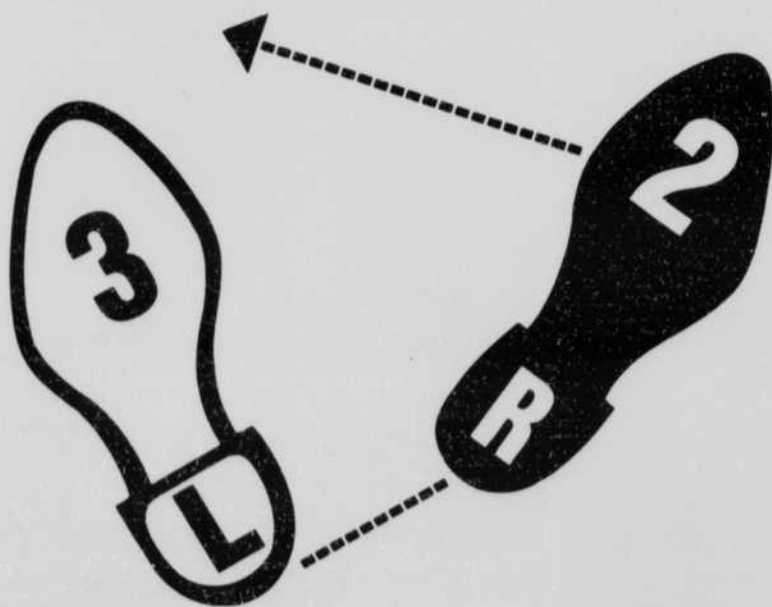
The Nebraska Legislature's passage of LB705, exempting museums from paying sales tax on purchases of "fine art," would be a good subject for argument if anyone KNEW about it. LB705 was passed on March 28 in consideration of Joslyn Museum's wish to purchase a \$5 million "work of art" on which they DID NOT WANT TO PAY the \$200,000 of state funds. Proponents of the bill maudlinized and howled that "fine art" was of great aesthetic value to the people of Nebraska, to persuade that purchases of "fine art" by private museums should be encouraged by the state.

"Encouraged" by all of us, to the tune of \$200,000? For a museum that is not owned by the state or free to the public? I fumed over this in silence until I read that the same Legislature was denying funds requested by our Morrill Hall. I feel it is time for public awareness of, and comment on, the issue.

To many of Nebraska's families, food is a higher priority than "fine art." "T.S." folks -- our Legislature, for some unknown (?) reason, has voted a preference for "fine art." It's just too bad, also, that some of us can't afford or don't want to travel to Omaha and pay the fee to see this paragon that we've subsidized.

I believe that the people who wished to contribute to Joslyn Museum have already done so. Now, we, ALL OF US, are being FORCED to contribute. I don't like being forced into doing something I don't want to do by the chicanerous or giddily idealistic behavior of the Legislature. If I must make contributions to any museum, I would prefer that it be to Morrill Hall.

Fran Thompson
sociology



YOU WON!
CLUB MTV™ AND
JULIE BROWN ARE COMING
TO THE UNIVERSITY
OF NEBRASKA
APRIL 27TH AT 9:30PM
THE CENTENNIAL ROOM

YOU'LL BE IN THE PLACE TO BE THANKS TO LISA TWIESTMEYER... SHE GOT THE CLUB MTV WILD CARD AND NOW YOU'VE GOT YOUR CLUB MTV!