

Daily **Nebraskan**
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Rumors denied

Lied parking puts priorities in order

Thanks are in order to Franz Blaha and the rest of UNL's Parking Advisory Committee.

A committee proposal written by Blaha and passed Monday ensured that parking for Lied Center events will be given no priority over academic or any other activities on campus.

Prior to the committee meeting, rumors were spreading that student and faculty campus parking permits would be void during performances at the Lied Center.

Instead of giving Lied Center visitors priority, the committee established a shuttle system and a valet parking program.

Under the proposal, a shuttle will transport patrons from Area 10 university lots west of Memorial Stadium for \$1. Also, valet parking service by ROTC cadets will be available for \$3.

Blaha said in the proposal that an event at the Lied Center should not have higher priority than the Foreign Film Series at the Sheldon Film Theater or a recital at Kimball Hall.

"Therefore," Blaha wrote, "any parking considerations for the Lied Center must be based on the premise that they do not infringe on the needs of these facilities, nor the uninterrupted conduct of the academic affairs of the university."

In a Lincoln Journal story, John Burke, UNL parking director, said UNL lots near the Lied Center, like those near Westbrook Music Building and the Temple Building, will be policed by UNL parking attendants. Faculty and staff with permits for those lots may park there as usual, he said.

A priority system, like the one used during UNL football games, would have been a huge inconvenience for anyone attempting to use campus facilities other than the Lied Center. The committee's decision to oppose such action was obviously made with students and faculty in mind -- something very refreshing on a campus where it often seems that everyone but the students and faculty are privileged.

-- Bob Nelson
for the Daily Nebraskan

Rusher's censorship offensive

As was reported in the Daily Nebraskan's coverage of the First Amendment debate (DN, Jan. 31), William Rusher made several interesting points, including his statement that Americans have the Constitutional right to be offended. Unfortunately, there are several loopholes in Rusher's position which I feel are worth a closer look. Rusher stated his belief that only written and oral communication can be protected by the First Amendment. He continued by saying that actions such as flag-burning are taking the amendment too far and that such actions are unnecessary in making points of opinion, due to the educated person's ability to express themselves sufficiently either through their oral or written speech.

A few discrepancies and contradictions worth noting:

Not more than 10 feet from Rusher's podium, a hearing-impaired student was attending the debate, accompanied by two sign language interpreters. Ironically, according to Rusher's definition, this translation, or form of speech is not covered by our Constitution, due to its lack of verbal or written form.

To continue this point, it would then seem logical that any other gestures (a middle finger), facial expressions (smiles, frowns), etc. also are not covered by our First Amendment. I guess when someone steals my parking spot in the future, I'll have to rely on my verbal skills to express my displeasure (glad I'm not hearing-impaired).

Rusher's decision that actions are unnecessary in making a point clear goes against everything I've ever

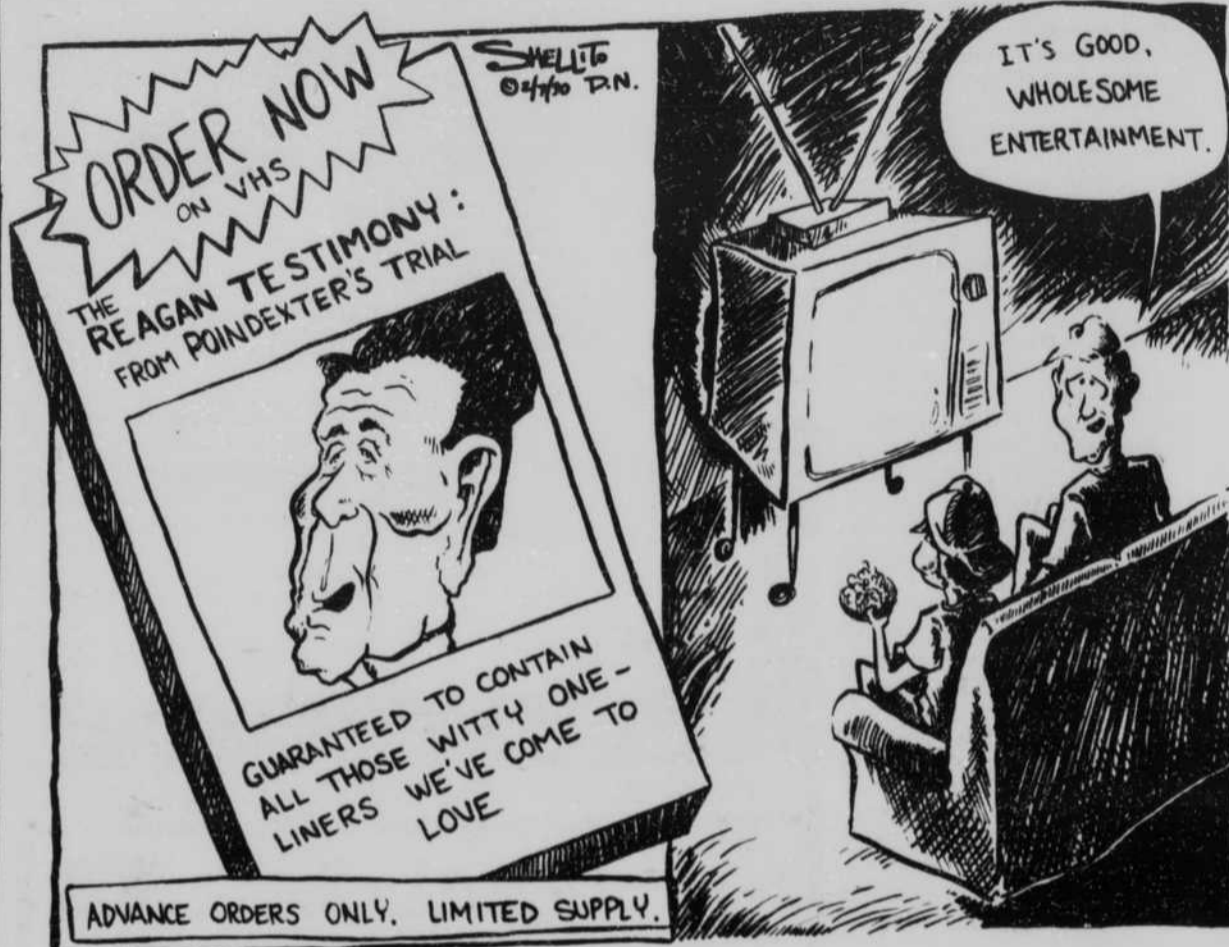
learned in a speech class. Apparently, all our textbooks should be rewritten, because we no longer need the previously all-important visual aid.

Finally, Rusher's definition and later comments are self-contradictory. By his definition, "offensive" and "unnecessary" actions such as flag-burning, building of shantytowns, etc. should be replaced with written and oral comments, which although "offensive," are tolerable. Obviously then, the action had a greater effect on his psyche than the speech, and due to the action's ability to prove a stronger point than words were able to evoke, the action can not be equally replaced by words, because an equal effect is not achieved.

If a picture is worth 1,000 words, and a 3-D hologram is worth a million, I would submit that a demonstration that affects all five senses must be worth a nearly infinite number. No one I know has time to listen to an infinite number of words, so any million-plus word essay or oral speech would not get the point across because no one would stay around long enough to pay attention. Words, whether written or orally communicated cannot equate a live demonstration.

Rusher's belief in our constitutional right to be offended is to be applauded, but his censorship of accepted methods of expression and his self-contradictions are not. Perhaps Rusher and his followers should re-evaluate their positions and definitions.

Heidi Putensen
sophomore



It could even happen to you

Being dumped requires good humor and a positive outlook

I just got done with the second serious relationship of my life. This one, like the first, decayed by my doing and ended with me caring again for my partner who had found someone more worthy of her care.

In both cases, the details of my ex-girlfriend's new relationship were used to convince me that our own relationship was over. Once again, I got to imagine her being held late at night by someone else, talking softly and touching gently. Boo-hoo. It happens to everyone.

It's been five days since we stopped seeing each other. I spent the first night with an old high school friend. He let me bitch and talk tough and whine and talk sensitive to him. He shook his head and said "relationships suck" a lot like a good friend should.

The second night, I met a girl at a party. We talked until 8 a.m. about everything but past relationships. I drew a trumped-up outline of my past and everything sounded exciting and original and creative. It was a thrill to meet someone new. It was the same thrill for which I sacrificed security and empathy.

And therein lies the horror of relationships for me. Once I've become involved with someone, I become obsessed with friends and freedom and the billions of people I have never met. Once I lose a relationship, I become obsessed with the warm contentment of holding someone special I know better than myself. I can never appreciate the freedom or the bond I have worked so hard to make.

I suppose this happens to a lot of people in college. This university has thousands of beautiful people and thousands of ways to meet them, and you know that nothing lasts forever. The system brings you these beautiful people and continues to do so long after you've committed yourself to one.

It's a four-year game of "Let's Make a Deal." You've won a big prize, but there are other doors and a short amount of time.

Tick-tock . . . tick-tock . . . what are you going to do?

Getting into these situations is easy. Getting out of them is the real problem.

The thoughts that made perfect sense after my first breakup were frightening. I wondered if beating Mr. Right into oblivion would be



Bob Nelson

proper revenge. I made plans. I wondered how bad she'd feel if I tortured myself. I wondered if I would be better off if I tortured myself. I made more plans. I made hundreds of plans the first few nights after that breakup, none of which were rational.

This breakup is proving to be a lot easier than the first. It seems that when you're growing up, any love directed at you is a constant. Your parents, grandparents, relatives and friends always will be there. Losing someone doesn't make sense the first time. Someone leaves you and it feels like they're dead except they mock you by playing family with someone else. Late at night, staring at your ceiling, you sometimes think things would be better if they had died.

The first night of this breakup the thought of punching her new boyfriend made a sickening amount of sense. By Saturday, Mr. Right was innocent, and the breakup was more or less a bad joke. It's time to meet new people.

Who knows where the line is drawn between scenario and action in thinking after a breakup. Students have jumped out of Cather Residence Hall

and have beaten innocent people senseless with these same thoughts. What lets one person cool off and move forward while another ruins or ends their life?

I suppose it depends on how much the person's self-concept hinges on the relationship. If it's a bowling ball among peas, the concern for saving the remains is minimal.

A lot of students find a person they care for and proceed to let the rest of their life rot away. Love becomes everything, while friendships and career plans suffer. When someone leaves them, all that's left are old acquaintances and a failing college career -- not much to live for.

After my first breakup, I found myself a sophomore with no major, a mediocre GPA and a lot of sour friendships. After a while, I found solace in the opportunity of improvement. It's pure luck that I tend to look forward.

And even though I was much better prepared this time, I still got some of the twisted thoughts that follow a breakup. I feel a little dirtier, a little wiser and a little older, but that's about it. I'm extremely lucky.

But so many students have let their lives slip for a relationship. And some of those aren't optimistic and have never been dropped hard. Those are the people who really suffer.

It seems like every year someone around here gets dumped and kills himself or herself. A friend or a way out probably would save them.

So if you've never lost someone, be careful and make sure you have an escape route. It can happen to you.

And with that bit of banal preaching, I will go and learn to appreciate relationships when I have them and, most importantly right now, appreciate freedom when I have it.

Whoopee-ding, kids, it's psycho-drama. At least you feel alive.

Nelson is a senior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan editorial page editor and a columnist.

letter POLICY

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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.

Readers also are welcome to sub-

mit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

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

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters 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.