

Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Focus on DuBose

Give addicts support, not condemnation

Stop it. Stop it, right now. Don't take the recent Doug DuBose revelations and say, "I told you so. The football players are all a bunch of pampered druggies."

And don't attack the ex-Cornhusker as a disloyal wretch who screwed himself up and is out to get misdirected revenge against the sacred Nebraska program.

DuBose is not an example of the unchecked evils of college football, and he is not an example of a traitorous trend to betray Dear Old Nebraska U. He came to Lincoln, became involved with drugs and messed up his career and his life.

That makes him representative of one group only: Human beings. College students. Us.

Drugs pervade our culture. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has about 25,000 students. About 100 of those students play varsity football for the Nebraska Cornhuskers each year, so a few hundred have worn the Scarlet and Cream during the last decade. Figure it out.

Of course some football players used drugs. This is not remarkable; DuBose's story is only news because he used spend a lot of time in Memorial Stadium.

The former Husker star's decision to let us in on his personal trauma gives us an example of human beings, over-confident and imperfect, succumbing to drugs.

If we attack DuBose as a genetically deficient traitor or absolve him of all blame and focus instead on the system, he should have kept his problems to himself. Both arguments are too simple, ignoring the addict.

The individual must stay the focus. DuBose is an individual who needs help because he is a cocaine addict.

We need to recognize that X number of All-Americans will be messed up as long as we have drugs, and we need to use DuBose's revelations to help the other addicts we don't know about. They need help, not because they are football players, but because they are addicts.

If we offer compassion, not crucifixion, to DuBose and other admitted abusers, maybe the star athletes across the country who have been silent about their own drug problems will say, "Coach, I need help."

Don't draw sides and lose Doug DuBose in the constant struggle for and against big-time football. Save your value judgments for the next story on greed and recruiting violations.

Support DuBose, support the next great talent who reveals his personal difficulties, and join the side that is drawn against drug abuse. That side will be fighting long after the DuBose headlines are gone.

-- Paul Domeier
for the Daily Nebraskan

STELL TO 2/8/90
Daily Nebraskan



Hypocrites fill Pro-Life ranks

Fanatics claim they act out of love, but movement stirs up hate

An ugly scene. Fanatics on the loose in the streets carrying sticks, singing songs and denouncing "murderers" besiege the capital.

It sounds like a mob scene from a medieval fairy tale. Actually, it was real life in downtown Lincoln as the anti-abortion clan mobilized its forces.

People showed their solidarity by hoisting fetus posters. It makes me think of Vlad Temps the Impaler, which was the point, of course. It was a strange celebration of mangled flesh from dedicated right-to-lifers.

But just how ugly was it? Were there tens of thousands of fetus saviors crawling through the city like pestilential locusts?

Were there a couple giant handfuls of rabble rousers who sounded like 15 or so thousand?

The anti-abortion forces claimed a 15,000-person following on the 27th for their "Walk for Life."

Lincoln and Omaha news accounts gave other figures as low as 2,000. Quite a discrepancy, that one.

There are a few big, nasty problems with the anti-abortion holy war. The problems come from the pitiful attitudes and actions of anti-abortion proponents. Fudging figures is a symptom of one of those problems.

Where were those 12,000-odd people the anti-abortion crusaders felt were behind them? They weren't there. And they not only were absent at the march but also in the general populace.

"Stand up and be counted" was the anti-abortion cry. What could the crusaders do but see a swarm of supporters around them frenzied with self-righteousness as they were? Those oh-so-good people looked around them and every friendly face counted as four, a ghost army of supporters.

It must be very difficult to stand alone against many, especially when

you claim right is on your side. It also must be very difficult not to feel silly when you throw a party, buy a lot of balloons, party hats and posters to spice things up, then have to dance alone to your own tune.



Henry Battistoni

The anti-abortion folks certainly must know that feeling. They have been braying for years, braying that popular support is theirs, braying that their opponents are the minority.

They have raised a ruckus so loud and for so long that some people have been duped into believing that anti-abortion advocates wait behind every door.

This deception, a result of false claims like that of the huge Walk turnout, has shaken a few politicians and gained anti-abortion proponents minor victories in their cause.

Another irksome aspect of the anti-abortion war is its lack of productive activity in supporting life after birth. It must be far more exciting to shout foul epithets at pregnant women than give assistance to welfare programs. Otherwise a Walk for Welfare would be planned to coincide with social legislation.

It is contradictory that people who possess self-proclaimed boundless love would demand a birth, while abandoning the unwanted child later to the chances of life without sufficient support.

Many an unwanted child is destined to need community assistance. Where are the loving crusaders when assistance is before the Legislature?

They must be having trouble affording their love of humanity.

How many of them, thinking deep in their hearts that they are saving lives by fighting abortion, adopt unwanted infants?

Or even perform a bit of charity work to help a pregnant teenager who has been kicked out of her parents' home?

The most appalling aspect of the holy war is its lawlessness, its terrorism and its fundamental lack of feeling for women in times of distress.

In the past, clinics have been bombed or burned to prevent women from terminating an unwanted pregnancy.

Today, anti-abortion forces circle women who try to enter abortion clinics. The loving crusaders call them "whores" and "murderers." Their goal is not only to degrade one person by creating a public spectacle, but to hold all others in fear.

Such actions make me question the "voices of reason" within the movement itself when leaders are willing to ignore their criminal supporters' offenses.

These terrorist tactics are directly opposed to our system of government which allows for the peaceful settlement of disputes and establishment of laws.

Through terror and lies, one segment of the population is attempting to steal the rights of the rest of us to decide the abortion issue.

An end to abortion would be a wonderful event.

An end to unwanted pregnancies would be even better.

But the hate and fanaticism of anti-abortion proponents do nothing to solve the problems of abortion. Rather, they whip up more hate and violence and prolong the national suffering.

Battistoni is a senior English major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

opinion READER

Women just as capable of fighting

To those who believe that women should be "banned" from combat because they are not as capable or as strong as men, please remember:

Trieu Au, a 23-year-old Vietnamese woman who led a thousand men into battle against China in 248 A.D. after the collapse of the Han dynasty.

Itagaki, a woman of 13th century Japan who led 3,000 warriors of the Taira clan against 10,000 warriors of the Hojo clan.

Tomoe Gozen, another Japanese woman of the same era, was so skilled a warrior she was reputed to be a match for a hundred opponents.

Joan of Arc, who was counseled by voices to raise the siege of Orleans and with a small army forced the English to withdraw and changed the trend of the war. She was brutally murdered by French ecclesiastics at age 19.

Nedezhda Durova, who served nearly 10 years in the Russian light cavalry during the Napoleonic wars. She was buried with full military honors.

Therese Figueur, who served and fought in the cavalry during the Napoleonic era on the side of France.

Maria Bochkoreva, who fought for two years as a common soldier in World War I, was commissioned after the March 1917 revolution and formed a troop of women called the "Death Battalion."

Fa Mu Lan, a young woman who took her father's place in battle in sixth century China. Her heroism is still retold in legends today.

Etc., etc., etc., shall I go on? We, as women, always have been in combat situations. We have displayed courage, skill, intelligence and conviction. To believe that we do not possess these qualities or that men possess more is lying to oneself. Qualified women deserve the right to choose their own destiny. If that destiny includes fighting for this country's business interests in foreign lands, so be it.

Jayne Stratton
graduate student
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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.

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