

Daily **Nebraskan**
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Scary statistics

UNL must commit to black recruitment

The Sentencing Project, a non-profit organization that promotes alternative punishments and sentencing reform, released a report Monday that showed some scary statistics.

According to an Associated Press article, the study found that nearly one of every four young black men is behind bars or on probation or parole.

The report, based on data from the Justice Department, says that 609,690 blacks aged 20 through 29 were under control of the criminal justice system in mid-1989.

The same report showed that only 436,000 black men of all ages are enrolled in college.

There's something terribly wrong with that.

Especially when compared to the number of white men in the same age category who are incarcerated or on parole or probation.

For blacks, those numbers represent 23 percent of the population. That compares to 6.2 percent, or 1,054,508, of white men aged 20 through 29, the study showed.

Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, told the AP that he would ask the General Accounting Office, a Congressional investigatory agency, for a study to corroborate the report.

Conyers also said Congressional hearings are needed on the subject.

Yes, but more is needed than Congressional hearings. If 23 percent of black men in that age group were behind bars or on parole or probation in 1989, what will that percentage look like two years from now, the time it may take for a substantial Congressional report?

What will it look like three or five years from now, and if it increases, will the number of black men enrolled in college decrease?

It's a very real possibility, one that must be taken up by colleges.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln community may not be able to do much to provoke Congressional action, but it can increase the number of black males enrolled at the university.

Recruitment efforts targeted at minority students -- especially black males -- must be stepped up. Retention of those students must be a commitment.

Even if that commitment includes higher cost for the state and the NU Board of Regents.

-- Amy Edwards
for the Daily Nebraskan

Turing's story has a lesson

I will not even waste time with Kelvin Kreitman's "America -- Love it or leave it" attitude (DN, Feb. 28). The irony behind suggesting that discontents leave a country founded by discontents is self-evident.

In contrast, let me discuss a historical figure with a boundless mind, Alan Turing.

Alan Turing might be best known as the father of artificial intelligence. He was a brilliant and iconoclastic individual whose contribution to computer science is far-reaching. He had an intense interest in morphogenesis -- the study of how organisms take their shapes. If he were alive today, he probably would be a contributor to the nonlinear sciences that are casting light on that puzzle.

He invented a machine that aided in the decoding of enemy transmissions in World War II. He was not

secretive about his homosexuality, and even after the war this was thought to be a security risk. The British government forced him to take hormone injections in an effort to "cure" his homosexuality. He was eventually driven to suicide. This was how that nation thanked the man who was most responsible for the safety of its ships during the war.

He was a brilliant and gentle man. His death is the result of people using "national security" to justify human injustices. This, Kelvin Kreitman, is the central flaw in your mode of thinking.

Nobody has to be a member of the human race. If you don't like human life, you might consider leaving.

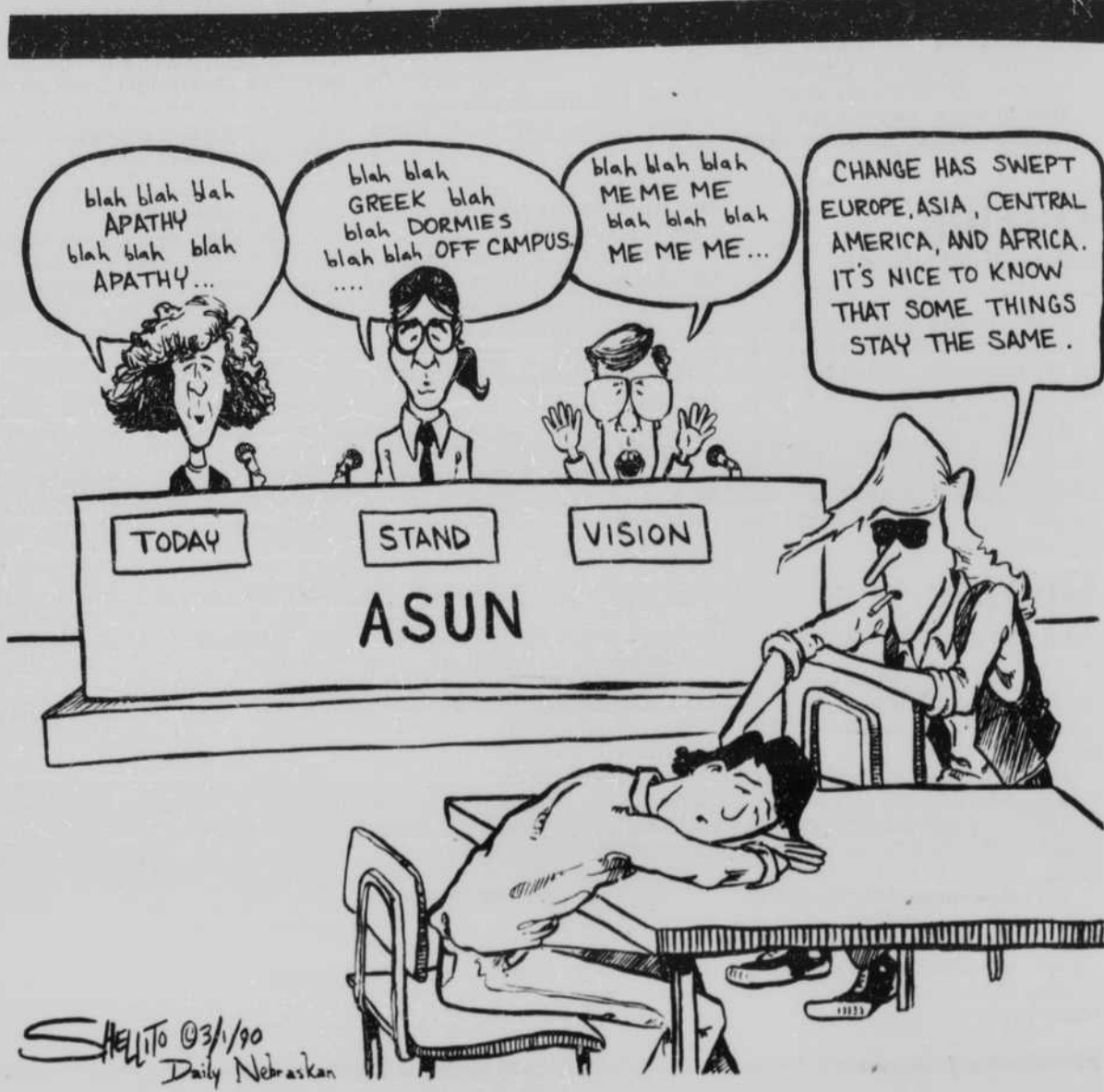
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editorial

Signed staff editorials represent the official policy of the spring 1990 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Amy Edwards, editor; Bob Nelson, editorial page editor; Ryan Steeves, managing editor; Eric Pfanner, associate news editor; Lisa

Donovan, associate news editor; Brandon Loomis, wire editor; Jana Pedersen, night news editor.

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



Mario tune haunts columnist

Government could use music's power to control human actions

The past few days, an annoying tune has been playing in my head. It surfaces at the most inopportune times. It has prevented me from getting to sleep, looking both ways before I cross the street and tying my laces without knots.

Ashamedly, it is the Super Mario Bros. theme. I climb into bed and the music starts playing in my head.

My thumbs are sore from that game. It seems like the quality of a song is inversely proportional to the time it spends in my head. I know I am not alone. A co-worker hummed a Tiffany tune all day yesterday.

Music must be the most powerful force in the universe. It can get in your head and make you do the strangest things. There was that serial killer in California forced to kill by Ozzy Osbourne's inspiring mayhem. And this year, four teens in Caledonia, Wis., killed a 1 1/2-year-old German shepherd. They said they were driven to kill something after hours of listening to heavy metal music.

A few hours of heavy metal sends me running for Tylenol, but then the Mario theme starts my pulse to jumping. Tastes are inexplicable.

The messages in music scare a lot of people. The governor of Florida is miffed that rappers are filling Floridian youths' minds with smut. And don't forget Tipper Gore's failed campaign to purge sex from music. Purity, apparently, turns some people on.

Now the U.S. government has a

hand in the music game. The U.S. Agency for International Development has commissioned pop songs to discourage sex or at least promote contraception among teenagers in Third World countries. This agency



Henry Battistoni

has distributed 6.9 billion condoms over the past 20 years. It is enough to make a good Catholic cry.

A sample given by the Associated Press from the song "Choices" goes: "Yes we shouldn't make children/ We cannot take care of/ There are ways of making love/ Without making children."

It's not very catchy a cappella, but add a drum and a couple tambourines and this baby hops. Two agency-sponsored songs have topped the charts in Peru and Mexico.

The beautiful simplicity of this program makes me wonder why it is not implemented on a large scale here in America.

The way I hear it, rock music promotes sex. Sex is neck and neck with drugs in the race to destroy our country. With the power of positive pop music we could end these scourges.

Proposal One: End homosexuality

in the military.

All services shall develop a right-minded song to be sung by personnel.

Example: "I wanna be an airborne ranger/ I wanna live a life of danger/ But keep those other boys away/ I don't like the way they play."

Proposal Two: Begin indoctrination at the earliest date. School boards shall develop attitude-directing songs to be sung by all students.

Example: "Daisy, Daisy give me your answer true/ We can't be friends/ If I have to go to the bushes with you."

Proposal Three: Influence immoral college students to lead the nation into a squeaky clean, sex-free future.

Example: "When you burn that midnight oil/ Pay no mind to your foil/ You know the real gold mine/ Waits for a future time."

Proposal Four: All establishments selling alcohol shall utilize a playlist of songs to be developed by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Example: "Sometimes we're busy drinkin'/ It affects our clear headed thinkin'/ My single bed sleeps one/ There's no room to get it on."

This program should be implemented right away. Why should Third Worlders be the only people purified by an omniscient propaganda machine?

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

letter

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 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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