

Daily
Nebraskan

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Quibbles 'n' bits

Students suspended for eating garlic

Add garlic to gang-style clothing and Bart Simpson T-shirts on the list of things that offend public school administrators.

Two Lake Worth, Fla., high school students were suspended from school last week for three days after eating too much garlic.

Each of the students, one of whom is a vegetarian, ate three or four heads of the smelly tuber for breakfast before going to school. They said they ate the garlic because of its supposed ability to cleanse blood and keep blood pressure down. The Associated Press reported.

Other students and school officials apparently were unimpressed with the students' science experiment.

Art works exhibit reactionary climate

Inspired by the trial of Cincinnati museum director Dennis Barrie, the Brooklyn Museum in New York has put together an exhibit of art considered objectionable over the years.

After Barrie was found innocent Friday of obscenity charges stemming from an exhibit of photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe, the Brooklyn Museum and others interested in freedom of expression can breathe an uneasy sigh of relief.

Only an uneasy sigh, because also last week, a Florida jury found guilty of obscenity a record store owner who sold an album by the rap group 2 Live Crew. This week, the Crew itself is to go on trial in Miami on similar charges for a nightclub performance.

The Brooklyn Museum's exhibit shows just how reactionary the current debate is.

Among the artworks in the exhibit are bronzes of lesbians embracing, paintings of nude children and of a man urinating into another man's mouth.

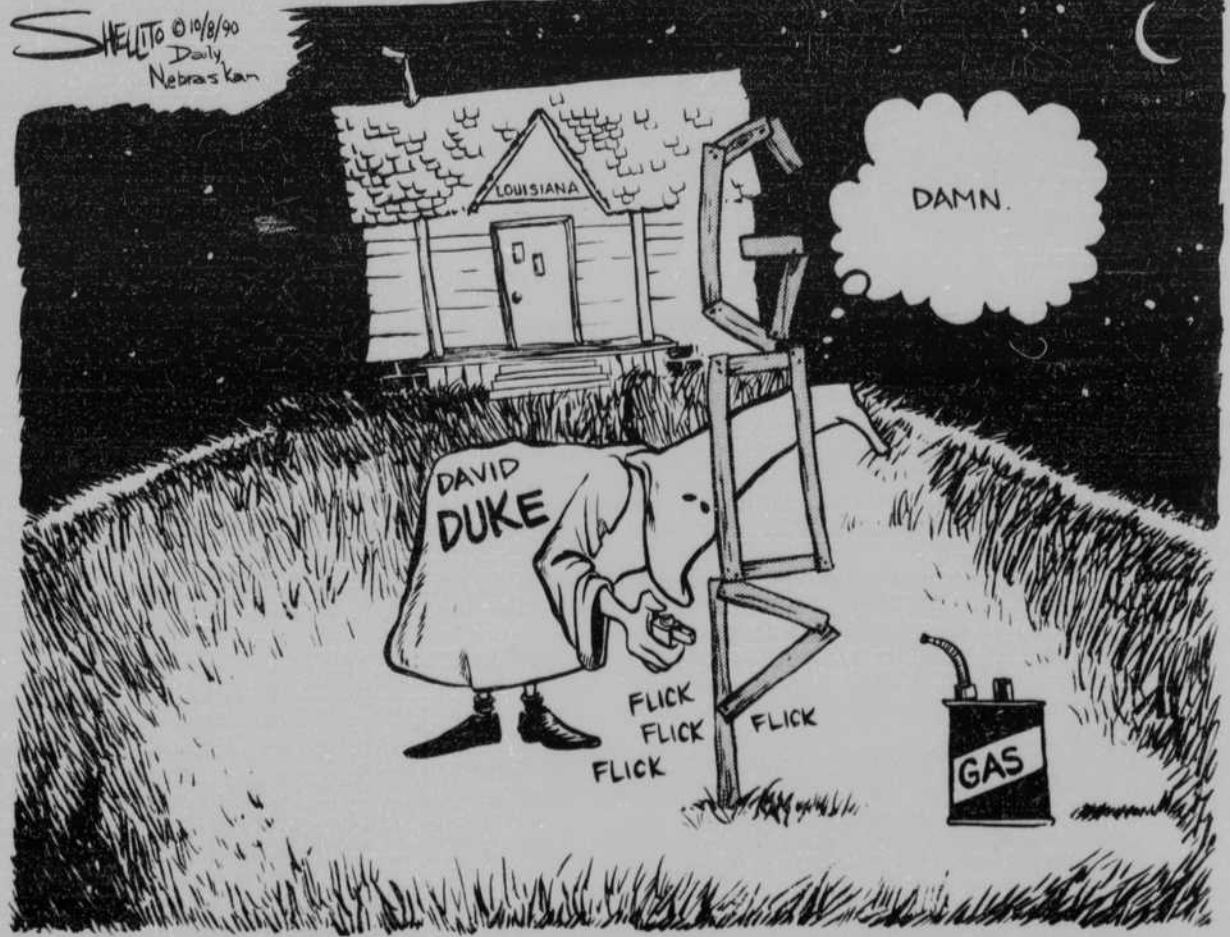
Sound familiar? It was subjects like those that incited opposition to the Mapplethorpe exhibit.

But the Brooklyn Museum's artworks that focus on those subjects are not Mapplethorpe photographs. And they're not raunchy raps, either.

The embracing lesbians were created by Auguste Rodin, who died in 1917. The nude children were painted in the 19th century. And the urination scene is an 18th century Hindu painting.

Even the most zealous of prosecutors would have difficulty indicting those artists.

— Eric Pfanner
for the Daily Nebraskan



Overtime too late, bill is due

Congress overextends credit, but maybe they can charge it?

No more business as usual.

Those words came from President George Bush this weekend, and he wasn't kidding. Saturday, "non-essential" federal offices started to shut down.

You heard about it. It was all over the radio, on TV, across the front pages of the papers and in conversations at grocery stores.

But if you haven't heard the set-up for the game, here's a brief instant replay:

We have a federal deficit. It has to be paid.

Congress is having a tough time trying to find a way to pay it.

Bush and the Democratic leaders of Congress worked out a five-year, \$500-billion deficit reduction plan that called for more than \$60 billion in cuts in the Medicare program and tax increases.

It was defeated in the House on Friday.

Democrats don't want to cut federal spending. Republicans don't want to raise taxes.

Bush told them they had to do something.

At 12:01 a.m. EDT Saturday, appropriations for federal services ran out.

Congress had passed a bill that would permit the government to operate for another week while lawmakers tried to reach a decision.

The president vetoed the bill Saturday.

An attempt to override the veto fell six votes short of the two-thirds majority needed.

And "non-essential" services started to shut down.

So what the hell are "non-essential" services?

Federal parks. Social Security offices. The U.S. Attorney's offices. The Internal Revenue Service. U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services. Veterans Administration medical centers.

Not all will be affected in the same way. Social Security checks will still be sent out, but people who do not receive benefits and want to apply for

them may have to wait. The same goes for people who want to apply for a change of status with Immigration. And the VA hospitals will accept patients, but they may have to go somewhere else for anything other than basic care.

So if those are the non-essential



Amy Edwards

services, what are the essential ones?

The U.S. Post Office. Federal prisons. Air Traffic Control. All military, and anything else deemed necessary for national defense and safety.

Of course, Congress could get its act together and send a proposal through today, and by the end of the Columbus Day weekend, more than 2 million federal employees could go back to work.

But if they don't, how will this affect you?

You can't go to see the Statue of Liberty over the weekend.

And if you're used to getting federal money for loans, and are thinking about applying for one to pay that hefty tuition bill that came due two weeks ago, think again. You may have to wait a while.

No problem. They'll have this straightened out by the end of the semester.

Sure. But what about by the time pre-registration starts? That's not too far away.

And if you haven't paid your tuition for this semester, you can't register for classes next semester. You'll have to go through general registration and you might not get the classes you need to graduate in May.

But don't worry about it. Our legislators are working long hours now to figure out a way to fix the federal budget and get those programs started up again.

Why, you ask, didn't they start

working those long hours before the bill came due?

Well, it's kind of like getting that huge Visa bill in the mail in July.

You can't afford to pay it, so you stick it under all the other bills that you have to pay to keep the electricity and phone turned on.

In August, you start getting nasty notes from Visa.

You're embarrassed because you couldn't afford the payment, and you start scrambling to find a way to put the bill collectors off for a little longer.

You don't want the bill to be sent home for Mom to see.

So you borrow money from Mom and tell her you need it to pay for a book that has been added to the reading list in your American Literature class. You pay Visa a minimum amount at the end of the month — say, \$10 — and forget about it for a while.

By Sept. 15, a \$7.50 service charge has been added to the bill and you have to pay it again.

You start to get mad at the people who keep sending you bills and swear you'll never charge another dime on your credit card.

By October, Visa has cut off your credit line until you start paying your bills again.

So you add more hours at work and complain that the people at Visa are heartless bloodsuckers who don't understand how tough it is to live on your kind of budget. Your mother is pissed off at you and lectures you about how you'll never have a solid credit line and your father will veto her plea to help you after graduation. She refuses to help you out and tells you that you have to not only work longer hours, but you'd better start cutting down on those "non-essential" things.

Like food. And rent. And that trip to the Statue of Liberty. Unless, of course, you find another way to pay the Visa bill. Apply for an American Express card and charge it.

I wonder if Congress has an Amex. Edwards is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

opinion READER

Letter writer spouting piffle, misunderstanding NEA intent

Mr. (Andrew) Meyer's letter (DN, Sept. 27) said something had "really got me thinking." I dispute this. In all the years I've been at UNL, no one has been so adept at expressing half-thought-out reactionary piffle as he.

Yes, motion pictures are considered an art form, but many are simply commercial product. As the dominant art form they do not need the help of the National Endowment for the Arts to make "Postcards from the Edge."

Meyer obviously has a grave misunderstanding about what the NEA does. It underwrites artists and organizations to make art reasonably available to all Americans. It does not promise to make the experience absolutely free. For instance, NEA money underwrites the Sheldon Film Theater, which brings movies that otherwise would not be seen in this town at any price, and charges at least as much as commercial movie houses.

Here's the basics of the situation. There are certain services the private sector would never find truly profitable, and the voters want more access to art than stingy corporate philanthropy provides. Now, remember that

these voters are taxpayers, so they tell their elected representatives, those hated congressmen, how to spend their taxes. Here's the point — the U.S. government is supposedly "for the people." If the people want art, the government is, by that principle, the best supporter of it. Every taxpayer

who saw that banned Cincinnati exhibit of Robert Mapplethorpe's photos and every visitor to our Sheldon or Omaha's Joslyn galleries already has voted for the NEA.

Finally on the issue of offensive art, I will not apologize for it but say that every artwork will please some and offend others. Many artists use that as a sign of success. Things that would please me might offend Jesse Helms, but what would please Helms would probably offend me. The solution is not to eliminate everything offensive but to provide options for both and for each of us to simply ignore what we don't like. The NEA has pleased far too many of our citizens and taxpayers to be eliminated for a few cranks and philistines.

Trevor McArthur
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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.

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.