

Daily  
Nebraskan

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## Another enemy

Boredom could lead to itchy trigger fingers

When Operation Desert Shield was initiated nearly three months ago, organizers painted a picture of a clean, clinical exercise to protect U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf.

From President Bush to the lowliest private, everyone involved in the operation was gung-ho about its efficiency and success. Even some of the adjectives used to describe the scenario were medically sterile: "Surgical" airstrikes were to be used against Iraq if push came to shove.

But after 10 weeks in the hot, grimy desert, U.S. servicemen have found out that Operation Desert Shield is a little dirtier than they thought it would be.

And the exercise has taken on its human element.

Reports continue to flow out of Saudi Arabia about the adverse conditions the troops face. At first, it was the heat and the sand. Now dirty rifles and sweat have become routine. Instead, the operation faces another natural enemy.

Boredom.

A Los Angeles Times article indicates that unit commanders are finding little for their soldiers to do. Even in the desert, there are only so many sand bags to fill.

Cultural differences between the United States and Saudi Arabia are increasing the strain on the visitors. Alcohol is banned; so is American-style entertainment.

Last week, comedian Steve Martin visited Saudi Arabia to boost troop morale. But he had to reign in his act to avoid offending the Arab hosts.

So while the United States bides its time waiting to see if Saddam is a wild and crazy guy, the human element of the exercise may do more to damage it from within than any outside enemy.

The danger is that boredom can lead to an itchy trigger finger. As one soldier told the Times, "We should either go fight or we should go home."

Operation Desert Shield was not conceived as an offensive measure. It was designed to protect Saudi Arabia from further aggression by Saddam.

A military cliché says Army routine forces its soldiers to "hurry up and wait." In this case, the waiting is as stressful as the hurrying.

— Eric Pfanner  
for the Daily Nebraskan

## Safe for now

Freedom of expression found innocent

2 Live Crew will be playing again in Broward County, Fla.

That's what the rap group's leader, Luther Campbell, said after he and two other band members were found innocent of obscenity charges there.

The jury deliberated for about two hours Saturday before deciding that the group's June concert in Hollywood, Fla., had some artistic value.

The prosecution had argued that the group's lyrics met a Supreme Court test for obscenity; that by community standards they appealed to a prurient interest and lacked artistic value.

The jury — all members of the community — proved with their verdict that that was not the case.

Jury foreman David Garson told The Associated Press, "As the cross-section of the community that we are, it (the album) was just not obscene."

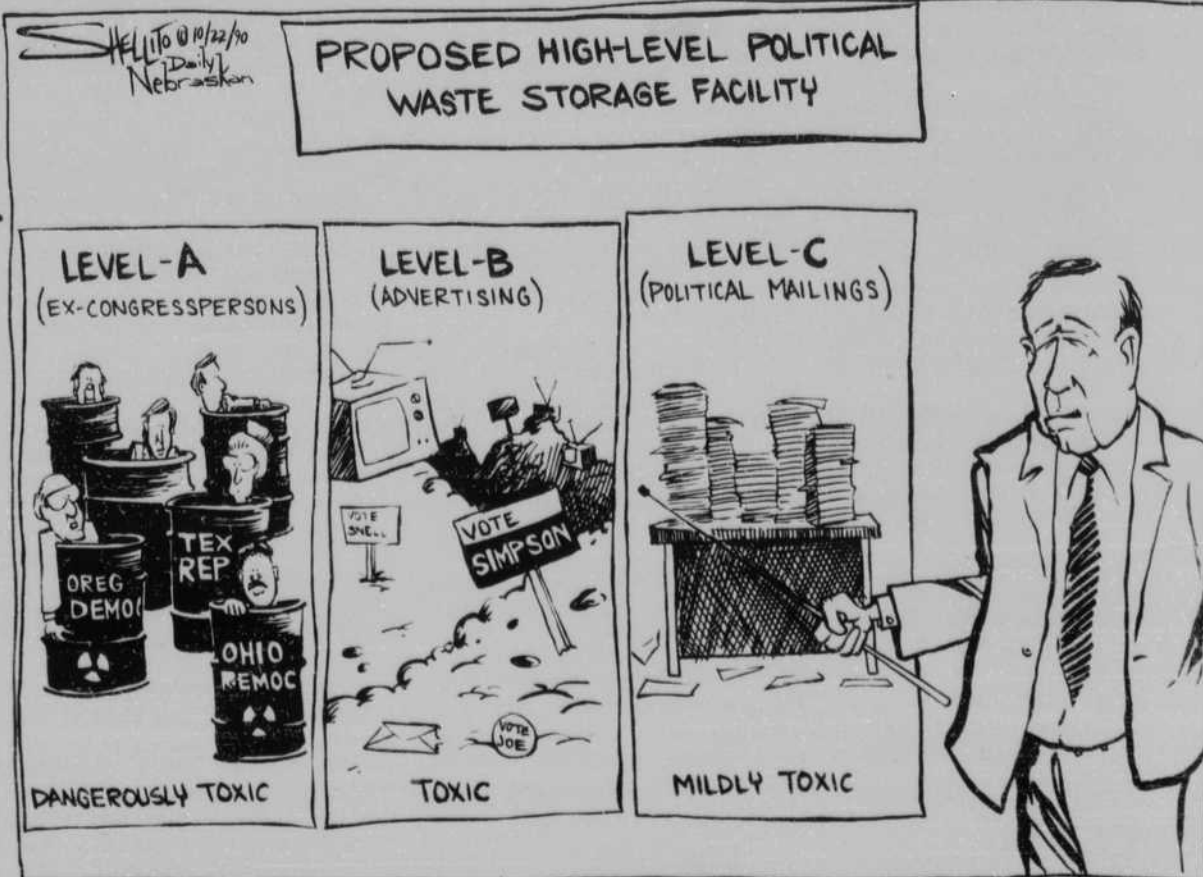
Intentionally or not, the jurors also helped uphold the freedoms of speech and expression.

Those freedoms had come under fire in recent weeks, especially after another jury in Fort Lauderdale found a record store owner guilty of obscenity for selling 2 Live Crew's record, "As Nasty As They Wanna Be."

Saturday's verdict, along with last week's acquittal of a Cincinnati museum director on obscenity charges for displaying photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe, lets artists and others who favor an open society relax.

At least until the next county sheriff decides someone's art is obscene.

— Eric Pfanner  
for the Daily Nebraskan



"OF COURSE INCUMBENT WASTE FROM ALL STATES WILL BE ACCEPTED."

## Darling Quayle takes nosedive

Vice president's verbal stumbling & gain pulls down popularity

Dan Quayle's rating among the public is down again.

Dan's wife Marilyn defended him last week on Sally Jessy Raphael's show, saying that Dan's popularity was down because the questions used in the polls asked how people would feel about Danny-boy becoming president.

Marilyn said that because something would have to happen to President Bush for her husband to become president, people said they would not like having Dan for president, because no one wants anything to happen to Bush.

Huh? Well, it was a good attempt by a good wifely wife to protect her good husband's name.

But there's a better explanation for Quayle's ever-decreasing popularity.

Besides his boyish charm (the reason he was put on the ballot, to attract the "lady" voters), and his proficiency on the golf course, Dan Quayle is basically a blithering idiot.

Of course no one wants anything to happen to President Bush, but it really has nothing to do with love for the president. Bush could chew tobacco and spit on the vice president's shoes and the American public still would favor him over Dashing Dan Quayle.

Why? Because after all this time, after all the editorial cartoons and public laughter, Quayle still can't get his words right. And someone who stumbles in public would not make a good supreme commander for our beloved country.

Unfortunately, Quayle will probably be up for the president's seat once Bush decides to end his reign. One of my political science professors told me that there has never been a vice-

president on the Republican ticket who wasn't nominated for the presidency.

Kind of gives you the shivers. The vice-president was a guest speaker last week in Louisville, Ky., at a national convention for the Soci-

ety of Professional Journalists. Yes, Dan Quayle used to be in journalism.

Quayle was pushing a proposal to lower the number of years our legislators can serve at the national level, and he actually gave a good sell. He must have been practicing his speech skills, or have gotten a new speech writer. Quayle played the crowd, even donating his signed presidential seal from the podium to a fund-raiser for the group.

It sold for \$1,500. But when people started getting up to ask questions, Quayle started fumbling. He doesn't do very well off the cuff.

When asked what the Republican party would do if someone like former Ku Klux Klan grand show-off David Duke ever got elected, Quayle went into a spiel about how the people of Louisiana were just venting their frustration with the government when they voted for Duke. Quayle said that the 44 percent of the vote that Duke got was not based on racism.

"The people of Louisiana are better than that," he said.

Now, I've heard this argument before, and some of it has merit. If you're really pissed off at your gov-

ernment, vote for the stupidest candidate and scare some sense into the real politicians.

But 44 percent? You can't tell me that some of those people — probably a majority of them — weren't voting for Duke because he was proud of his ties with the Klan.

Quayle said he doubts there is a resurgence of racism in this country. And because racism is a tough thing to track, and people don't report it, it would be hard to prove the vice president wrong with a bunch of statistics.

But you don't need statistics to know that there's something wrong with an election where a white supremacist gets 44 percent of the vote. Ignoring that fact isn't just stupid, it's dangerous.

But what did we really expect from Dan Quayle anyway? Candy-coating the country is his job. And he does try to appeal to everyone, doesn't he?

He even tried to quote the United Negro College Fund slogan at the national meeting of that group to prove his allegiance with every faction of our society.

Unfortunately, Quayle got that one wrong as well.

His attempt: "It's a terrible thing to lose one's mind."

Yes, Dan, it certainly is. At least we won't have to worry about someone knocking off the president while Dan Quayle is still around.

And if his popularity continues to decline, more power to the people. Maybe the Republican party will decide not to nominate the man for president in 1996.

But don't count on it. Dan still has his charm, and he can always run on that.

Edwards is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist and Diversions editor.

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## letter

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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-

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duction of the paper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.

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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