

Quibbles 'n' bits

Condoms-candy combo sweet solution

For years, debate raged on this campus over the placement of condom dispensing machines in the residence halls.

Much of the talk centered on the morality of offering to residents — the majority of whom are unmarried teenagers — a device used in sexual intercourse.

To some people it seemed at best to be a recognition of a "sad truth," and at worst, a promotion of promiscuity amongst the youth of this upstanding state. This is not California, for God's sake.

This year, the debate changed to how best to offer a resident a discreet and easily accessible alternative to unsafe sex.

Condom-dispensing machines were denounced simply because they didn't work. Studies on other campuses proved that nobody uses them.

A new plan to be implemented calls for condoms, packaged with educational material, to be dispensed from vending machines already in the dorms. No costly and intrusive new machines will be needed and shy students can appear as though they are buying a Snickers.

Or lovelorn students buying Snickers could appear as though they are buying condoms.

But whatever the appearance, it was refreshing to see the condom dispensing issue advance from the blind and dangerous denial of premarital sex to debate over effective implementation. Condoms and candy bars? It's a sweet alternative to pregnancy and disease.

— B.N.

Bill would stem smoking in boys' room

The days of smoking in the boys' room may be passing.

LB130, sponsored by Sen. DiAnna Schimek of Lincoln, would outlaw the sale of cigarettes from vending machines. As any teenager nicotine addict knows, getting smokes illegally for those under 18 is no problem. Vending machines don't ask for identification.

One argument for keeping vending machines is that kids will just have older kids buy the cigarettes for them. Using that logic, beer should be sold in pop machines because older kids will just buy alcohol for minors.

But as any teenage drinker knows, it's a lot harder to ask someone to buy than to buy for oneself.

Any bill that helps deter young people from a deadly habit is a good one. LB130 would be effective in doing just that.

— B.N.

A little dab will have to do you

Usually the Daily Nebraskan thinks the constitutionally guaranteed rights of freedom of speech and expression totally rock.

But seriously, like, things can get out of hand. Hair spray did in Broward County, Fla. And that's why we're psyched that some middle school principals there have banned it in their schools. Now they confiscate it on sight.

Some middle schoolers are pissed off, according to The Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel.

"I spend 30 minutes doing my hair. If you don't get to spray it to where it will hold, there's no point in doing it in the morning before school," eighth-grader Shelley Kuntzman said.

Get up 15 minutes early, Shelley, and dash on a double dollop. You can't reapply between classes anymore.

Kuntzman may have big bangs, but don't start making jokes about depletion of the ozone layer over Fort Lauderdale — she uses a non-aerosol spray, because it doesn't hurt the environment.

Love your mother, er, daughter. Not.

— E.F.P.

Students suffer under ruling

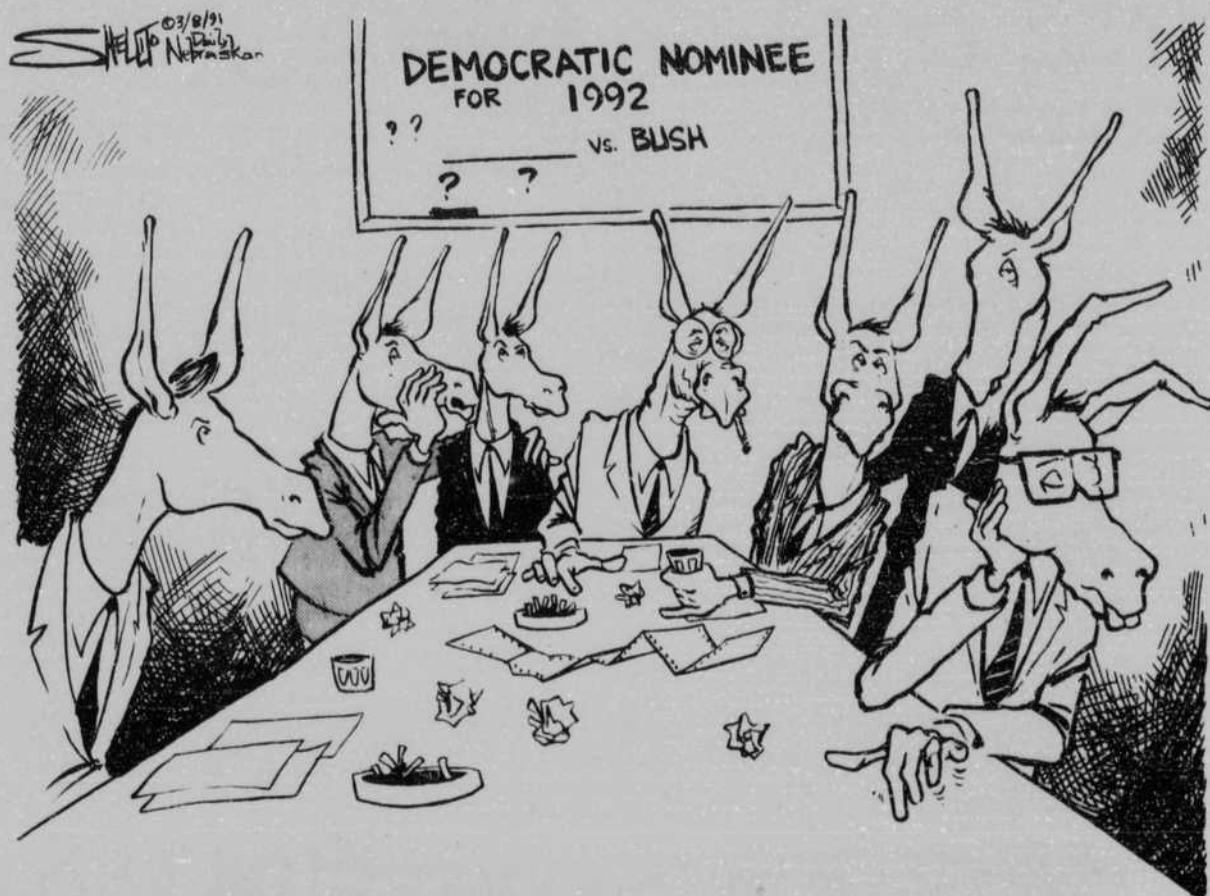
On Feb. 27, a fatal blow was sustained by every racial and cultural minority on this campus. The student court, in its infinite wisdom, ruled that Bylaws L and M were unconstitutional because they were discriminatory. I think it is ironic that the court which came down with this verdict consisted of all white justices. The courts' makeup is indicative of student government. Minorities on this campus have a very small voice and are continually forgotten and ignored.

When the university sends out literature to prospective students, the information usually implies that the

university is a place where everyone is welcome. My dealings with student government have made me feel less than welcome. This feeling is shared by a large percentage of the racial minorities.

Torry Garland
freshman
political science

Editor's note: Bylaw L would create a racial affairs committee. Bylaw M would create a gay-lesbian-bisexual committee. The court ruled the committees were unconstitutional because they included quotas.



YOU GRAB HIM FROM BEHIND ... I'LL SLAP THE CAMPAIGN BUTTONS ON HIM.

ERIC ASPENGREN

Victory no cause for pride

The war is over. The troops are coming home and people are beginning to take down their yellow ribbons. President Bush is riding a wave of popularity that is likely to get him re-elected in '92. And everyone is trying to get his or her two cents in about what is going to happen next. Saddam may fall. Iraq may collapse. There may be a power vacuum.

But nobody's talking, in a critical manner, about what we just did. Nobody's talking about what the United States and other countries just did in the name of peace, freedom and democracy.

We just utterly decimated a military that was, going into this war, the fourth largest in the world. We did this with relative impunity. Barely a shot was fired from the other side. Gen. Colin Powell made good on his promise: "First we're going to cut it off. Then we're going to kill it."

The U.S. public is happy that the war is over and that the troops are coming home. That's fine.

But what is frightening is the sickly sweet smell of national pride that is coming along with the happiness. The United States has very little to be proud of right now.

We have, as a nation, been able to destroy another nation, Iraq, knowing full well that that country was already in dire straits.

We have been able to get the rest of the world to support our disgusting act. We've done this by making deals with people like the Soviet and Chinese governments.

But the only thing tangible — if it even can be called that — is that the United States has proven it has the most powerful, efficient and dangerous killing machine the planet has ever seen. The United States, with minimal support from "allies," killed an estimated 100,000 Iraqi soldiers and lost 184 soldiers in the process. And Bush has indicated that he will not hesitate to do so again. So now we're king of the mountain. We've succeeded in pushing or threatening everyone else down.

We should not be happy about this. The self-satisfied grin coming to



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people's faces is like the grin that comes to someone when he or she kicks a dog. Yes, killing someone, or having someone killed in one's name, can really give a strong sense of accomplishment.

But that is not something that should make our hearts swell with pride. It is sick to be happy about and proud of a violent act. And this has been violence — violence on a massive scale, in the name of peace, freedom and according to President Bush — Christian theological authority that he is — God.

There is something disturbingly hypocritical about Bush's rhetoric.

He asks for God's blessing for this action but ignores God's words in the process. Bush wants to export freedom and respect for human dignity, in God's name, to the Middle East and he proves it by killing 100,000

Arabs. What exactly are this man's priorities? Jesus did not mince words on the issue. Nonviolence is not watered down in the Gospels.

But Christians are not the only ones who should question their actions. Everyone in this country who supported the war, supported the troops or supported the president bears responsibility. Anyone who wasn't opposed to the violence perpetrated for their sake should be thinking about what this means to them.

They cannot continue to hold the idea that violence is right as long as they are on the right side.

It is hard, if not impossible, to get this point across in a column. Columns are written to state a point and to prove it logically. But the importance of the message of peace transcends logical proofs. One can only strive to live the ideal.

Those who stood with the president in his war have to consider the beliefs they hold and decide if they are consistent.

How can those who oppose abortion think that war, the wholesale killing of human beings, is any different? The same goes for the death penalty. Killing does not change when its context does.

The inconsistencies in individual belief have had an effect on the policies of nations for centuries. The system has been affected by individual choices. The democracies, with popularly chosen leaders, reflect this. So do the people of authoritarian nations, by allowing their leaders to stay in power.

The effect is enormous. Citizens, by their action or inaction, allow their leaders to order their children to kill or be killed. It is not hard to imagine what would happen if the people of the United States stood up and said, "No more."

That is what is needed. We cannot wait until another war is upon us. We must continue the protests that started with this war. We must continue the message that has kept the human race from destroying itself already.

Aspengren is a freshman philosophy and aesthetics major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

LETTER POLICY

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