

Daily
Nebraskan
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EDITORIAL

Learn a lesson

Candidates should avoid dirty campaigning

A note to the members of PARTY and VOICE: Before this year's ASUN campaign turns into nothing more than a mudslinging brawl, let's all get a few things straight.

Dirty campaigning isn't, "Our party is strong because we have this and this and this."
Dirty campaigning is, "Our party has this and this and this. Their party doesn't. So, obviously, we're better."
Dirty campaigning isn't concentrating on the solutions to the problems that face the university.
Dirty campaigning is making an issue out of some minor detail and trying to create and capitalize on a misunderstanding between the public and the parties.
Dirty campaigning isn't that easy to explain. But voters know it when they see it, and they don't like it.

It is the voters' job to determine which party has the best choices for our student leaders. The voters do this by comparing the strengths of the platforms and the candidates. The voters listen — to the candidates, to their friends and to the media — and learn.

Telling the voters what to think of one's own group is well within the expectations of any campaign. But telling the voters what to think of the competition becomes nothing more than baseless name-calling.

The weaknesses of the two groups, therefore, are up to outside sources to determine. It is the best way to ensure an educated electorate when the system forces the voters to find the truth for themselves.

But when the candidates try to press their opinions on the public, it becomes dirty campaigning. If the politicians of the real world have learned anything in recent years, it is that voters are fed up with dirty campaigning.

The student senators should take a lesson.

Misrepresentation

Senators obeyed NRA, not common sense

Nebaska's state legislators showed last week that they have more concern for powerful political interests than they do for the well-being of the children of this state.

The Legislature refused for the second time on Thursday to reconsider a bill aimed at preventing the accidental shooting of children. On a 22-21 vote, our state senators refused to even debate LB83, known as the child protection act.

It can hardly be argued that the state wouldn't be served by a law that would make gun owners guilty of a misdemeanor if a child were injured, killed or caused property damage with an unattended firearm. Surely requiring gun owners to be responsible enough to keep their weapons out of the hands of children isn't too much to ask.

But our legislators, showing little leadership and less courage, wouldn't even discuss the bill.

It's not surprising why. The Omaha World-Herald reported Friday that three National Rifle Association lobbyists — two of them from Washington, D.C. — worked against the bill last week.

Obviously the NRA thinks children should be as armed to the teeth as they think the rest of society should be.

Nebraska's state senators served other interests than the people they are supposed to represent this week. The next time a child is accidentally shot or killed with a firearm, we will know where to look for those who could have done something about it and didn't.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1992 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents. Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production 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.

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 or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. 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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VOICE

I would like to comment on the Feb. 26 VOICE article. I think that it is disappointing that an ASUN presidential candidate felt it necessary to manipulate the press in order to increase his exposure. I noticed that the topic of Keith Benes' so-called "press conference" was to discuss issues of a past debate.

Let me enlighten him that there is an appropriate time to vent concerns introduced in a debate — it is during closing arguments. I know that Benes was the last speaker in closing arguments, and he should have taken that opportunity to express his thoughts during that time. Maybe the reason he didn't do this is because he can't think on his feet. Did he need an extra day to come up with a response? He won't get an extra day at an NU Board of Regents meeting. I suggest that Benes stop taking advantage of the press in order to cover his inadequacies.

John Williams
senior
finance

this is one of the reasons why the Serbians are "celebrating" the embargo. At the same time, while the Serbs in Belgrade are having a hard time finding jobs, the Bosnian Muslims are fighting for their very existence. Maybe what the Serbs should be "celebrating" is the fact that they now have a new ally — winter.

Mahmoud Al-Alawy
senior
agronomy

New York and Los Angeles and stereotyped the entire United States as a crime-ridden nation.

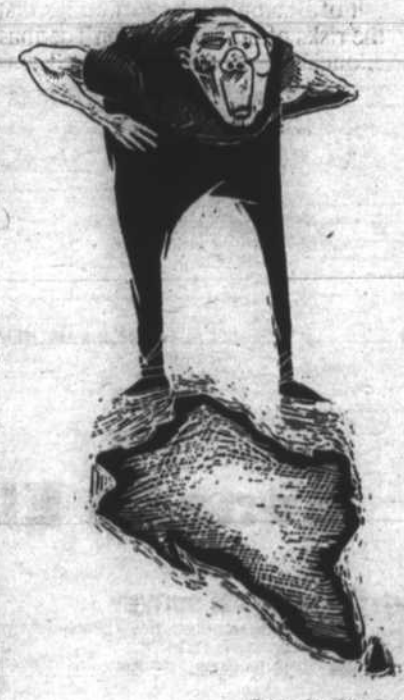
Traveling needs a fat purse guy! So, if you could have afforded a few more bucks, you could have found your civilization — a westernized restaurant with an aromatic toilet. By the way, a taxi is a "taxi" in India. What you have shown in the picture is called something else (if you care to know). Getting to know a country is not as easy as you think. Do not wallow in shallow waters and try to write about a vast country.

Nagendra Hegde
Mysore Jagannatha
graduate students
veterinary and biological sciences

This is with reference to "Sewer aroma swells in India" (DN, Feb. 25, 1993). A person traveling places needs to have an open-minded and rational outlook. India is a country with cultural diversity and rich traditional values developed over thousands of years. There are numerous monuments, gorgeous places and beautiful temples which speak of the science and architecture existing in India.

Millions of tourists visiting India every year are amazed by the scenic beauties of the Himalayas, the desert of Rajasthan and the rain forests in South India. I pity the author, who having traveled all the way to India, has devoted his time solely to sanitary conditions existing in India. I feel a travel article should project an overall view of a country. I am surprised to see the article appear under the topic International Journey.

Durga Shiva
Lincoln



Brian Shellito/DN

'Truth'

I'm writing in response to Biljana Obradovic's article, "Media distorts Serbian action" (DN, Feb. 25, 1993).

First of all, I'd like to say that the truth is sometimes hard to swallow. Whether you like it or not, Serbs are committing atrocities in Bosnia. Tens of thousands of civilians have fallen victim to Serbian guns. Since the war started (as a result of Serbian aggression) it has been estimated that between 20,000 to 50,000 Bosnian Muslim women have been raped. Sorry, let me correct myself by pointing out that children as young as 9 years old are also included. The difference between these rapes and those that have been committed in other wars is that the Serbian military has indoctrinated rape as part of their ethnic cleansing program.

You may argue that the Muslims have also committed rapes and atrocities — on a lesser scale — and I'll accept that. But what I'd like to point out to you is that the rapes and atrocities committed by the Muslims are a result of backlash in response to what the Serbian soldiers (especially the Chetniks) have been doing ever since this horrific war started. I'm not saying that these actions by the Muslims are justifiable or praiseworthy, but I can understand why it's happening.

In your article you also mentioned of the hardships Serbians in Belgrade are undergoing because of the international blockade. In addition you also mentioned that people are having a difficult time getting jobs. Let me paint a clearer picture for you of who is suffering the most. Because of the embargo the Bosnian Muslims are short of weapons to fight with. Maybe

India

Having traveled the length and breadth of India, we would like to make a few comments on Mark Baldrige's remarks (DN, Feb. 25, 1993). As citizens of India, we do agree that such a situation does exist, albeit in a few places. To extrapolate such a situation to the entire country is sacrilegious! At the same time, we are not ready to agree that the third world stinks. Does only India represent third-world countries or was it your selection?

Baldrige, did you travel extensively in India? If so, it is remarkable how you fell into the ditches and smelled feces, and didn't bump into the beauty of India. On the other hand, if you have not seen India in its entirety, you are not fit to contribute to Diversions about a country as diverse as India. Anyone who travels to another country would make an attempt to know something about the country. Did you try to know India other than what the Western media depicts it — as a land of slums, snake charmers, tricksters and casteism? Anyone would call us fools if we just visited

Limbaugh

With all the talk about Rush Limbaugh, I decided to find out what all the fuss was about. Therefore, a few nights ago, I watched his show on TV. Wow! I was shocked and dismayed by what I saw.

The program consisted of Limbaugh making very derogatory statements about others, usually simple one-liners, all based on distorted or non-related facts. In fact, there was very little substance to the program at all. It was overly simplistic in its message — and very negative.

Although talk radio and TV shows do serve an important function, informing the public and offering a forum for debating the issues of the day, it can also sometimes be misused. The Rush Limbaugh show really offers little, if anything, except for intolerance, fear and ignorance about others. How do our communities, how does the world, benefit from that?

Jim Anderson
Lincoln