

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

Missing persons

Clinton should pay attention to Farm Aid

Country-western star Willie Nelson should be commended for not letting another one of the world's pet projects come and go with a one-night-only performance.

Years ago, Americans' attention to the problem of starvation in Africa lasted as long as Bob Geldof's one-shot Live Aid concert. The problem, though, lasted much longer. In fact, people are still dying in Africa even as the issue fades from people's minds like the news from Somalia fades from the headlines.

More recently, the world has come to the financial rescue of the AIDS crisis and other issues with reactionary concerts and special events to temporarily occupy the public's attention.

The Farm Aid organization, however, has given more than \$10.8 million to farm groups, hot lines, churches and social service agencies since the first concert in Champaign, Ill.

And on Saturday, more than 40,000 people filled the stands at Cyclone Stadium in Ames, Iowa, to listen to the 40 acts that had come together for the sixth Farm Aid concert.

It is important for people to remember the problems of American farmers, and the Farm Aid concerts have been one of the only constant reminders.

But they have not fixed the problem in everyone's mind apparently. President Clinton did not send Vice President Al Gore or Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy to the concert.

Neil Young, who has appeared at several of the concerts, said he was upset by their lack of attendance and the sense that the concert had degenerated from a serious event into a party.

"Where is Gore? Where is Espy?" Young asked. "I'm not too happy to be here. . . . I thought when we got rid of Bush and Reagan there was going to be a change. Then we wouldn't need any more Farm Aids."

Take notice

Americans need to address gay rights

During the '60s, thousands of African-Americans marched on Washington to demand equal rights, rights they deserved as Americans.

It was the beginning of a process that people have been painfully slow to accept, and all America has suffered because of that delay.

On Sunday, another group that has been victimized by others' closed-minded lack of acceptance marched on Washington — homosexuals.

Now is the time to address the issues of gay rights. The president has made a pledge to end the military's ban on gays, and the gay-rights movement has quietly solidified into a strong organization.

But the problem remains because people refuse to open their eyes to the truths of homosexuality.

Many other low-profile hurdles remain to be cleared. The issues of housing and insurance discrimination against homosexuals remain an ugly blight on society, the same way they do for blacks and other minority groups.

"We're coming in from the outside to take our place at the table," said Torie Osborn, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"This is the decade. We are coming home."

A USA Today article on Friday noted the progress of the gay-rights movement in recent years. It noted the 1987 protest march in Washington, when about 250,000 people marched past the White House and barely anyone outside of the capitol noticed.

On Sunday, however, everyone noticed. And it is hoped that the voices of the thousands of people who flocked to Washington will be heard in the near future.

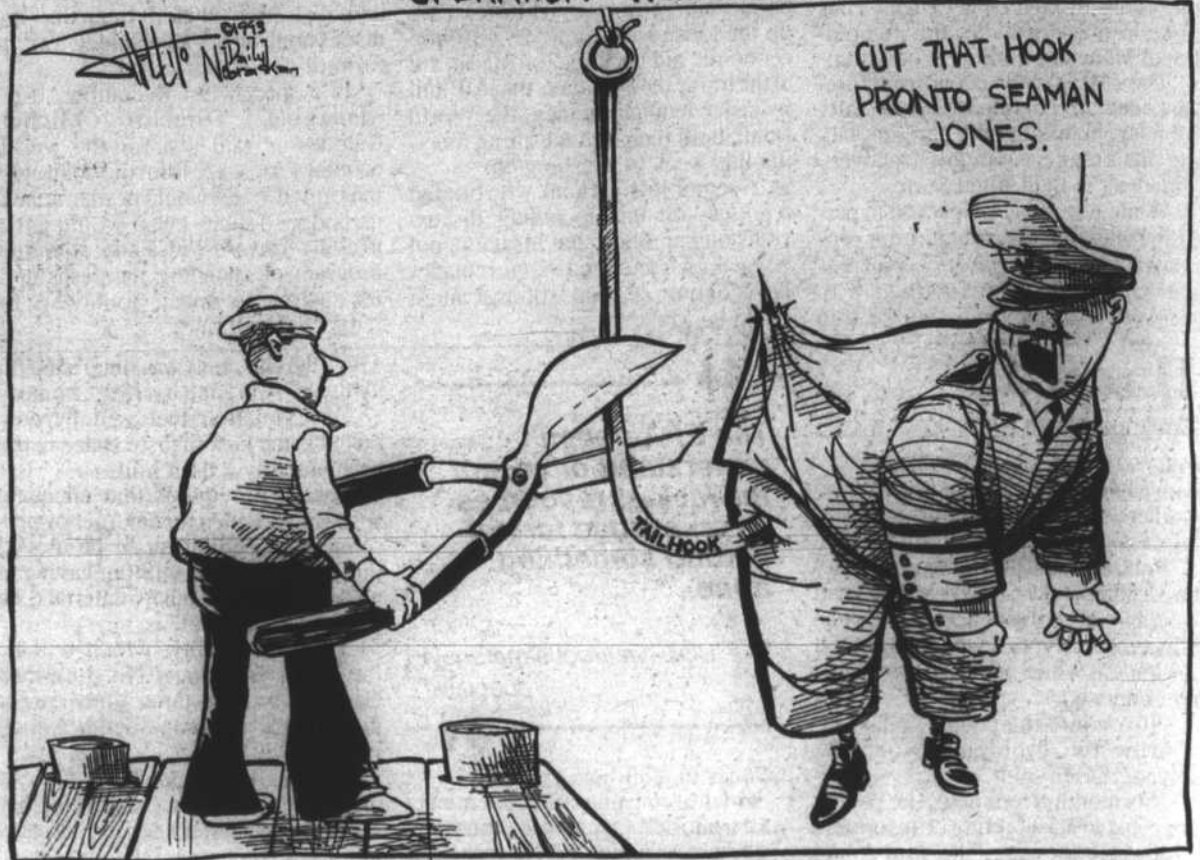
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LETTER POLICY

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 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.

OPERATION TAILCOVER



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fright

I am writing in response to the recent onslaught of letters written to the opinion page promoting conservatism.

I guess I am feeling somewhat frightened lately! I can't believe that UNL students are beginning to believe the words of Rush Limbaugh. Here is a man who has hardly any credentials of any sort, and he is leading a movement to promote conservative thought and the disintegration of all the ideals that America is supposed to stand for.

I am really frightened! I have noticed a trend among the college youth of this campus, and the trend is leaning toward conservative thought and practice. I recently read a letter from a man who said that Margaret Thatcher was his hero, but he did not promote any form of socialized medicine. Now if I am wrong, correct me, but wasn't Maggie Thatcher the prime minister of a country that has a national health care system?

I have attended UNL for five years now, and I have noticed a trend that has been increasing since I began at this university. Racial tension is at an all-time high; women are experiencing sexual harassment, even at a peaceful rally, where men felt that it was all right to "moon" the women who participated; smoking rights are practically denied to students and certain departments face the problem of being cut or dropped from the curriculum. On the national scale, we have people who support cult leaders, people who support the conservative, white supremacy movement and people who want the rich to prosper and the poor to obtain all those hundreds of well-paying jobs that we all hear about so often.

I resent the statement made by Joy Douglas (DN, April 22, 1993) who said that liberals say, "It's OK, you don't have to try, we'll take care of you," in reference to the welfare system. Liberals don't promote laziness; we try to promote equality.

I guess I am just sick and tired of the conservative movement that seems to be gaining support in the Midwest. I don't know how well Rush Limbaugh is supported throughout the United States, but hopefully he is not as well-liked on other campuses.

It is too bad that I can't remain in the Midwest to continue my education in graduate studies. I think I am going to try the West Coast, or possibly another country, where the feeling isn't so conservative. I don't want to be part of the "me" attitude that is prevalent on our campus today. I guess I am just sick and tired of all the conservative crap I have to read on the opinion page every day.

It's time to take another look at Rush Limbaugh. It's time to start

promoting equality among women and people of other races. It's time to start remembering why this country was developed: to promote the home for the free and the land of the brave. Pretty soon, Rush is going to make Waco look like a children's picnic.

Erin E. Egan
senior
English

ing to slip into one of their Gestapo meetings sometime.

Dan Hutt
senior
English

'Squawking'

I am surprised at all the noise and squawking about the two College Republicans who inadvertently got elected president and treasurer of the Young Democrats — since when has politics gotten so serious we cannot laugh about it once in a while?

When I first heard the story, I thought, "Damn — I wish when I was in college, I would've had the guts to pull some marvelous pranks like this." Although I am probably in the minority, I think the eight students who had a part in this prank should be applauded and commended for their resourcefulness and ingenuity.

And as for the comments of Professor William Avery, a man for whom I have a great deal of admiration and respect, I am appalled. Professor Avery is a bright and illuminating individual, and I am quite sure he is aware of all sorts of "dirty tricks" practiced by all political parties. All political parties.

But really, what is the big deal? There is a great difference between a college prank and authentic "dirty tricks" that deprive people of civil liberties, rights, privileges and legal benefits (such as what happened during Watergate, Lancegate and Tailhook); this was merely a college prank that hurt no one.

And so to the people discomforted by this — get a life. It is when something is so utterly serious it cannot be laughed at that it is the most laughable and ridiculous of all. It is a good thing not all of us are sour, dour, self-righteous people who take everything seriously and think of every cause as a crusade.

Fred Grady
1977 UNL graduate
Lincoln



James Mehling/DN

'Emphatic disagreement'

How fitting that Boyd Johnston and Students for America come off praising a "great America" under "Reagan-led insurgence," since like Reagan, they all see social reform as socialism. This line of thinking eliminates the realization of the political center and effectively creates a state of paranoia.

Basically, I stand in emphatic disagreement with almost everything and everybody Students for America supposedly represents, but I still recognize them as a key ingredient to the political soup on campus. Listening to the claims of political-fringe groups is both fascinating and educational, so long as they remain in the fringe and don't pose a threat to our civil rights. And who are these guys going to pose a threat to? Not only does Students for America not represent the opinions of a majority of people in America, they don't even accurately represent the trend toward moderate conservatism in their own Republican party.

Thus, we can enjoy the political diversity this group affords us, which comes as a welcome supplement to the usually boring two-party system in America. They're even better than The Far Side, and it could be interest-

Appreciation

In response to Jan Calinger's article "Caveman" (DN, April 22, 1993), I took exception to his generalization of sports enthusiasts as crotch-grabbing Al Bundy wannabes. By classifying the majority of athletes and fans as participants in mindless, violent contests, he expresses his lack of knowledge and understanding of any organized team sports. Anyone who has ever played any team sport appreciates the time, effort and physical prowess needed to succeed and excel in a televised sport; qualities very similar to those needed to perform in the performing arts.

M. Justin Tyner
junior
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