

Daily
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EDITORIAL

Short wait

Brady Bill background check good idea

The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution says that citizens have the right to bear arms.

But a proposed five-day delay on this right is one time where a restriction on U.S. citizens' rights happens to be a good thing.

The Brady Bill, which is being given serious consideration in Washington, would require a five-day waiting period for the purchase of a handgun, therefore allowing a background check to be done on those who wish to buy such a weapon.

William Sessions, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has come out in support of the bill. President Clinton has also lobbied for its passage.

Further evidence of the Brady Bill's vitality to society comes in the wake of violence in Lincoln and throughout the country in recent weeks.

The double-suicide-murder of Jeffrey Fosler, Jennifer Kramer and their two-year-old son Tanner in Lincoln last week, might have been prevented if the Brady Bill had been law.

And the murder of six lawyers in San Francisco earlier this month by a deranged gunman who eventually took his own life might have been avoided had a background check been done before issuing this man his eventual deadly weapon.

Nobody can say for certain that these incidents would have been prevented had the Brady Bill been in effect, but then again, how could the Brady Bill hurt?

The United States annually has the highest per capita murder rate in the world, and this would be a small step in the right direction to helping our nation remove its name from the top of this morbid list.

Opponents of the bill say that this is just more governmental regulation on rights granted by our constitution.

But U.S. citizens' rights to bear arms are still being granted, just with a brief delay, while in the process our right to be protected from those not emotionally or mentally stable enough to be given their Second Amendment rights are also being guarded.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Summer 1993 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.



JEREMY FITZPATRICK

Limbaugh craze will soon fade

Readers of Mad magazine last week voted Rush Limbaugh as the person they would most like to see get a root canal without an anesthetic.

It isn't often that Mad is on the cutting edge of social issues. I suppose we can now expect to see comic books coming out in favor of health care reform.

But credit should be given where it is due. The readers of Mad can be officially credited with recognizing that Rush Limbaugh's time is running out.

If everyone gets 15 minutes of fame, as is so often said, then Rush's alarm clock is about to start ringing.

Limbaugh is not a new phenomenon. He is just playing the role of ultra-conservative court jester that others have held before him and others will hold after he is forgotten. Limbaugh is somewhat equivalent to the pet rock. He is a fad — and a passing one.

The last person who filled Limbaugh's role was Morton Downey Jr. Do you remember Downey? He was a loud conservative who insulted and screamed at his guests.

Downey had a cult following. He made a name for himself saying incredibly outrageous things and insulting people.

Sound familiar? Now Downey is a forgotten memory, just like Limbaugh will be before too long.

Rush is popular because he is will-



If everyone gets 15 minutes of fame, as is so often said, then Rush's alarm clock is about to start ringing.

ing to say things that no one with any intelligence or education about the world would say. He appeals to the darker side of human nature which draws lines and separates people.

Of course, Rush and his followers would stop me there. Rush is doing no such thing, they claim. He is only having a little fun. He is just joking.

Limbaugh's equivalent of a joke is slapping someone in the face and then telling them you were just kidding. It's pretty funny if you are not the one getting slapped.

A lot of ultra-conservatives are using that defense to cover up statements that would normally be greeted by the awkward silence that happens when someone says something that is so ignorant it is embarrassing.

Even here at UNL, some people are doing that. A new group called

Students for America is following in Rush's footsteps.

Good for them. If you can't attach yourself to a national fad, then what can you do?

And as long as the things they say are just jokes, then it's OK. Where is your sense of humor?

Apparently, homeless people and poverty are kind of funny. Just ask Rush and his followers.

Rush should enjoy his moment in the limelight, because it can't last. Eventually, he will have said every controversial thing possible and insulted everyone in the United States. Then, because there is no substance to what he says, he will become boring.

The shock value will wear off and Rush's appeal will fade. Limbaugh will be replaced by someone newer, fresher and better able to insult people. Eventually they will be replaced as well.

Some things never change.

Don't feel too bad for Rush, though. He has cashed in on the deal — making a lot of money from his book and his TV show. When he is cancelled and but a memory, he will at least be able to retire in style.

It will have come at the cost of his integrity and self-respect, but that is a price Limbaugh seems willing to pay.

Fitzpatrick is a senior political science major and the Summer Daily Nebraskan features editor.

WHAT DOES UNL THINK?

"What do you think of the Brady Bill and its call for a five-day delay in the purchase of handguns?"

"I think it's probably a good idea. Everybody has a right to bear arms, but I don't see why they should mind waiting five days. There's enough guns out there already."

Paul Hoffmeyer
senior
electrical engineering

"I think it would be good because you never know who's going to buy what and what for. I think it would be good just to check people out and make sure they don't have a history of blowing people up."

Stephanie Patton
freshman
general studies

"I think it is utterly ineffective. It does more to hassle law-abiding citizens than to deter crime."

Brian Rose
junior
political science/economics

— Compiled by Shane Tucker