

Daily
Nebraskan
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EDITORIAL

At risk

Women must not forget crime, caution

It was a year ago today that Candice Harms, an 18-year-old UNL student, disappeared. She was last seen alive leaving her boyfriend's house around 11 p.m. to get home before her midnight curfew.

Her body was found Dec. 6 in a shallow grave southeast of Lincoln. Two men have been accused of her murder. One will go to trial in late October.

When Harms was still missing, awareness of safety issues on campus and around the city grew. Suddenly it seemed that all women were interested in starting or participating in self-defense classes. Everyone was buying Mace.

But what about now? It is still important that women walk in groups at night and be aware of their surroundings. Everyone should know how to get themselves out of a scary situation, whether it be with a self-defense move or with a can of Mace.

One of the most frightening aspects of Harms' death is that anyone could have been the victim. What happened to Harms a year ago could have happened to anyone in Lincoln.

It cannot be forgotten that it still can happen. Just because two men are going to be tried for this woman's murder does not mean that Lincoln is suddenly safe. Everyone still needs to be just as alert and prepared as many were last fall when the Harms case was still fresh in everyone's minds.

There is an important lesson to be learned from this tragic loss of life.

Prevention is one of the few things that can be used to deter a situation like this. We still need to be aware of our surroundings at all times and walk in groups to protect ourselves from a frightening, horrid situation like what happened a year ago today.

To serve and collect

AmeriCorps puts emphasis in right place

In the 1960s John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps to help foreign countries deal with their domestic problems.

President Clinton followed in his footsteps Tuesday with the creation of a program to help Americans deal with domestic problems in the United States.

Clinton signed legislation allowing students to trade public service work for college tuition money. The AmeriCorps will provide tuition funds, modest stipends and health insurance to as many as 100,000 college students.

In return, the students will complete two years of community service work. The first program could be started by the middle of next year.

The creation of the AmeriCorps reflects the change the United States has undergone in the last 30 years. Foreign affairs no longer dominate U.S. politics. Domestic challenges are now the United States' primary concern.

Clinton's plan addresses the reality that the United States is no longer as strong as it once was.

It will provide the opportunity for students to go to college while encouraging the community service the United States desperately needs.

The AmeriCorps has the potential to provide a real and valuable service to both the country and the students who take advantage of it. If the program is successful, it should be expanded to deal with the pressing domestic concerns that exist all over the United States.

EDITORIAL POLICY

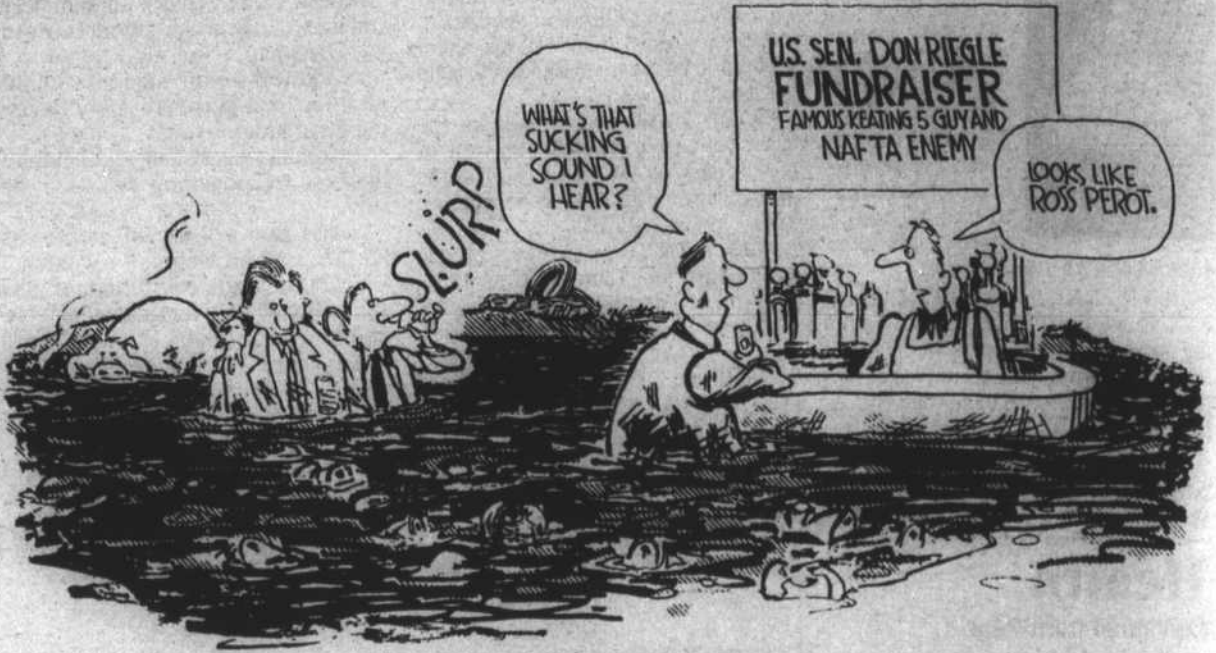
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LETTER POLICY

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.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Green space

Green space? At first I thought it was a joke, but jokes are supposed to be funny. I've always thought the campus was pretty green, with a lot of grass and trees. I've also always thought that although hundreds of students that could be saving needed parking spaces by walking or riding bikes aren't, there still was an awful small amount of parking spaces close to the union. I know what we say doesn't really count much to the people who run the university, but I think this is a silly expense and this parking lot is a necessity for space and night safety concerns.

If the university wants to blow some money, blow it on Richards Hall. If the university really wants to be green, it should put a strong environmental twist on the education here; after all, the environment is the most important thing to our survival. One suggestion is that the university could make Natural Resources 101 a requirement. Another idea would be to replace the overly green bluegrass lawns of campus with native buffalo grass. This way they could avoid pouring on all the pesticides and fertilizers that no doubt this new "green space" will receive. At least with the parking lot covering the soil, the risk of groundwater contamination from non "green" practices is avoided.

Paul Koester
senior
soil science

Gun control

As I read all the rhetoric that has been appearing in the Daily Nebraskan as of late on the so-called "benefits" of gun control, I am largely amused. It never ceases to amaze me how all this feel-good nonsense overcomes logic and facts.

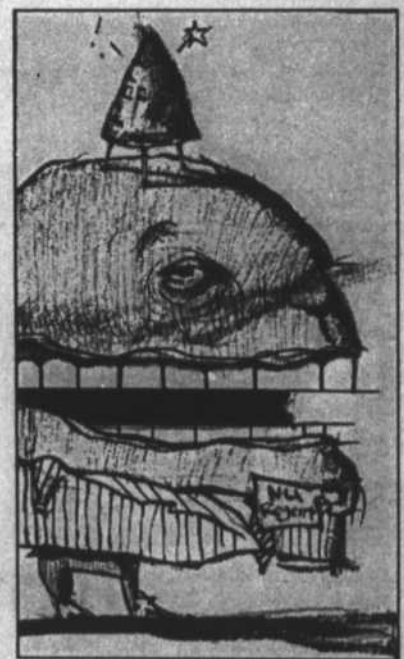
Prior to passing the gun control act of 1968, the thought of a teen-ager committing a murder in a public school was not even considered a possibility. Since that act was passed, along with an additional 20,000 gun laws currently on the books, the murder rate continues to soar. What is even more intriguing is the fact that the cities with some of the strictest gun laws have the worst murder rates. Unfortunately, the loony left never considers the results that the facts bear. If these criminals don't obey laws that are already on the books, why would they obey more laws? They won't. The problem is the criminal justice system that doesn't work, along with fundamental values that are not taught in the home.

A former Washington, D.C., chief of police was on "David Brinkley"

this week and confirmed the facts that more money won't fix it, and rehabilitation won't fix it, as the results are showing. It was mentioned that some teen-agers have been released from prisons up to 68 times only to go out and murder again. Now we hear over the weekend that another woman was killed in Florida with her roommate being injured, only this time with a knife! That not being enough, another killing just took place Monday night where a man was pulled from his car and beaten to death. How are gun control laws going to stop this?

It is amazing that 99.8 percent of handguns sold are used lawfully by law-abiding citizens, and these people are supposed to surrender their constitutional rights because of the 0.2 percent that are following the value system the left has taught them.

Jerry Mork
junior
electrical engineering



David Badders/DN

Apollo 009

Valerie Blake (DN, Sept. 14) and others bring up an interesting suggestion regarding the Apollo 009 space capsule. It sounds nice on the surface. Get the capsule out of storage and put it on display in the Devaney Center. But in truth, it would not do much to alleviate the condition of the capsule. In fact, all it would do is point out the pathetic condition of this once-proud artifact and emphasize the "don't-care" attitude taken by some of the NU regents.

As a materials specialist and an observer of the space program, I can tell you that just bringing the capsule into Devaney will not protect it from deteriorating. Just slapping some paint on it won't help either. The damage being done is structural as moisture has been allowed to get into its titani-

um outer shell and has probably penetrated the entire craft. And, do you really believe that putting it in Devaney can raise the \$400,000 needed to restore it properly? Unfortunately, it doesn't seem likely.

The regents have ignored the advice of experts at the Smithsonian and within the space industry. It is too bad that Alan Griesemer worked to bring the Apollo 009 capsule to Nebraska with hopes that we could build a fine collection of space displays of which we could be proud. Instead we have disgraced the trust of NASA.

Ron Synowicki
research engineer
Center for Microelectronic and
Optical Materials Research
department of electrical engineering

Republicans

I have always been amazed by the ignorance, stupidity and arrogance of many conservative Republicans. Instead of focusing on issues and on solving problems, many conservative Republicans only seem content to criticize and complain — trying to smear and discredit the opposition by using such words as "liberal" or "leftist," which of course do not prove anything. Besides being overly simplistic and at times very naive, these outbursts are also usually very mean-spirited, self-righteous and very intolerant of others.

A good example of this was in the letter written by Thomas K. Eads (DN, Sept. 16). It was critical of Paul Koester and his "liberal" letters to the editor. Wow, what a diatribe of trash! In reality, Paul Koester has written some of the best, well-thought-out and thought-provoking letters I've ever seen in the Daily Nebraskan or in any other publication. I look forward to reading many more of his letters.

Thomas Eads, I think that it would be in your best interest to re-read some of Koester's letters and to think about what he has written. Don't always automatically be so critical of those whom you may disagree with.

Jim Anderson
Lincoln

Rainbow

I would like to briefly comment on Rainbow Rowell's weekly column — it's excellent! Her sense of humor is modest and sincere, and her observations on life are keen. Someone's got to show us how important bad TV and crayons really are!

Anyway, she's made me a fan. Rainbow, keep up the good work.

Jay Brown
third-year law student