

Daily
Nebraskan
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EDITORIAL

Pull out

U.S. presence not helping troops, Somalis

The Clinton administration is pursuing a flawed policy in Somalia that should be halted before it costs any more American lives.

Three American soldiers were killed in Somalia on Saturday when their helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. The attack brings to 11 the number of U.S. servicemen killed in action in Somalia.

A crowd of cheering Somalis surrounded the downed helicopter, holding up pieces of the wreckage. The Somalis then reportedly recovered pieces of charred flesh from the wreckage and paraded them around a marketplace.

The Clinton administration responded to the attack with a statement of continuing support for the use of U.S. troops in Somalia.

"Somalia is on the road to recovery," White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said. "We must not let this substantial yet fragile progress to be threatened by the brutality of warlords who would profit from the suffering of others and thwart the will of the overwhelming majority of Somalis who seek peace and reconciliation."

President Clinton's decision to leave U.S. forces in Somalia is wrong.

The country is not on the road to recovery. And the presence of U.S. soldiers will not force the Somalis to stop the violence in their country.

U.S. troops should be withdrawn from Somalia or a clear date for their departure should be set. If the Somalis wanted U.S. forces in their country it would be different. But they do not and as long as that is true there can be no U.S. solution to the problem in Somalia.

OTHERS' VIEW

When Uwe-Wilhelm Rakebrand was gunned down in his Florida rental car several weeks ago, newspapers blared indignant headlines: Eight European tourists slain in Florida in less than one year.

The European press denounced America. The American press was astounded.

A couple weeks later, Florida natives killed another foreign tourist. That makes nine. The headlines were smaller, but the outrage was not. Florida's governor suspended all tourist advertising — at home and abroad. The state's \$31 billion industry was endangered. The killing was out of control.

But then again, the killing has been out of control for years. The only difference is that it's been fellow Americans — not Europeans — biting the bullet.

Last year, Florida reported nearly 2,000 murders — yet just 22 of them were non-residents, and less than a third of those were non-Americans.

What all this leads to is a rather morbid conclusion: America is at war with itself. What's even more disturbing is that it takes the deaths of a handful of foreigners, and the threatened loss of money, before we even begin to take notice, much less call a cease-fire.

The Chicago Tribune has taken a dead-aim approach to try to curb the war: It's publishing a front-page story for every child killed in Chicago this year. But the message has yet to hit home. The murder measure stands at 50, and it's not slowing down.

Perhaps the war with murder already is over. Perhaps we've lost.

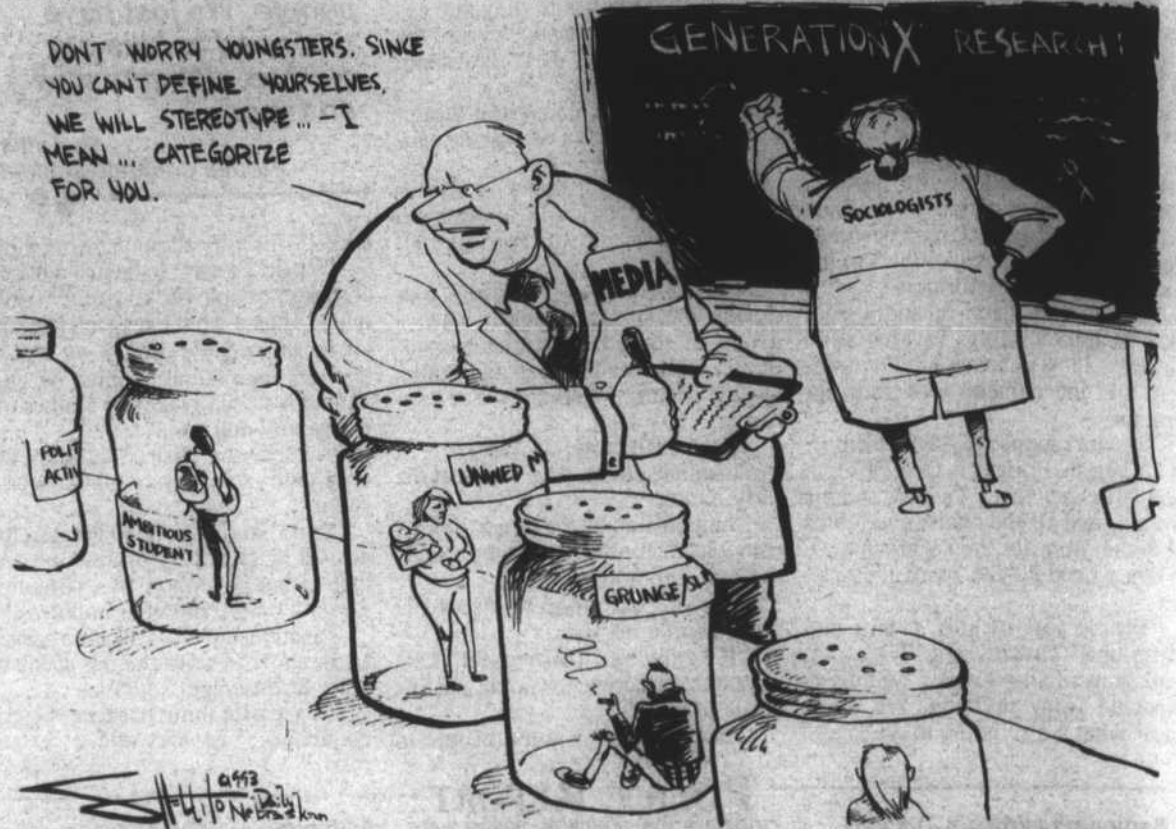
— The Mancater
University of Missouri-Columbia

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Generation X

If Sideshow drummer Paul Tisdale is a spokesman for Generation X, we've got some serious rethinking to do (DN, Sept. 22). Tisdale is wrong in thinking there is no hope for our generation, and he places the blame for his lack of hope on the wrong people.

First, Tisdale says, "I don't think there is any hope for this generation." It's hard to know what he means by this. He himself hopes to achieve creative success. He hopes new people will be exposed to his music. And I think he hopes to sell some albums. But I assume from the context of the article that he means Generation X has no hope to achieve the American Dream, meaning financial success as it is traditionally understood.

We look at a band like Nirvana, which has profited from a society it says it despises, and we scratch our heads in bewilderment. Here is a wildly successful band — and not just in the creative sense — telling us there's no hope. The hypocrisy and naiveté of it is mind-boggling.

Second, Tisdale blames the wrong people for his hopelessness: our parents and "former political administrations," presumably those of Presidents Reagan and Bush. If anything, both of these groups give him reason to hope.

America has never been about "sharing the wealth." It has been about individual achievement. America's status as a beacon of hope to the world came, for the most part, from an economic system that rewarded effort and encouraged people to stand on their own two feet. And America is great today because of self-reliant individuals — including our parents — who didn't wait for somebody to "distribute the wealth."

And to say that the Reagan and Bush administrations made Generation X "directionless and shiftless" is ridiculous. Let's think for ourselves, rather than listen to our president on this one. The much-maligned '80s were a time of increased opportunity for all Americans — including the minorities Tisdale accuses our parents of neglecting — as economic statistics from that decade plainly show.

Our generation needs to abandon the sort of sloppy thinking Tisdale articulates. There are plenty of us in Generation X who believe that "the age-old American dream" is alive and well. I hope our viewpoint will be represented in future articles.

Todd Van Campen
Lincoln

Censorship

If Sam Kepfield is trying for the all-time complaint mail record for a DN columnist, his latest lunacy will certainly help his cause. Now he's

proposing we help relieve the university's financial ills by chucking the Affirmative Action Office (DN, Sept. 22).

Sam, some of us see a double standard in this "censorship" issue concerning the conservative backlash to such things as affirmative action and diversity on campus. Hey, if people on campus want to publish an alterna-

privileged, Caucasian males, we might understand why we have things like affirmative action today.

Scott Carpenter
junior
English

Safety

The DN has appropriately reminded us of the anniversary of Candice Harms' abduction. It is indeed a good time for all of us to think about preventative measures we can take against assault, rape and other violent crimes. The recent mugging of a friend of mine is a fresh reminder that these assaults continue to occur. However, the assumption that to solve this issue, we need merely to be careful and not walk alone is a simplistic and ignorant response.

Instead, I challenge the DN to deal with the complicated. Yes, each individual must take precautions, but let us also make an assertive effort to improve and expand the entire community's response to these crimes. The wonderful emergency telephones around campus are an excellent beginning. But most importantly for our future, we must begin to improve the foundations of our society, to learn why these acts of violence toward women continue, to develop better educational and community programs, build self-esteem and rethink many of our societal attitudes. The DN can be an important tool for educating our community rather than giving lip service to this issue.

Carol Dicks
department of geology

Hooters

Obviously Matt Zimmerman is not living in the same world as the rest of us (DN, Sept. 23). Feminists like myself can see through all of the hidden and not-so-hidden male dominance that controls all women in our society in some way or another. Men who get turned on by women "dressed up in sophomoric, restrictive, revealing outfits" are the same men who make our laws and sit on our juries, who, consequently, make serious decisions that affect us all.

Suppose one of the waitresses at Hooters were to walk home after work without changing out of her work clothes. If that woman were raped, she would have been "asking for it" because of how she was dressed. In previous sexual assault and harassment cases, women either weren't believed or were told it was their fault due to their "promiscuity" and clothing.

Zimmerman should rethink what he says about half of the world's population. Women are not sex objects and should be treated with respect.

Tina Lyles
senior
broadcasting

