

Daily Nebraskan

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EDITORIAL

Seize the day

Action needed to secure Mideast peace

Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, did not shake hands in front of the cameras at their meeting in Cairo, Egypt, on Wednesday. But they did begin working out the details of turning their promises of peace into reality.

The 90-minute meeting between the two leaders ended with separate press conferences. Both leaders said the meeting was constructive, and announced the formation of four committees to work out the details of last month's agreement on limited Palestinian self-rule in Israeli-occupied territories.

Rabin asked for the meeting because he was concerned that if the peace accord was not put into motion quickly, it could be undermined by persisting unrest in the occupied territories.

Israel started cracking down on Palestinian fugitives in the occupied West Bank and Gaza last week, arresting more than 50 suspects, killing three and damaging homes with antitank missiles. Moslem extremists opposed to the accord have attempted three suicide attacks in the past month, including one Monday that injured 30 Israelis.

Rabin and Arafat's meeting demonstrates the urgent need for action to solidify the peace accord signed in Washington Sept. 13. If the two sides are not able to take immediate action on the agreement, the opportunity for peace could be lost.

Stalled

Parking garage is unrealistic solution

Since parking is commonly considered a big problem at UNL, it seems logical that some students and administrators would consider the idea of building a parking garage. They have.

Three places have been picked as possible locations for a garage in the future. But that does not mean one is going to be built.

Administrators are looking at this idea realistically. Students and officials acknowledge the need for more parking around campus. But officials also realize that the price tag on a parking garage would be much more than UNL can afford.

Paul Carlson, interim business manager, said the price of parking in the garage, if it were built, would deter a lot of people from parking there anyway. It would have to be expensive in order to pay for such a structure.

The garage, Carlson said, would have to be available for visitors to use so their money could also be used to pay for building costs. But locations ideal for visitors, such as near the Lied Center or closer to downtown, may not be ideal for students.

But all of the wishing for a garage will likely go unheeded. The possibility of building a garage, once estimated to cost millions of dollars, on a tight university budget is unlikely. If that kind of money ever becomes available, it should be used for other priorities, such as bringing Richards and Burnett halls up to state building codes.

Students, and probably most faculty and staff members, should not plan on seeing a parking garage being built during their careers at UNL. The best option is to buy a permit for the commuter lots, park and walk like everyone else. It seems to be the only option now and for the budgeted future.

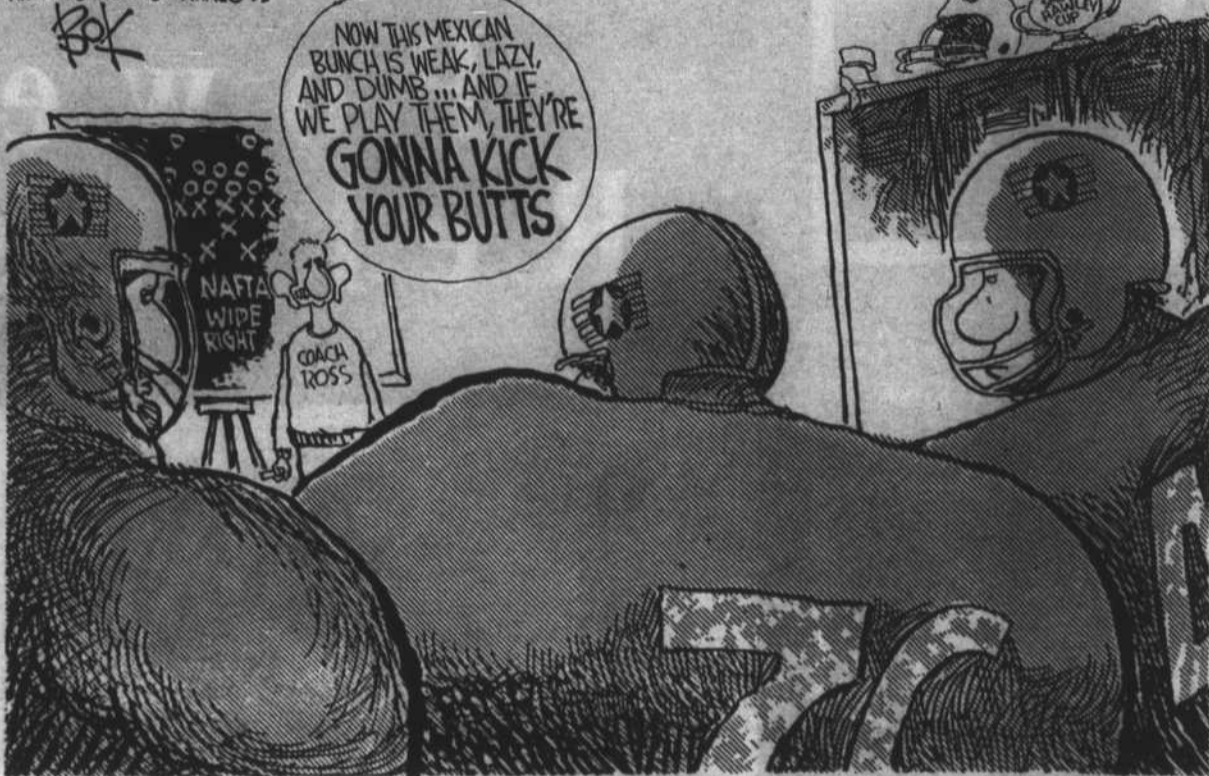
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ANNE STEYER

TV beach conquers the world

Shocking material recently arrived in my mailbox.

According to "Entertainment Weekly," the No. 1 television show in the whole world is not "60 Minutes." It's not "Star Trek: The Next Generation," "Seinfeld" or even "The Simpsons."

It's "Baywatch." This fluff piece filled with near-naked men and women portrayed as jiggle heroes of the beaches is the most popular television show in the world.

"Baywatch" goes to satellite broadcast this month, where it will reach a record 72 countries, including Outer Mongolia and Lebanon.

Obviously, this show is the answer. This is how we can finally solve all of the world's problems: Export "Babewatch," or, I mean, "Baywatch."

Perhaps we could send the "babes in bathing suits and the hunks in trunks" to Bosnia to do some real lifesaving. Our heroes could be the troubleshooters in emerging democracies such as those of the former Soviet Union.

There's only a few small problems with that, though. Commando forces don't wear Lycra.

But Lycra makes it the third-highest rated syndicated show on American television—behind the two "Star Trek" spinoffs—and it's among the top-rated shows in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand and Australia.

I don't mean to be melodramatic, but the cultural implications and the future ramifications of such statistics are truly disturbing. Think of how other peoples view America: They must see the United States as home to Madonna and California Dreamin', breast implants and thong bikinis.

Couldn't we at least export one of the "Trek" shows? Both feature people of all shapes and sizes who are fully clothed.

The show's producers estimate 1 billion people will watch "Baywatch" every week. That's more viewers than any other television series since TV debuted in American homes in the 1950s.

Who is the audience for this mindless wet dreaming, and how could we



How can any country take us seriously when our biggest entertainment and cultural export is bodacious lifeguards frolicking on the beach, pretending to save lives?

convert them to be fans of the "Next Generation" instead of soggy swimsuits?

Maybe "Trek" doesn't have enough flesh for "Baywatch" viewers. The cosmic cheerleader uniform Counselor Troi used to wear went by the wayside a few stardates ago. Hmm. I sense a pattern here. "Trek" moves away from heaving breasts; "Baywatch" jumps in the ratings. Did the disenfranchised move to the beach?

Still, I'd like to see the "Baywatch" sissies tackle an alien world. I guess they could have on classic "Trek." They could have teamed up with Captain Kirk and rolled about the galaxy.

I shudder with fright, not to mention nervous apprehension, for the next time I visit another country and am bombarded with questions about David "Knight Rider" Hasselhoff and his bevy of beach babes. What else can others know of us now, except for our president and the "Baywatch" beauties?

How can any country take us seriously when our biggest entertainment and cultural export is bodacious lifeguards frolicking on the beach, pretending to save lives? And how many lives are really threatened on those perfect beaches, anyway?

I'm so embarrassed. Surely "Baywatch" isn't all America has to offer.

The show is nothing but a showcase for Playmates-turned-serious actresses. Yeah, it's a pretty serious thing to show up with a low-cut one-piece and a bottle of Bain de Soleil.

"Baywatch" is furthering a few careers. One co-star left the show to play the bimbo in the last Steven Seagal flick. Then she's off to play Elly May in "The Beverly Hillbillies"

movie. Did I mention she's best known for her spread in Playboy? Watch for that rising star.

Maybe I shouldn't blame Hasselhoff for "Baywatch," even though he's the executive producer as well as the star. He used to have to spend all his time playing second fiddle to a talking car named K.I.T.T. The guy probably got frustrated and vowed his next co-star would feature cleavage instead of a carburetor.

But it seems Davey went too far—now he's playing second fiddle to T&A.

Hasselhoff said he was from the "Michael Landon school of family entertainment." What family was he talking about, the Hefners or the Gucciones? Certainly not the Ingalls family.

Hasselhoff also said "Baywatch" was expanding to introduce more cultural diversity and social issues.

Yeah, they added a Mexican-American character, but of course, he had to be a former gang member.

Social issues? You bet. One of the lifeguards is revealed to be a bulimic. I wonder why? It couldn't be from all the tanned, toned bodies displayed in front of her face daily. Geez, I'd throw up, too.

Oh, and they're trying to get away from just casting the so-called American ideal: slender, full-breasted blonds. "Baywatch" executives have hired a flat-chested brunette to even things out, so to speak.

I'm so happy our No. 1 entertainment export is a show so culturally complete, such an accurate representation of the boobs of America.

Steyer is a senior English and history major, a senior Daily Nebraskan Arts and Entertainment reporter and a columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Crime

In reference to the editorial, "System Failure" (DN, Sept. 28), anyone who buys this argument is a moron.

We need the death penalty! Here's why:

1. Criminals commit violent crime because they know that if they get caught, they'll spend little time in jail.
2. Criminals know there is no retribution for their acts.
3. Criminals are freeloaders of society. They do nothing positive and

yet are supported by tax dollars.

We need a strong deterrent against crime. If you know you will be punished severely or possible get the death penalty, you'll think it over before committing a crime.

The answer is the family. Let's get back to the family with God at the center. Let's stop teaching school kids how to use a condom; let's stop abortions and put morality and the teaching of right and wrong back on the top priority list.

Right now we need extremely strong deterrence to the rampant crime rate. Only in the future, after we have put an emphasis on morality, responsibility and kindness can we truly become a great nation once again. But until God and morality become the focus, the way to deter crime is an "eye for an eye." This is why the death penalty is very much needed.

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