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Nebraskan
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EDITORIAL

In view

U.S. needs more visible role in Russia

The United States was right to stand behind the democratic government of Boris Yeltsin during the recent clash between Yeltsin and hard-line protestors in Russia. But now the United States needs to push Yeltsin to not forget his commitment to democracy.

Nicholas Daniloff, a former Moscow correspondent for United Press International, spoke at the Lied Center for Performing Arts Wednesday. Daniloff covered the conflict in Moscow, including the assault on the Russian White House to force opposition lawmakers to surrender.

Daniloff said the United States needed to be a more visible force in the aftermath of the conflict.

"Russia needs to be gently nudged, gently pushed into democracy," he said. "Because, as we've seen, they can backslide easily."

Yeltsin has been a critical ally in the new friendship between the United States and Russia. That friendship has allowed the United States to turn its focus inward to domestic challenges.

But the friendship has been based on Yeltsin's decision to embrace democracy. President Clinton was right to support Yeltsin during the recent strife in Moscow. But now Clinton needs to push him to return Russia to an open and democratic government.

Wrong channel

TV violence highlights real-life problems

Attorney General Janet Reno told senators Wednesday she opposed immediate legislation to curb violence on television. The Associated Press reported that Reno said she instead favored action by the television industry to develop shows that repudiated violence.

Reno said entertainment officials had told her they would not argue any more about whether television caused violence in society. She said the officials promised to change programming.

But if they don't act, the government will have to, Reno told the Senate Commerce Committee.

Several anti-TV violence bills are being considered by the committee. They propose restrictions on the time violent programming can be aired and warning labels on violent shows.

The United States has become a violent society, and that reality is reflected in television programming. Undoubtedly, violent television has some impact on viewers.

But the answer to the problem of violence in the United States is not to remove it from television and hope it will go away. While TV violence must be reduced, real violence must be reduced as well. And to do that, the United States will have to address real social issues much more complex than television.

If Congress is truly interested in solving the problem of violence in the United States, it will consider legislation to address the economic problems that are a breeding ground for violence and crime. Perhaps if the United States was a less violent society, its television would be less violent as well.

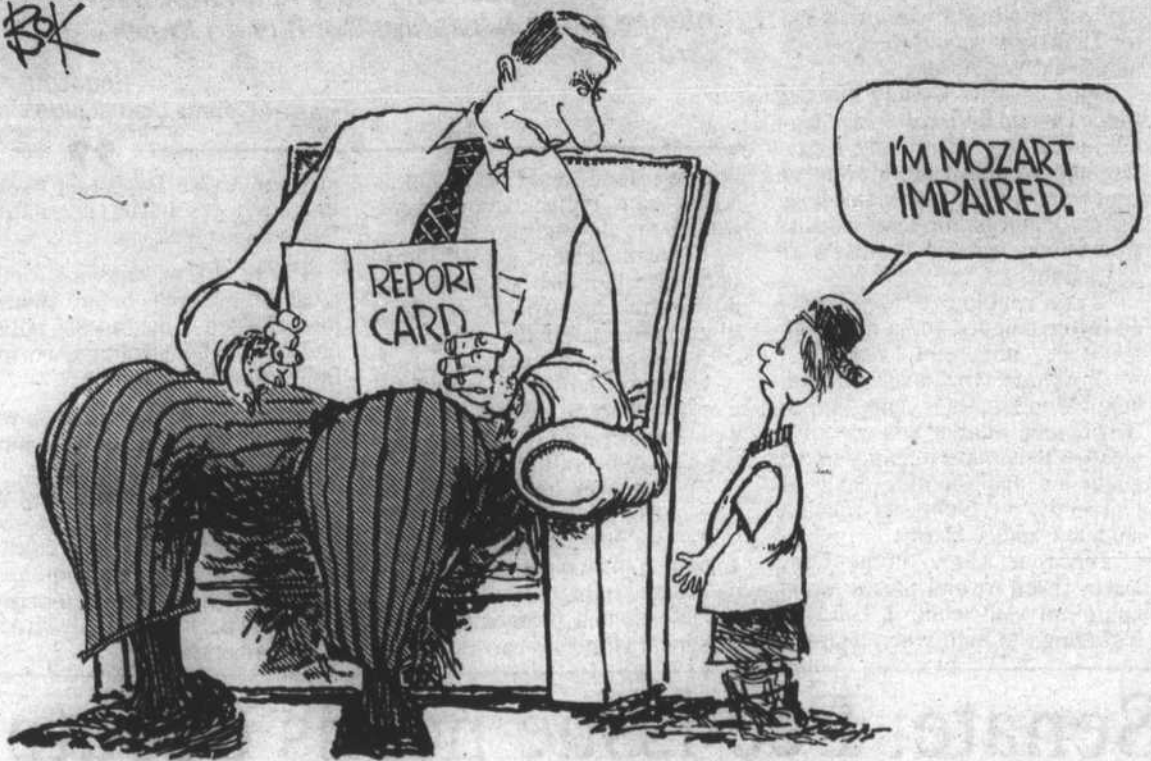
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AKRON BEACON JOURNAL 93



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Gay rights'

I think, as far as the term 'gay rights' is concerned, Mr. Beinecke should be sick of hearing it (DN, Oct. 18). This is because we are talking about not specifically gay rights but human rights. Anyone who loses his job because of what he does in his personal life should be no concern to an employer, so long as it does not keep him from performing his contractual duties as an employee.

People who can't get this through their thick skulls have not truly been discriminated against in their place of work because of race, creed, sex or sexual orientation. I challenge any white heterosexual male to come forward and say he lost his job for being masculine.

I not only applaud Sean Bolte for fighting back, on behalf of himself and the gay community, but for all of us who may have been turned away from work for unfair reasons. For that, Mr. Beinecke, I think he is twice the man you will ever be.

Pamela J. Hagman
freshman
fine arts

few times after 4 p.m. I believe that is why I bought a night permit. Despite my best efforts, I am still a student here and I suspect that I'm not the only student who uses that lot at night.

Spanier conveniently fails to address the fact that there are a number of faculty and staff who have purchased permits for that lot through August 1994. I can only assume that since construction commences in April, there is a plan to reimburse those people who will not be allowed access to central parking for which they paid hundreds of dollars.

Michael Bergstrom
junior
music theater

race. We're not here to pick up our fists, we're here to pick up a book, and some of you seem to be greatly confused.

I'm really tired of having to fight a losing battle with the university system for funding, against discrimination and for racial equality and representation. If we can't get it together, we don't deserve extra funding. We deserve to be discriminated against because of our action and we do not deserve to be represented as a student body because we are making a joke out of the black race.

I would like to make a formal apology to the international and Asian students from the rest of the African-American student body, who encouraged me to write this letter, because we are truly embarrassed by the actions of our people. I do know that this entire campus would have been turned into a serious race riot if five or 10 white or Asian students would have victimized one of the brothers or sisters on this campus. If we can come together for violence, we ought to be able to come together for peace.

April Patrick
junior

broadcasting/international business

Stickers

Thank you, Mark Baldrige (DN, Oct. 20) for bringing some sense to this ongoing discussion of the pink triangles. But you have failed to see the underlying idiocy to all of this.

Why hasn't the Office of Affirmative Action distributed "safe place" stickers to "care" more for our other minorities on campus — or others who may feel discriminated against?

Perhaps we could have pink X's for our African-American students, pink wheelchairs for our handicapped students and pink feathers for those of Native American descent.

If the Office of Affirmative Action is serious about "caring," it shouldn't put the interests of one group over and above others.

Mark Voss
junior
business administration



Brian Shellito/DN

Assault

After reading the article about a number of African Americans brutally assaulting an innocent man (DN, Oct. 19), it made me think about the level of ignorance, hatred and stupidity on this campus. As a black female, it made me ashamed to have a number of my black brothers credited on the front page with assaulting somebody worse than the police officers did Rodney King. It seems like the only time that most black men get publicity for doing something is if they've done something violent or they've scored a touchdown on this campus, and it's mostly their fault! The sad thing is that most of these people don't have enough true pride for the rest of the positive black race to care about the message they are sending out to the public. Why do some of you have to go and try to make the stereotypes true!

It's unfair that the rest of the black student population has to pay the consequences for a group of people that are just here to make it to the pros in whatever sport they're in because they could care less about uplifting the

'Baywatch'

I found Anne Steyer's article, "TV beach conquers the world" (DN, Oct. 7), to be funny but mostly irritating.

You seem worried that our precious American image will be tarnished by the seemingly tameless television show "Baywatch." Your general concern is admirable for our nation's image, but I do believe that if I was in a country other than the United States and having never been there, I would want to maybe get to know more about the United States after seeing tanned people running around the beach looking as though they're having a good time, rather than seeing Capt. Kirk fight some alien.

I found the article amusing up until the remarks about the importance of the lifeguards. Steyer said, "Our biggest entertainment and cultural export is bodacious lifeguards frolicking on the beach pretending to save lives." By this statement you have clearly expressed your unfortunate isolation in this landlocked state. I spent five years as an ocean lifeguard at Huntington Beach, Calif., 20 miles from where "Baywatch" takes place. These bodacious lifeguards really do work out there. We don't just sit around.

"Baywatch" can be a bit farfetched in the stories portrayed, but I do feel the show does have some redeeming qualities. It is simply doing for beach lifeguards what "Adam 12" did for police and "Emergency 911" did for paramedics. It's letting people know what it is like to work in that environment.

Patrick S. Ryan
senior
teachers college