

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

Guns kill

Victim's parents petition for gun control

The parents of a Japanese exchange student who was shot to death in Baton Rouge, La., when he went to the wrong home looking for a Halloween party plan to give President Clinton a petition signed by about 1.8 million people urging stronger gun-control laws in the United States.

President Clinton did not ignore the shooting; he called the student's parents to express his condolences. He and other lawmakers should not ignore the petition and the strong feelings behind it.

When a domestic issue such as gun control affects enough people around the world that a Japanese couple organize a petition and 1.8 million people sign it, there is an obvious problem with guns in the United States. Not only Americans are affected by our terrible crime rate; it is felt by victims around the world. Families and friends of the tourists killed in Florida would likely agree that gun-control laws are strongly needed in the United States.

The House of Representatives passed the Brady Bill last week. This is the first positive step on the road to passing tougher gun control and other crime-control bills. The petition shows the desire for stronger gun control, and American lawmakers should keep this in mind when voting on legislation such as the Brady Bill.

The Brady Bill was first proposed nearly a decade ago after James Brady, President Reagan's press secretary, was injured in the assassination attempt on Reagan. Possibly it is finally becoming obvious, after thousands of deaths because of handguns, how badly gun control is needed in the United States.

OTHERS' VIEW

America entered the age of genetically engineered food Friday when federal officials approved the use of artificially produced bovine growth hormone in milk cows. This technology benefits the few at the cost of the many. Also, it raises troubling questions as to the limits of science in determining what innovations are best for society in general.

The hormone, called BGH, is not the first genetically engineered product to come onto the market — but it is the most controversial. It took almost a decade for the Food and Drug Administration to give its blessing to BGH, and we are satisfied that the agency has done its job in putting the safety issue to rest.

But the economic and social costs of BGH do not pencil out. By 1995, this hormone will lower annual cash income per cow by more than \$30, according to a study conducted by the National Milk Producers Federation. This will drive smaller Midwestern dairy farmers off the land at an accelerated rate until only a relatively few large factory farms remain. Fewer farmers will mean the demise of rural America.

Congress has slapped a 90-day moratorium on the use of BGH, and biotech boosters are upset that "politics" are playing a role in getting new technologies onto the market. Maybe politics should have no influence on the approval of technology, but the good of the public should play a crucial role in determining what makes it from the lab to the supermarket. As other genetically engineered products await the FDA's approval, we urge Congress to create a national biotechnology policy that puts economic, environmental, social and even ethical factors on the same plane as scientific ones.

— The Minnesota Daily
University of Minnesota

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.



"WHAT?..THE KID WHASNT ALREADY WEIRD ENOUGH?"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gun control

Unfortunately for the Daily Nebraskan and its readers, the editorial staff has chosen to not only believe the rhetoric of gun control advocates but champion their cause as well. In an editorial (DN, Nov. 11), the Daily Nebraskan shows the results of a survey that claims public approval for gun control and support this by saying it is a step in the right direction.

This is only a step if you believe in regressive rather than progressive crime control. The public perception of gun control is that it equates crime control, hence you will find overwhelming support for such legislation. However, this is the wrong view to hold, as the National Rifle Association has been trying to tell Congress and the public ever since the Brady Bill was first introduced. In cities where handguns are banned completely, such as Detroit and Miami, crime has not been reduced. In fact, handgun-related crimes have been on a steady increase since the enactment of the legislation.

This is not crime control; rather, it fosters an environment whereby law-abiding citizens can do nothing to protect themselves, their families or their property from those people who have no qualms about denying them life or property.

Granted, a five-day waiting period is not excessive. However, criminals do not go to the local sporting goods store to buy their weapons. They are purchased through pawn shops, garage sales, want ads or the "black market." The Brady Bill makes no provisions for these circumstances. If the Brady Bill is passed, much to the DN's wishes, then those who legally own firearms and do not use them with malicious intent will realize the truth of an old adage: Outlaw guns and only outlaws will have guns.

John W. Copeland
freshman
criminal justice, political science

Barney bash

I was personally offended by the University Program Council's Barney Bash and the message it sent about the acceptability of lashing out physically at an object or individual, and also the negative way it portrayed the university.

I am a non-traditional student with a 4-year-old son, and yes, he does enjoy Barney. I hope he learns from Barney and me to treat others with respect and understanding, a message UPC and the UNL students participating have failed to understand. I feel UPC used incredibly poor judgment when planning this activity that promotes physical violence to those things or people that we don't appreciate.

The only thing the media did was expose this stupidity to the whole

country. Hopefully they will also take the time to let the whole country know that many UNL students have better things to do with their time and better ways of dealing with stress! Also, some of us have a good value system, similar to what Barney tries to teach young children.

Daina Samuelson
sophomore
business management



David Badders/DN

'Facts'

Good ol' Daily Nebraskan. You never let me down. No matter what the issue, you always take the liberal side. I usually tolerate it, but what I read in the editorial Thursday (DN, Nov. 11) made me laugh. The piece read: "The man whose wife cut off his penis was found innocent Wednesday of sexually assaulting her. Looking at the facts presented by the media about the case, it seems the jury did not come to a fair conclusion."

Excuse me? Looking at the facts presented by the media? Well, those silly jurors! Who do they think they are, basing their decision on actual facts? Where do they get off using that crazy thing called the criminal justice system? Why are they doing that when they could be using actual media facts?

Come on DN, it's about time you started seeing both sides instead of automatically jumping clear to the left.

Dallas M. Beshaler
sophomore
broadcasting

Hazing

Mr. Bomberger (DN, Nov. 12), it's great to see that we have such an expert as yourself here at UNL. It appears you know everything from Brent Burmood's personal feelings (DN, Nov. 9) to the operation of fraternities. You wrote with such star-

ling insight that it's plain to see that you must have lived in every fraternity on campus.

Why can't you comprehend that Mr. Burmood could possibly be upset with both fraternities who haze and critics like yourself who assume since one hazes, they all must. Of course we all feel bad for Jeff Knoll, but we don't need any across-the-board slander because there are many fraternities that don't haze. To group non-hazers and hazers together just because they are fraternities is like grouping Protestants and Catholics together because they are religions.

I happen to be a member of a non-hazing fraternity, and I resent being grouped that way. To add to the argument against the fraternity image, my wife lived on Abel 12 a few years ago. I saw more drunk, rude morons roaming the halls there than I did in my fraternity, Chi Phi. Your letters make it clear that people like yourself can't face the fact that fraternity guys aren't any different from you.

Jeff Moran
senior
biology

'Truth'

Mr. Robert Tobin (DN, Nov. 11). I'm glad you are a strong enough person to publicly make known your belief in Jesus Christ and the messiah. It takes courage and great inner power to speak against the norms of society. I respect your belief but do not agree and am just as willing to brave the norms as you were in order to defend my beliefs.

Tobin claims the messiah was to make things better after his coming. Does he believe this to be in a spiritual or a material sense? Multitudes have found their salvation in Jesus Christ. His supreme sacrifice and God's undying love personified on a cross of earthly material has touched the hearts and saved the souls of billions. For these billions things are definitely a lot better.

Obviously Tobin views the deliverer on a more worldly level, a level that God warned us about. If the messiah were to come to "make things better" in the sense Tobin describes them, then I guess Thomas Edison, Henry Ford and the guy who invented Velcro have legitimate cases. If the Lord's nature were that much like ours that his son will only "make things better for us," then I guess Tobin figured him out.

Being in a scientific field, it saddens me to see people use their gifts of knowledge and reason to challenge the truth when instead it was to be used to find it. Work to find your hears, for here will appear the truth.

Tony Fulton
senior
mechanical engineering