

Daily Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

No idle threat

NATO must keep ultimatum to be effective

Bosnian Serbs surrendered most of their weapons in compliance with a NATO ultimatum Sunday — just in time to avoid airstrikes.

NATO had demanded that the Bosnian Serbs stop shelling Sarajevo and remove their weapons from the city. So far, it seems the Bosnian Serbs are cooperating. U.N. troops disabled or posted a guard over artillery left in and around Sarajevo.

The Bosnian Serbs' compliance shows that, at this point, they take NATO and its threats seriously.

The United States and its allies must not lose that respect. The ultimatum was not a one-time threat. If the Bosnian Serbs rearm themselves, NATO should carry through with the airstrikes.

If they rearm and NATO does nothing, NATO will lose credibility and negotiating power.

Some speculate that the Bosnian Serbs are simply moving weapons from Sarajevo to shell on other besieged Bosnian cities. If true, this should be considered a violation of the ultimatum.

If possible, the allied nations should use the momentum that has been created to push for more peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

NATO's ultimatum brought long-awaited peace to Sarajevo. Perhaps it could help bring peace to other parts of the country.

This incident has also proven that airstrikes can be effective. Although the strikes have not been carried out, the Bosnian Serbs realize the damage the strikes could do.

If the United States continues to act with care and strength, it may be able to help bring peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina without involving American troops.

Voter apathy

Low turnout reflects disbelief in ASUN

David Letterman for president?

When students vote in the ASUN elections this spring, Gary Doyle, a senior business management major, is urging them to write in David Letterman as their choice for president.

Considering what we've seen from the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska in the past, that might not be such a bad idea.

Every year, ASUN presidential candidates make lofty, unrealistic promises to students. And every year they fail to keep them.

Of the 22,628 voters eligible for last year's ASUN elections, only 3,172, or about 14 percent, voted.

That ridiculously low number reflects an indifference students have toward ASUN. They don't vote because they understand what ASUN does: talk.

This year will probably be no different. But Letterman's candidacy could change things.

Last year, the VOICE party was elected by about 50 percent of the vote, or about 1,586 students. If only 1,600 of UNL's 22,000 students vote this year and write in David Letterman, he would probably win the election.

Actually, Letterman isn't eligible because he is not a student. But if he received more votes than any other candidate, it would send a clear message that students want more from ASUN than they have seen in the past.

The ASUN elections are two weeks away. The registered parties have until then to show students they are more qualified for the office than an ineligible candidate.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1994 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.

AKRON WEACON JOURNAL/EOJ



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Women's Center

In response to the Committee for Fee Allocation's decision to slash the Women's Center's budget:

As a nontraditional student, I have found support and services through the Women's Center that have been invaluable to my success at this university.

The Women's Center has provided me with emotional support through its weekly support group meetings for students — men and women — who are single parents. A variety of groups meet at the center.

The center gives me a quiet place to meet with my tutor when needed, a place to sit and gather my thoughts and reorganize before I return to my busy schedule.

The Women's Center has helped women deal with violence against women, offering counseling during Candy Harms' disappearance and again during the Roger Bjorklund trial. It supports the Clothesline Project, which bears witness to the survivors and victims of violence against women in Nebraska.

It has assisted the coordination of the UNL Sexual Harassment, Assault, Rape Prevention program, offered to students for free in conjunction with the UNL Police.

The center has an ever-growing library that offers information on a variety of women's issues.

When a committee decides to limit funding for telephone, staff, printing and copying services that are vital to the Women's Center, I sincerely believe it is not taking a realistic look at what the center does.

I am also beginning to realize that I have only myself to blame. This shows the need for older, nontraditional students, an ever-increasing number of students on campus, to run for student government positions.

In the two years the center has been open, it has offered many new services and workshops for women on campus, including faculty and staff. To cut its budget would stunt further growth.

Don't cut the Women's Center short.

Deb Anderson
junior
family science

or her ethnic background? Not that I've read. Is he then racist?

As for his being white, is this an aspect to be considered? Very obviously, racism is in no way confined to whites.

Robert J. Tobin
graduate student
geology



James Mehlsing/DN

Student needs

In response to C.D. Ybarra's letter concerning Regent Robert Allen of Hastings and the needs of students (DN, Feb. 17, 1994):

UNL is responsible for class availability, keeping qualified staff, administration, maintaining an academic atmosphere and a select few other services paid for by tuition and housing fees. That's it.

Abortion is a personal, not a student issue. If women don't want to make gentlemen out of their boyfriends, that's their prerogative, not the university's.

I'm sorry to say it, but this country is run by the popular majority, or at least, it's supposed to be.

If the majority wants a commencement prayer, they are more than entitled to it. You don't have to listen if you don't want to. Freedom of speech means you can say anything you want, but no one is going to force you to believe it.

Nothing is more offensive to me that 10 percent of the world is gay. Those numbers come from a study done in a prison. I suppose that sort of thing will happen to men with no principles, no morals and, consequently, no women around.

Allen is more than qualified for his position, and I'm sure his constituents are aware of this, too. If this campus were run by students — who only know the MTV world and have never been in the real world — they would run it into the ground in a heartbeat. Allen's perspective is one made from experience and common sense.

Christopher W. Winkelmann
sophomore
mechanical engineering

Abortion

I've been following letters submitted to the Daily Nebraskan about abortion. People are entitled to their opinions and I respect that. But people do not have their facts straight.

When people who are pro-choice argue for the legality of abortion, they try to support themselves by saying it should be an option for cases involving rape or incest. When it comes to abortion, rape and incest are not an issue. According to Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life's 1991 newsletter, there are 1.5 million abortions annually; and in some cities, the number of abortions exceeds the number of live births. Of these abortions, 98 percent are done for reasons other than rape or incest.

In fact, 37 percent of that 98 percent are performed because the woman does not want anyone to know she had sex.

Two million couples are waiting to adopt a child. There are more people waiting to adopt than there are abortions. So every child is wanted by someone.

If pro-choicers say a woman should be able to do with her body as she pleases, I do not disagree. If a woman wants to sell her body, that is her business. The child she is carrying is a separate living being inside her body, not a part of her body.

How educated are people about abortion techniques? If a person does not have an opinion about abortion, or even if they do, I strongly urge everyone to find out how abortions are performed and what it does to the child.

Gary Cooper
senior
natural science

Kepfield

UNL has an excellent history staff who have taught me that cultural diversity is an essential part of understanding and interpreting history, the antithesis of what Kepfield espouses in his Feb. 16 column.

To fulfill language requirements, I have had the pleasure of learning from two superb teachers — one from France, the other from Rumania. During the short year I have been here, I have had educational conversations with many people of different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds. I am a better person because of this.

I am proud to have had the privilege to attend this diverse, multicultural institution. Kepfield's rhetoric is no product of this fine university. With his article, he has finally attained the status he's always sought — to be known as a minority. Unfortunately for Kepfield, it is a minority that has no place in this society. I denounce his radically bigoted, hateful message and beliefs.

Donald A. Clark
graduate student
history

Racism?

What is the problem, specifically, with Sam Kepfield's column (Feb. 16, 1994)? He identifies himself as an opponent of racial/ethnic quotas. Assuming that a more positive definition of his position is "color blind," I see no overt racism in his editorial.

Geno Venegas (DN, Feb. 18, 1994) referred to Kepfield as "a sheltered and racist white male." Are we to assume that Kepfield is sheltered because he happens to be white? Wouldn't that be a racist conclusion?

Has Kepfield written in a derogatory fashion about anyone because of his