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EDITORIAL

Victims every day

Japanese on target about violence in U.S.

When two Japanese students were shot in a carjacking Friday night, Japan again focused on violence in the United States. The Japanese people cannot understand our problems with guns and violence. When a Japanese visitor is harmed in the United States, it becomes an international concern. The Japanese are appalled. How can they allow their children to come to a place where guns and violence are so common? Why would they come here to visit? The U.S. government apologized profusely. What a horror, what a shame. We might think Japan is overreacting. Why should our entire nation be damned because of a few isolated incidents? Our country isn't more dangerous for tourists and international visitors. It's dangerous for everyone. Every day, American citizens are victims of violence. Every day an American citizen is shot. How many Americans were killed this weekend? Why didn't the U.S. government apologize for these deaths? Why didn't our nation react as Japan did? These deaths may not affect international trade or tourism, but they are just as tragic. Our country should not save its concern and horror for crimes against visitors. We should be just as concerned — more so — by our own victims. America has become calloused to violent crime. We are not surprised or shocked by shootings, carjackings or drive-bys. We expect them. Japan's reaction should show us that violence is not normal. It is not unavoidable. And it is not something we should just get used to.

OTHERS' VIEW

Outcome-based education is a welcome shift in the priorities of our nation's schools. OBE is an educational reform movement. This method of teaching focuses on clearly defining what students should know at each level and allowing them to continue studying and retaking tests until they understand that material. Traditionally, teachers have a set pace and move on even if they leave students behind. Those who oppose OBE claim that educational standards are being lowered so that all students can meet them. Some worry that the slower pace permitted for students having problems will hold brighter students back. Should school systems focus on providing an excellent education for high potential students? Or should they strive to ensure that everyone leaves school with a good basic education? The public schools should strive to provide a good general education for everyone. Forcing all students to move at the same pace means that some will be forced ahead even if they are not ready. The students who are left behind are the students who drop out of school or eventually graduate from high school with little or no reading ability. These undereducated members of our society are more numerous than we think, and financial, social and human costs of this functional illiteracy are enormous. Outcome-based education, because it focuses on the goal of a universally educated society, is a vast improvement over traditional educational methods.

— University Daily Kansan — University of Kansas

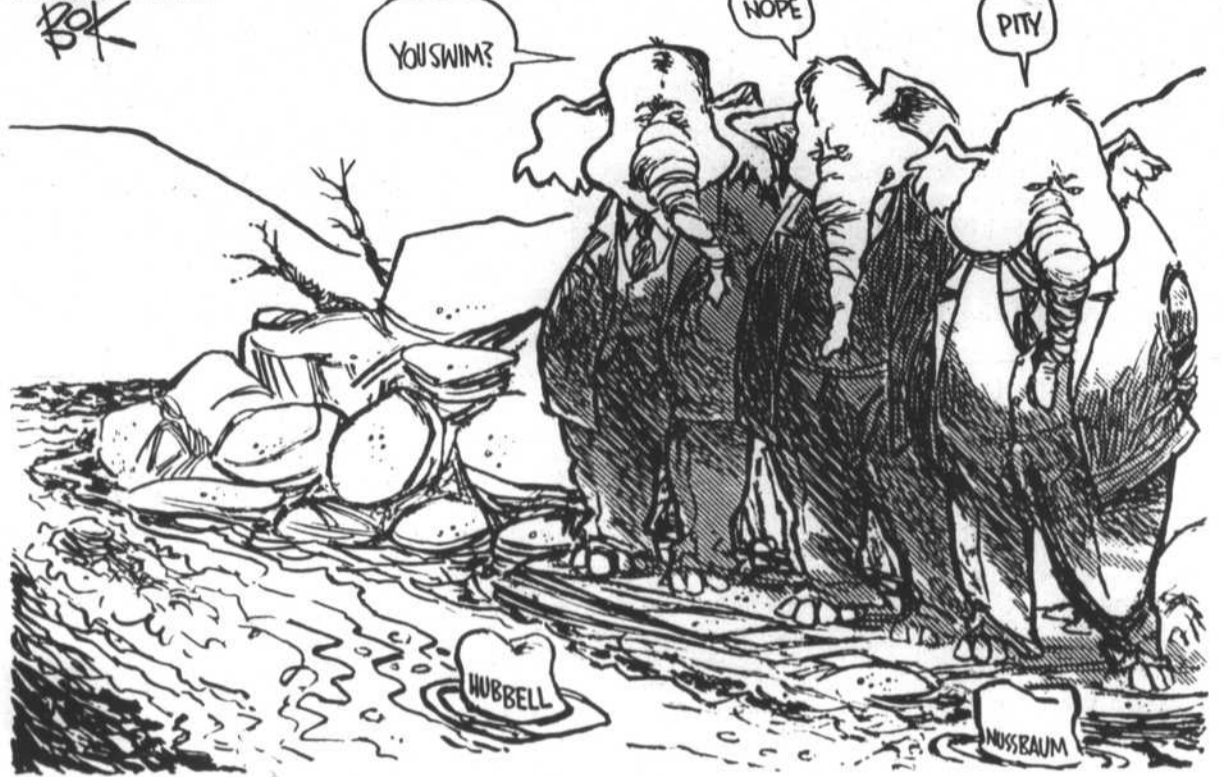
EDITORIAL POLICY

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 BEACON JOURNAL/04



CINDY LANGE-KUBICK

Beach breasts bust bra fetish

Imagine a beach full of breasts. Last week, artist Nicolino and 200 volunteers created a two-mile-long sand sculpture of size 34-C breasts — 10,500 pairs in all — and then stayed to watch the tide wash them all away.

Nicolino said the sand castle breasts were a social commentary on what he called the "Barbie Doll syndrome." I have some serious questions about this whole endeavor. Who is this Nicolino person anyway? What is his last name? In my book, anyone who uses just one name is taking themselves a tad bit too seriously. You would think that a guy, who is supposedly worried that women equate their self-esteem with the "beauty and size of their breasts," would have the confidence to use his real name.

And how did Mr. Nicolini (I'm going to call him Mr. just to tick him off until I learn his real name, which is probably something like Fred Dinkelman) and his volunteers know for sure they were creating 34-C sized bosoms? Did they take a Cross Your Heart bra and have its cups bronzed to use as a mold? Did they just eyeball it?

Does this Nicolini actually know a lot about breasts? Because as I recall, the number in your bra size, say 34, has to do with a complicated formula involving the circumference of your chest just below the mammary glands plus or minus three, subtracted from the measurement of your actual chest, plus one. It could be they are calling the breasts 34-Cs when they are 36-Bs instead.

Did they have a grant from the National "Endowment" for the Arts to do this work?

Or maybe Playtex and Bali each kicked in a few thousand if they plugged their latest models.

Was Mr. Nicolini breast-fed, or was he a bottle baby? I'm betting he was raised on a rubber nipple and is acting out his long suppressed fascination with breasts, rooted in his denied access to his mothers' body as an infant, in a socially acceptable way as



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an artist.

One thing is certain, he is fixated, along with a couple hundred million other Americans, on the female breast.

His next project, scheduled for July 1995, is called "Bras Across Grand Canyon," when he hopes to string 10,000 bras across a mile-wide stretch of the ravine. The world's longest lingerie line.

Maybe he's going to offer bungee jumping with the straps. I am personally going to contribute a couple of old nursing bras and a sweat-stained sports bra to the project.

And I'm fairly certain some Hollywood actresses have already donated their undergarments to Mr. Nicolino because, when I saw them on the Academy Awards the other night, they had obviously sacrificed their underwires to the cause.

And speaking of actresses, I don't want to start any rumors about Hollywood's bosoms, but any woman who has had children knows that post-childbirth breasts are no longer able to stand at attention without some help, which leads me to doubt the authenticity of some of the mammary glands I saw last Monday.

Not that I care. The older I get, the less time I spend thinking about breasts. I notice certain women's chests because, after all, there they are. Oh, I still occasionally desire to have firm, perky, melon-shaped mammaries, but I don't lose sleep over it.

Unfortunately, lots of women are losing more than just sleep in their

quest for the perfect breast. Although the distribution of breast size — at one time at least — was purely a function of genetics, today more than a few females are trading in what Mother Nature gave them for expensive, and possibly lethal, silicone-filled pouches.

As little girls, we figured out that our worth as women, our femininity, was somehow determined by our cup size. Even Nora Ephron, a successful author and respected feminist, in her article, "A Few Words About Breasts," wrote, "If I had them, I would have been a completely different person. I honestly believe that."

Otherwise intelligent human beings think breasts are simply decorative ornaments used in advertising to sell cars, beer and toothpaste.

After I became a mother, I realized woman's breasts were actually functional appendages; they could feed babies. Until the advent of artificial formula, the continuation of the human race rested on the ability of a woman's breasts to nurture an infant.

How amazing! Breasts existed for a biological purpose, a purpose unrelated to the circulation rate of Playboy magazine.

Nicolini is making waves with his unconventional art. But it is going to take more than a string of brassieres across the Grand Canyon to change the way we think about breasts.

Lange-Kubick is a senior news-editorial and sociology major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Natural love'

In response to Christopher Winkelmann (DN, March 11, 1994):

The Bill of Rights and the Constitution, as a whole, originally intended to cover white men. Since then, various groups have been recognized as also being protected. The Black Panthers, while not a separate race, were instrumental in securing these protections for African Americans. Women only achieved the right to vote in the early part of this century. Currently, gay men, lesbians and bisexuals are not protected. As such, we do not seek "special rights over and above the

majority."

Since you state that no one you have known considers homosexuality "natural love," it is obvious you know no well-adjusted gay men, lesbians or bisexuals. It would behoove you to make a trip to the second floor of the Nebraska Union to the Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual Resource Center. The people there will be happy to talk with you about your unfortunate misunderstanding of this entire issue.

Nancy Rivenburg graduate student

William Schultz sophomore arts and sciences

Roe vs. Wade

Whenever Roe vs. Wade is debated, the predominate homosexual community seems to ally with the advocates of "freedom of choice," never with the "right-to-lifers." That appears to defy logic and seems to contradict their avowed positions. Unplanned pregnancy could hardly be a genuine concern for them. If, as they contend, their lifestyle is genetic, a fetus identified as having that gene would be more liable to be aborted. That would appear to be the ultimate in discrimination.

Jack Wunderlich Lincoln