

Daily
Nebraskan
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EDITORIAL

Don't forget

We must learn lessons of the Holocaust

It happened. And it must be remembered. Wednesday night at the State Capitol, 200 people gathered at a Holocaust commemoration titled "No More Lists." UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier was the keynote speaker. Spanier is Jewish, and his father and grandfather both escaped from Nazi Germany.

Spanier spoke of the need to remember what happened in Germany during one of the blackest periods of human history.

"Thankfully, there are thousands of witnesses the world over — and for those of us in my generation, tens of thousands of children of witnesses — who must never forget," he said.

There are people today who are trying to promote the lie that the Holocaust didn't happen. In their quest to spread racial hatred and division, these people are doing everything they can to cast doubt on the fact that 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust.

Events like Wednesday's commemoration are important because they ensure that we will never forget what happened in Nazi Germany. The genocide of the Holocaust may seem distant to many students at UNL, who were not alive when it happened. But our grandparents lived through it.

It was not that long ago.

The ethnic cleansing in Bosnia shows this world has not learned the lessons of the Holocaust. The murder of innocent people because of their ancestry still goes on today.

The Holocaust happened. And we must keep its memory fresh if we want to stop racial killing in the future. We are responsible for making sure it doesn't happen again.

Cutting costs

Health Center changes aren't all that bad

Changes in the University Health Center's hours seem a lot worse than they actually are.

The center will no longer be open from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. on weekdays and from 1 p.m. to 9 a.m. on weekends and holidays.

This would be dangerous if students could not get emergency help during those hours. Many freshman don't have cars if they need to get to a hospital, and the university has a special need for late-night treatment of intoxicated students.

But an orderly will remain in the facility, and a nurse will be on call while the center is closed.

Students will still be able to call the center with questions, and students with emergencies will be provided with transportation to a hospital.

This will not be as convenient for students on campus. They will no longer have the security of knowing that, no matter when they are hurt or ill, help is only a few minutes away. Dangerously intoxicated students will no longer be able to use the Health Center.

However, the changed hours will not endanger students. Few use the Health Center during these hours as it is, and if there is an emergency, students will still get help.

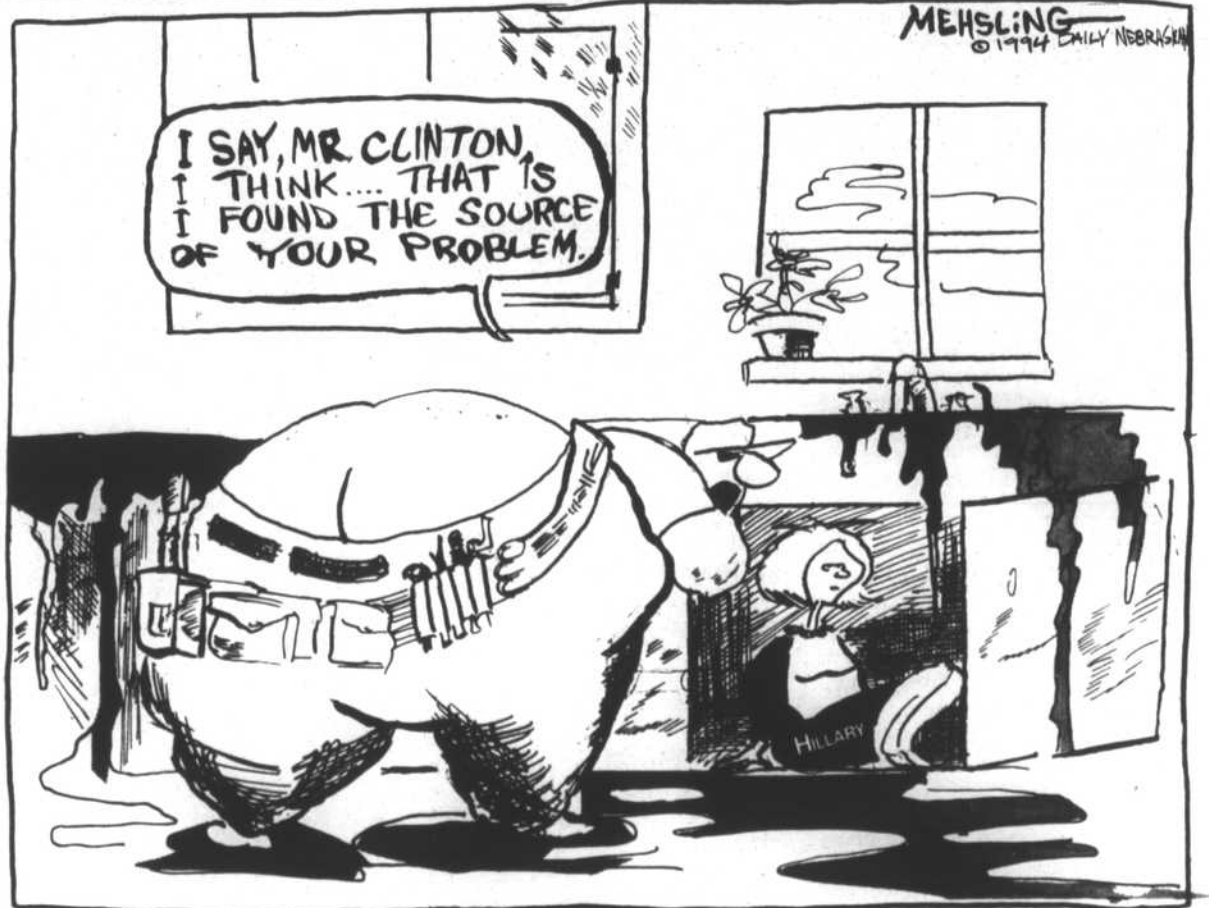
No longer keeping a physician and a nurse on duty all night will save the center money. It will be able to use this money to give better service to students during the day, when the Health Center is used most.

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Breaking the law

After reading the editorial with the headline "Singapore sting" (DN, April 11, 1994), I have just a couple of things to say to the bleeding hearts in America about the Michael Fay situation in Singapore.

First, Fay is portrayed as the poor boy who made the "mistake of spray-painting some cars." Mistake? Is deliberately vandalizing 18 cars a "mistake"?

Contrary to popular belief, the world does not revolve around the United States. As soon as you take one step out of this country, you are susceptible to the laws of the country in which you are visiting or living.

If you break those laws, you will be punished according to that country's societal standards.

Sadly, it seems as though our standards have diminished to the point where our children do not understand right from wrong. This country is unable to find an effective deterrent to crime.

Fay's punishment is designed to serve two purposes: to deter him from committing other crimes and to deter others who may entertain the idea of committing crimes in the future.

Amy L. Guminski
sophomore
marketing

Cobain's death

In response to the assertions made in Paula Lavigne's column (DN, April 11, 1994), I would submit to you that Kurt Cobain was not a victim, nor the next John Lennon, nor a spokesman for a generation. What Cobain was, however, was an outstanding example of the human debris that litters our society. Cobain represents the misguided, aimlessly wandering shells of human beings who want to blame someone else for their own inadequacies and inability to be productive members of our society. People who look to the government for an anchor to their lives.

No one ever said that life was going to be easy. However, when did it become acceptable to act irresponsibly and lawless when one experiences difficulties and hardship? His youth is colored with various accounts of criminal activity and irresponsibility, his last being his suicide. He should not be glorified in any manner. What he stands for should be vilified.

Suicide, except for God or country, is not an action taken by an intelligent, thoughtful individual. In fact, it is one of the most thoughtless, self-serving acts one can perform.

Does Lavigne actually believe that Cobain had no idea what fame would do to his life? Surely he knew that being in the public eye would place his family, friends, activities and charac-

ter flaws under a microscope. The American media has a way of scrutinizing the actions of some, while looking the other way or downplaying the actions of others. As Harry S. Truman once said, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." Well, Cobain got out, didn't he.

If Cobain and other musicians feel they are prostituted by performing and raped by fans — who, by the way, purchase tickets, albums and assorted merchandise — why don't they go out and get a real job? They can then go back to playing their music in a garage somewhere on the weekends and not have to worry about demanding fans, agents or critics, for that matter. No one coerced Cobain into making albums, did they? Finally, what Cobain failed to realize is that even though we don't choose our specific lives, we are each responsible for making something out of it.

Michael D. Garrison
senior
business administration



No hero

In response to Paula Lavigne's column (DN, April 11, 1994): I must take issue with the light in which Nirvana front man Kurt Cobain's death was presented. Ignoring the questionable equating of Cobain to John Lennon on the basis of talent — their deaths cannot, must not, be paralleled.

Lennon was murdered. Cobain took his own life. Throughout Lavigne's column, and in every memorial MTV news segment or Nirvana video block, Cobain is eulogized as some sort of tragic hero. MTV needs some sort of victim/martyr to hoist up and illustrate the ills of this sick society that chews up young idealists and spits them out. So they have chosen Cobain.

Cobain, a man who sought solutions to the problems that society "burdened" him with in alcohol and heroin.

Cobain, a man who attacked the press when allegations were made that his wife was using heroin during her pregnancy, which, at the time, made him seem concerned with this new life, this new responsibility. Cobain, a man who fathered a child and then left her fatherless. In short, Cobain was a small man, a selfish man who couldn't deal with pressures far less than many others' pressures.

Cobain was nothing more than a coward. If MTV has its way, however, he will be remembered as a tragic hero, a young genius and a beautiful man who was a victim of the immense burdens heaped on him against his will.

He was no hero. If he is perceived as such, then I fear for the society that does so, and even more for those who would emulate him.

Phillip Kennedy
freshman
middle-level education

Loudon

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska President Andrew Loudon:

Ever since you took office, I have been waiting. Have you forgotten?

It has been about a month and a half since you took office, and still you have not taken care of your illegal campaign.

Do you remember the Electoral Commission hearing where you pleaded to have your sentences reduced because you were paying out of your own pocket? The commission took it easy on you. Your worst violation, door-to-door soliciting in the residence halls, breaking their rules and ours, only cost you a small fee plus a letter of apology to all of the residence hall presidents.

All I, the president of Abel Hall, expected was a simple letter of apology, admitting that although you were not directly involved, you were indeed responsible for your campaign. You blamed your campaign on everyone else, including your supporters, and pleaded ignorance. These are not the actions of a leader. A leader admits his or her mistakes and accepts responsibility for them.

I did not turn you in to the Electoral Commission because I questioned your leadership. I turned you in because you broke the rules and offended residents in Abel Hall. It is now that I question your leadership. You still have not taken responsibility for your campaign. You still have not apologized to those whom you have offended. Have you forgotten that we are the people you represent?

Michelle Steinauer
Abel Residence Hall president