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EDITORIAL

Heated legislation

Crime bill should be carefully examined

There is good reason that crime is the hottest political issue in the United States today. Crime is out of control. People don't feel safe, and they want their representatives in government to do something to protect them.

Nebraska is no different. The cry for stricter laws was heard in this year's legislative session. But LB1351 — the adult crime bill — never made it past the first stage of floor consideration.

The bill was endorsed by both Gov. Ben Nelson — a Democrat — and Attorney General Don Stenberg — a Republican.

Stenberg said Monday that Nelson should call for a special legislative session to deal with crime. Nelson didn't refuse to hold a special session, but he didn't promise one. He accused Stenberg of "grandstanding" on the issue.

Crime is such a heated issue that it is difficult to sort through the politics of the issue. Everyone in Nebraska would like to be safer. But would a special session accomplish that?

One of the arguments against the crime bill is that it would cost too much to implement. The Associated Press reported that some lawmakers were concerned it could cost more than \$100 million.

And LB1351 is not guaranteed to bring safety and tranquility to Nebraska.

If the bill were a certain solution, then Nelson should call a special session and push to have it passed. But since it's not, the best solution would be for the Legislature to consider it during its regular session next year. Crime is too important an issue to be rushed through a special session in the heat of summer.

Just do it

United States should set Bosnian policy

Sometimes, it seems that government would work better if it mimicked a commercial for athletic shoes. Everyone would be healthy, wealthy, tall and famous. And if something needed to be done, they would just do it.

This has certainly been the case with the United States, the United Nations and NATO's dealings with the three warring groups in the former Yugoslavia.

Although the United States and its allies have said they would like to help stop the fighting in the area, they have yet to set any clear policy.

It's true that international policies should be flexible, but there's a difference between flexible and wishy-washy.

If they are going to use military force, they should. If they are going to call a someplace a "safe area," then they should keep it safe.

But one day they will, and one day they won't. One day they say they will, and then they don't. The next day they won't, and then they do.

Like a child who can't decide whether or not he will play outside or in, our nation needs a frustrated mother to shout, "In or out? For heaven's sake, make up your mind!"

There is no more time to debate. We need a clear, sound policy, a plan, even if it means scrapping everything we've come up with so far.

If the American people cannot follow what their country is doing, why should the Bosnian Serbs take U.S. threats seriously?

EDITORIAL POLICY

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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

Landscape

I'm sorry to be the one to inform you, but parking rate increases and green space are just minor changes that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has in store for you.

A representative from Campus Landscapes Services gave a presentation to my Horticulture 160 class that included past, present and future plans for the university layout. Plans that have been in the making since the 1970s to push parking out and push aesthetics in.

Parking is slowly being moved to the perimeter and an ultra-modern shuttle system will be implemented. But did you know that current parking lots and recreational fields are prime building sites for a growing university? In fact, someday students may have to cope with off-campus recreational fields somewhere in west Lincoln. It seems even our dear Broyhill Fountain, a massive eyesore to campus landscapers, will eventually have to go.

Now all of these plans are not going to happen while you are gone for the summer. In fact, they hinge on the cooperation of local neighborhoods, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Legislature.

So unless the students of UNL band together and throw a major kink in the works, I believe that some minor squawking over a 100 percent parking rate increase will have little or no effect on future plans.

Of course, Andrew Loudon doesn't have any specific plans because, fortunately for the administration, we as students have a high turnover rate. No group of students is here long enough to combat plans that were started decades ago.

I would love to be able to park where it is convenient for me. I would also love to spend my time fighting for your rights. Unfortunately, there is life after UNL, and I need an education. It is time for us to take advantage of the excellent opportunity we have to gain higher learning. Not everyone has the chance to come to college. Don't waste your opportunities fighting over things that don't matter in the greater scheme of things.

Sarah J. Bahr
Selleck Residence Hall president

Loudon

In response to Mark Byars' letter (DN, April 15, 1994): Andrew Loudon, Association of Students of the University of Nebraska president, was supposed to write letters to all of the residence hall presidents apologizing for his illegal campaign. Byars took responsibility for the letters not being mailed because he had not given Loudon a list of the hall presidents.

Even if the Electoral Commission failed to be timely, Loudon, not Byars, is still responsible for writing the letters. It is just no excuse.

If Loudon was so concerned about apologizing for his illegal campaign, he could have done more than ask Byars for a list of names. In fact, there are many ways to acquire these names, the easiest being walking up the stairs directly outside the ASUN office to the Residence Hall Association office and asking for one. If this was too complicated, calling to request a list would have been just as effective.

The residents of Abel Hall and I just want to hear Loudon say, "I'm sorry. It is my fault. I am responsible, not my supporters, not the Electoral Commission." It would be nice to know that he, who we elected to represent us, is concerned about us, our opinions and views.

Michelle Steinauer
Abel Residence Hall Association president

for much longer than usual because the microbes that normally break it down never see the inside of a landfill.

As far as pesticides and other chemicals used in agriculture, DDT was dangerous, but there are more subtle killers in pesticides, too. Why do you think they put warning labels and safety precautions on the bottles that anyone can buy at the garden center?

I'm not saying that everyone who eats meat or uses plastic and pesticide should go to hell. After all, we are, as Adkins said, "just another species." On the other hand, we are the species with enough nuclear bombs to obliterate the planet if we wanted to.

No one said having intelligence was easy, and it's up to us to responsibly manage it. I hope that Adkins wrote that letter as a joke. If not, he should learn about something before he writes about it.

Erin Nelson
junior
fine arts



James Mehlsing/DN

'No John Lennon'

Kurt Cobain was no John Lennon — not because of lack of talent or mass appeal, but because of the way people are poking at Cobain's death as if he were a loser, druggie and one who doesn't deserve to be the "icon of our generation."

What Cobain was to me and millions of his friends was extraordinary and ordinary.

Extraordinary because his lyrics and music ripped out our attention; ordinary because we discovered he was just one of us — one of the people.

I remember watching him in Omaha. I couldn't take my eyes off of him. He was just a man singing out his heart, with a depth and honesty that I had never seen before. He screamed in pain, wavered in confusion. People who love his music love it for its intelligence mixed with insanity. You don't have an ear for it; you just don't understand him.

The fact is that he was trapped in his pain — physical and mental — and unfortunately fame. But most importantly, his wife and daughter could not change this loss of the will to live.

I've felt suicidal before many times. Counseling, God, family and friends helped me out if it.

There are thousands who need help now calling radio stations and hot lines. Cobain did not create this feeling of loss, but people see him and relate. Don't mock Kurt Cobain for you are mocking depression, sadness, solitude, compulsion, drug addiction and death.

Alison Hays
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