

OPINION

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Daily
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EDITORIAL

Blood bath

Haiti invasion would cost too many lives

A U.S.-led invasion of Haiti appears imminent, and a blood bath certainly will be the result.

More than 10,000 troops would have to ferret guerrilla forces out of a tropical, mountainous jungle, where the population density is 608 people per square mile. Besides exposing American men and women to unacceptable danger, the invasion would cost thousands of Haitian lives.

Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras has called U.S. bluffs since 1991, when he wrested control of Haiti from President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Cedras has said he will not leave Haiti. He has refused to negotiate with U.N. delegates. He has vowed to fight to the death, although he certainly means everyone's death but his own.

U.S. officials have pointed out that Cedras and his army have remained unaffected by an economic embargo, while Haitian citizens slowly have starved. Cedras' forces haven't suffered because the embargo has no teeth. Goods have been moving into Haiti via the Dominican Republic, a U.N. member.

This pipeline has allowed Cedras to maintain control of Haiti since the coup. If that flow of goods were cut off, Cedras would run out of anything to offer his army members. They remain loyal to Cedras because they live better than ordinary Haitians.

Had the embargo been strictly enforced when Cedras took power, the playing field would be level today. Cedras' forces would have a lot less for which to fight.

Before the United States makes an expensive maneuver in terms of money and lives, the Haiti-Dominican Republic border should be fortified by U.N.-member countries.

The Caribbean nations that have agreed to participate in the invasion should offer asylum to the persecuted Haitians.

Other U.N. nations that have agreed to be "observers" on the Haitian border could provide humanitarian aid to the exiled Haitians.

The price of military intervention traditionally has been highest for those least responsible for war. The Hmong people were persecuted in Vietnam, and the Iraqis slaughtered their Kurds. Ultimately, the blood spilled by an invasion of Haiti will be that of families who pick coffee beans on the slopes.

The administration intends to stay in Haiti long enough to stabilize the government. Haitians have had some form of military dictatorship since they won their independence from France in 1804. They have known nearly two centuries of oppression, terrorism and extreme poverty. Plenty of despots are waiting to hoard what little wealth the country possesses.

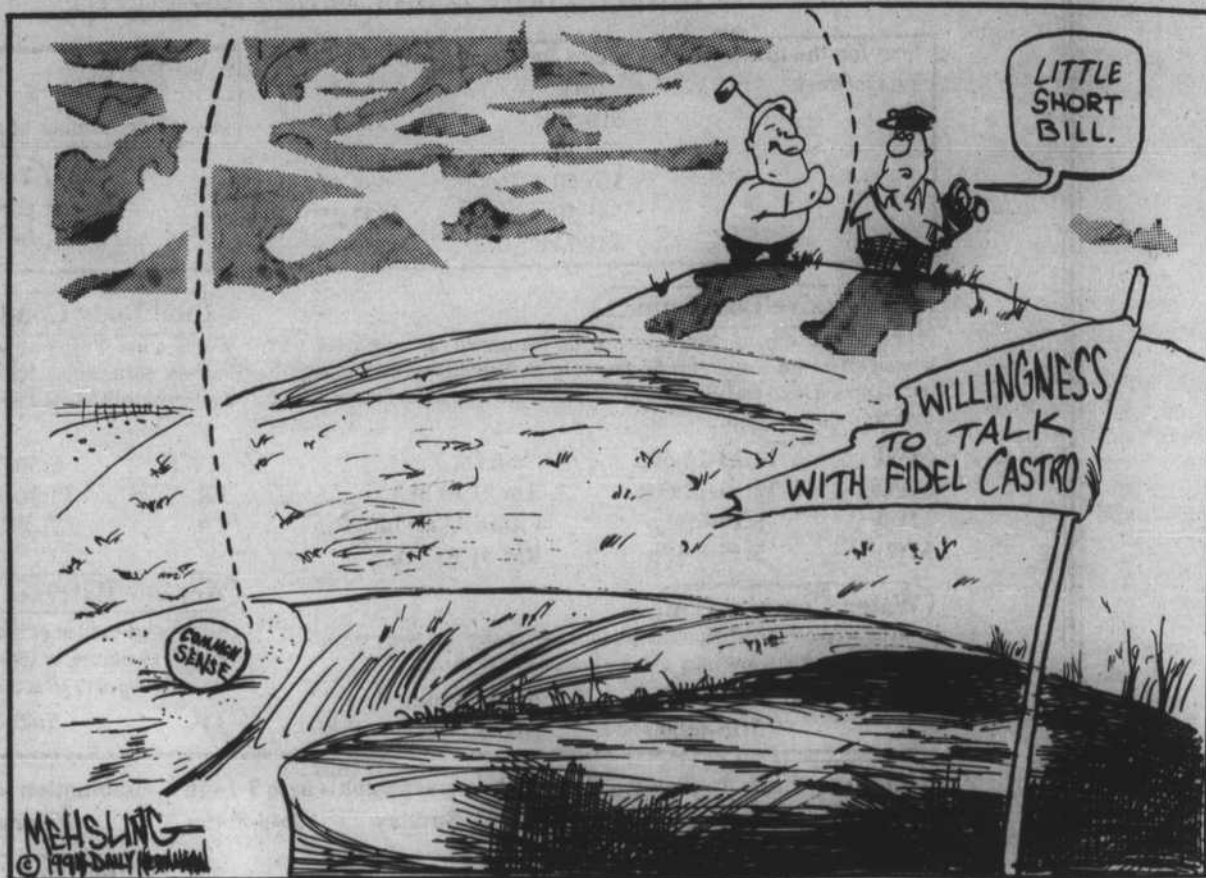
An invasion of Haiti would not guarantee government stability. It would not create a foundation for democracy. It would devastate a small island nation and take the lives of Haitian people.

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

Woodstock

I would like to seize the opportunity to respond to Jamie Karl's column (DN, Aug. 26, 1994).

I'm afraid that Mr. Karl severely misconstrued and stretched the ideals the Woodstock generation upheld to fit his hyperconservative tirade.

He blamed the hippies for urban decay because they "rejected traditional values such as work, family, faith and individual accountability, while toying with the admiration of the underclass." And later added, "the impoverished and working classes were stuck with their 'fad' lifestyle."

It is exactly the type of attitude demonstrated in that statement that is to blame for the decay of the inner cities he holds the hippies accountable for.

Today's drug problem and other social ills are mostly a result of white, overconservative males, such as Mr. Karl, pointing fingers at the defenseless and doing nothing to fix the problem.

The notion that the "underclass" is in trouble because they are too busy sleeping around and partying too much is chiefly stupid and very perverse.

The hippies held the idea of community precious. Perhaps if these notions of love and nurturing were universal, we wouldn't have urban decay to worry about. To illustrate this philosophy, the '69 Woodstock turned into a free show, and they dropped food and dry clothes from helicopters. This greatly contrasts to the '94 show's capitalism.

Mr. Karl then went on to share that the hippies dismantled the traditional American values of baseball, apple pie and Donna Reed. I must point out that these values were only paramount during the 1950s.

Does Jamie remember reading about the 1950s? Is it that time period that marched us into the atrocity of the Vietnam War?

Just because a group's morality differs from your own, Karl, does not mean it is wrong or deserves to be assaulted in a sad and meandering column.

In conclusion, I suggest that Mr. Karl should grow the hair out a little, quit watching Rush Limbaugh every night, listen to some Bob Dylan and, most importantly, CHILL OUT and

join his generation.

Stephanie Arbaugh
sophomore
fine arts



Deterrent

When Debi Schneider and Sheila Whitmore wrote in about how the planned execution of Harold Lamont Otey would actually be a murder and that if we didn't stop it we would be the murderers (DN, Aug. 30, 1994), they were completely wrong.

Otey committed a crime back in 1977, had a fair trial and was found guilty. He was then given a sentence, and that sentence should have been carried out. For the past 17 years, Otey has had his lawyers use every legal loophole they could find to delay that sentence.

I know some people don't support the death penalty and think it is a "barbaric" form of vengeance, but in reality, the death penalty was first put forth not as revenge upon the criminal but as a way of deterring other people from committing the same crime.

It is sad to say that in our nation today the only thing keeping a lot of people from committing crimes is the fear of being caught and punished with as serious a punishment as the death penalty. That is why I think the death penalty is needed. If the death penalty was softened into something like life without parole, it wouldn't be a strong enough deterrent to would-be murderers.

Think of it this way: If someone was contemplating committing a

murder, which would be more likely to stop them? Life without parole in free living accommodations with free meals and better conditions than they are currently enjoying for the rest of their life, or the threat of being sent to the electric chair and executed? The death penalty is there to make everyone's life safer.

Philip Paider
freshman
civil engineering

PC

This is in reply to Shane Tucker's column (DN, Aug. 30, 1994) concerning the University Program Council and those individuals on campus with views similar to his: It is better to be both liberal and PC (politically correct) than it is to be both conservative and prejudiced!

Michelle Jensen
senior
secondary education

Pro-choice

Lori Lyn Arthur wrote (DN, Aug. 30, 1994) on how she is pro-choice. Well, I am too, but this is as far as we agree. I believe in the whole abortion thing that our first choice is whether or not to have sex. If we choose abstinence, there is no unwanted pregnancy. If we choose to have sex, we can then choose whether to use birth control. This is where our choices end.

Once pregnant, it is time to grow up and accept responsibility for our actions. Sure, it may be a rough blow and bad timing, but so are deaths of close friends and relatives and personal ills.

To me, the whole thing compares to a potential criminal. The potential criminal has the choice to commit or not commit the crime. Once the crime has been committed it is too late. The criminal will be imprisoned. The criminal cannot just say "I changed my mind. It was an accident — it all happened so fast that I didn't realize what I was doing until it was too late. It is a bad time in my life to go to prison." No! It doesn't work that way.

In our society, a drunk driver can face charges of double homicide for causing the death of a pregnant mother and her unborn baby. The same mother could have an abortion at the same time in her pregnancy, and our laws say it is OK.

Something is a little wrong here, don't you think?

Kerry Maline
junior
agribusiness