

# OPINION

Wednesday, September 20, 1995

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## Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Speak up

### Domestic violence wrongly unreported

Recent alleged incidents of domestic violence have made headlines for Nebraska and the Huskers.

What's most disturbing about these stories is the claim, from all sides, that a history of abuse existed between Lawrence Phillips and Kate McEwen.

Everyone who knew them appears to have known about this.

Tom Osborne himself was concerned enough to have offered his home phone number to McEwen and told her to call him in the event of trouble.

He went so far as to warn Phillips earlier in the semester that any trouble would get him kicked off the team.

UNL women's basketball coach Angela Beck also knew McEwen had been harassed by Phillips.

The question that comes immediately to mind is why — if everyone knew about incidents of violence — was no violence reported to the authorities previously?

The example this conspiracy of silence offers is a poor one.

Domestic violence is a profound social problem, in this state and the country at large.

According to an article in Omaha's Sunday World-Herald, about 3,000 women (victims of domestic violence) sought services from Nebraska shelters and crisis hotlines last year.

A Senate Judiciary report from 1992 states that somewhere between four and six million women in America are beaten in their homes annually.

And some experts calculate that an American woman has a one-in-four chance of facing some kind of sexual violence in her lifetime.

Those odds are intolerable.

Look around you. Count the first four women you pass.

One of them.

How can half the population of our country suffer from such terrible odds?

It is only because of this terrible silence that people stand by, and watch, and do nothing.

By allowing violence to continue under our noses, we abdicate our civic responsibility.

Those who observe violence against women, or who have information regarding domestic violence, have a moral obligation to report this criminal activity to the authorities.

We allow the sore of violence to fester if we leave it in the dark.

We foster it, allowing it to spread and grow.

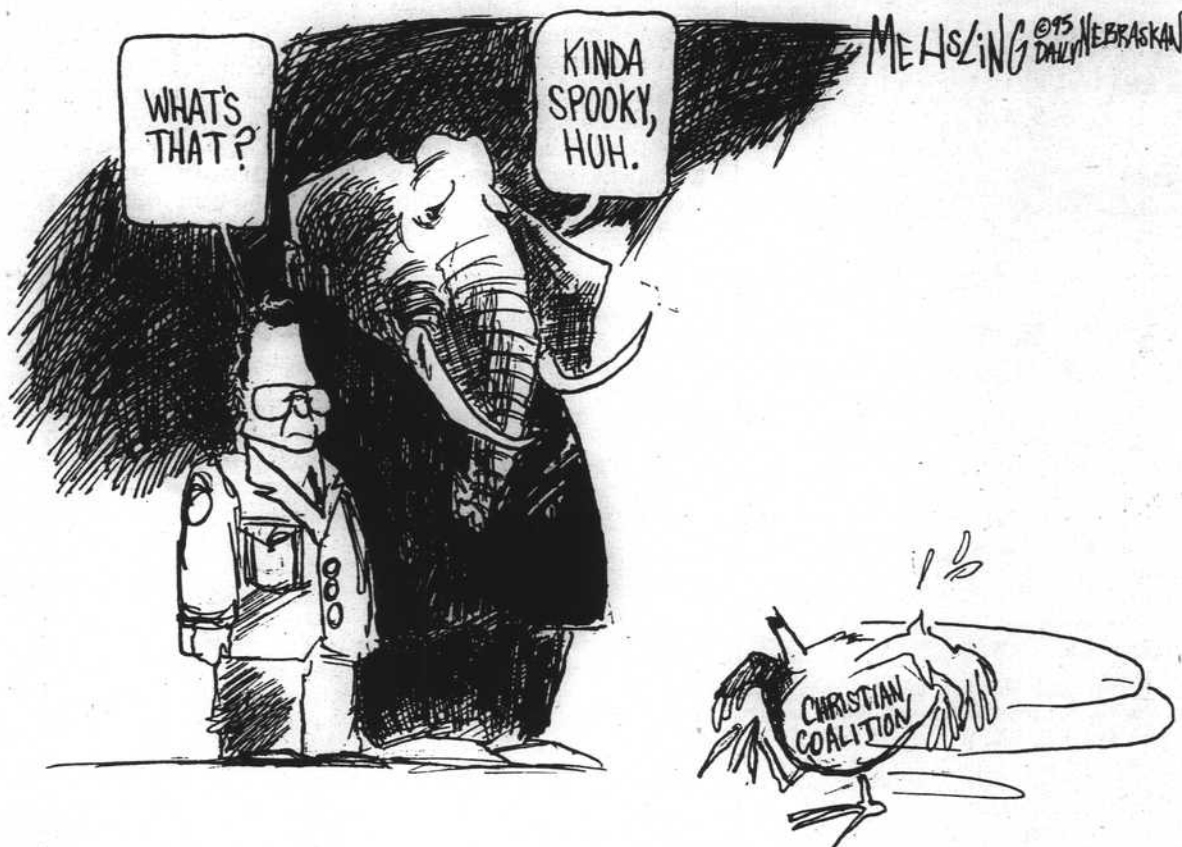
If previous incidents of violence between Phillips and McEwen were known to Osborne, Beck and others, and yet they did nothing, then responsibility for whatever further violence may have been committed rests, partly, on the heads of those who knew, and failed to act.

#### Editorial policy

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1995 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: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



### A bad gangsta' rap

I cannot believe how the Daily Nebraskan can insert a picture like the one shown on the front page of the Sept. 18 issue under the headline "Fight erupts following dance in union."

In my opinion, the picture is aimed to portray racism and stereotypes the black race.

Looking at the picture, the accused black man is wearing a bandanna and a hooded jacket. With his eyes down and his mouth open, he is saying, "I didn't do anything, Officer!"

Ah yes, here we have it, your typical gangster look and attitude.

Just look at the policeman's eyes staring right at him. Yeah, it seems all police officers know that these people cause nothing but trouble.

Another neat effect is the mass of people off in the background. Since the accused black man can only be a gangster, the other people at the dance can only be affiliated with gangs too.

It only makes sense, right?

Wrong!

Having a background in journalism and some knowledge of journalism ethics, this picture cannot be ethical.

This picture is biased only to show that most people in gangs are black, and black gangsters involved with fights are anything but new.

Brad Dworak  
Sophomore  
Computer Engineering

### Triumph of God

I appreciated the honesty of Mark Baldrige's column (Darkness prevails in society, Sept. 18) in the Monday paper.

All of us, at times, have felt ripped off by the world we live in.

Although I know for certain that this world is part of a grand design, I must admit that some days are better than others.

What I do know is that the only way that I can make heads or tails of this place called Earth is to look toward God. Only my intimate

relationship with God can give me peace in this unpeaceful world.

I am so thankful that God hasn't given me some "religious hoops" to jump through, but an unconditional invitation to His love.

I hope that all would consider the God that has prevailed against my darkness.

Jason Opp  
Senior  
Business Administration  
via e-mail

of a very special person — my mother.

My mom made the decision to stay home and raise me and my brother. The investment she made in my life will never be forgotten.

It took courage to put her own dreams aside and give her life to the enrichment of mine.

To the women out there who



Bret Gottschall/DN

### "M" is for....

I want to say a few words regarding the series of articles (last week) on the accomplishments of women.

There were definitely some very great things written, but I wanted to tell you about the accomplishments

dream of a great career, I say go for it!

All I ask is that you not look

down on those who choose the most selfless career of them all.

Eric Smith  
Junior  
Music Composition/Pre-Med

Post it

...to the

Daily Nebraskan

Send your brief letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588, or Fax to (402) 472-1761, or email <letters@unlinfo.unl.edu.> Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification.