

# OPINION

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Daily  
**Nebraskan**  
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Interesting times

*Trial of the century sways generation*

Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman are dead. They have been dead for 16 months now, and they will continue to be dead for some time to come — some say forever.

Their murderer(s) remains at large, but it's hard to believe their cases can ever be closed, solved.



Bret Gottschall/DN

And so their families will have to live with their untimely deaths — until they join their loved ones in death.

And so will we. The riots, so anticipated, will not occur.

The threats of violent reaction will have to be swallowed, wait their time to resurface.

But we will go on living with this verdict, this mystery, this murder as long as our own living lasts. It will haunt our generation to the grave.

This has been the kind of case that forms, and informs, the sensibilities of a generation.

It's a Lindberg's baby.

Think how many kids will decide to become lawyers, journalists. Will hope to become judges, district attorneys. All because of this case.

Think how many, who have teetered on the edge of hopelessness, will take hope from the results of this trial — or, convinced of their deepest fears for their country, will take the final plunge into cynicism and despair.

We are cursed to live in interesting times. And each generation finds its own times too interesting by far.

The tragedy is that we can't call off the times, slow them down, quit and go home.

No matter how much we might like to.

We are caught up in these interesting times — and our culture will take its shape from them.

We are trapped in whatever happens next.

We cannot unwrite the past.

It would be nice if we could say to Nicole Brown Simpson, Ronald Goldman and all those who lie unavenged in the ground, "Wake up. It was all a mistake. We had the wrong man. You're free to go."

But we cannot.

We can only turn the page and read on.

We can only mourn, each of our own unanswered wrongs.

We can only struggle against a limited understanding of the ways of the world and hope to heal, with time, the breaches this trial has carved in our nation.

Because the real trial is far from over. It will test our mettle for many days to come.

### 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.

MEHSLING <sup>OPINION</sup> <sup>DAILY NEBRASKAN</sup>



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Remember Broyhill

Now that the final decision has been made to demolish Broyhill Memorial Fountain, many issues remain unresolved. Because the fountain has become a hub of student life, plans for another fountain of similar magnitude are being proposed with one major exception: Because of the enormous cost of such a project, the new fountain may not be a memorial to Lynn Broyhill.

Because of the amount of time spent enjoying the fountain by students, faculty and visitors to the university, I feel it is important to have a substantial fountain on campus.

In order to achieve this goal, however, we must compromise.

There must be a balance created to maximize the size of the proposed fountain while keeping it as a memorial to Lynn Broyhill. Fundraisers, unmarked donations, even cutting into the union expansion money may be required, but the end result would satisfy more of the factions involved than the present idea.

Lynn Broyhill is part of the history of the university and deserves to be remembered the way her family intended.

Karen Schmidt  
Second Bachelor's Candidate  
Biology

#### Here comes the clown

Now you love me, now you don't. The whole point of my nudie was to make people see 14 is here and we are to be shut down.

X-rated video is okay to own, rent, buy, sell — but to show it on cable in a free forum? My God, are you nuts?

I've been on since Jan. 6, 1995. Have aired adult clips since February 95. But, vile clown, you can't do that in a free forum.

It was a one-minute clip, on at 12:20 am. One/900th of total programming, 24 shows and then my world ended.

The whole point is why is something obscene in a free forum and legal everywhere else?

The system failed. If it is obscene, the rules need to be clear. But the never-used Channel 14 is the talk of Nebraska now.

And I can't find a lawyer out of 20 to 30 calls and I could go to jail for masturbating as a clown? Is this country screwed up or what?

Scott Harrold  
aka The Closet Comedian

#### Systemic illness

Monday's front page of the Daily Nebraskan carried a photo story ("Protesters stand up for victims") of a protest against violence, alleged and admitted, against women by UNL football players.



Bret Gottschall/DN

The protest does not go far enough. College sports in the United States are becoming increasingly inflated in terms of money and prestige. While a few athletes go on to reap enormous financial benefits, most do not.

Instead, the system of big time college athletics depends increasingly on exploiting athletes, particularly students from impoverished or troubled families.

The number of reports of assault indicates that the system is under great stress and that it is not working for many vulnerable students. And so both men and women are getting hurt.

We can't solve the problems by banning individuals from the team — the problems are systemic. Instead, let the university call a

halt to this year's football season. Let us all take a collective deep breath and look at the system. If we're really "Number One," such a sacrifice would gain the attention of every athlete and sports fan in America.

Frances W. Kaye  
Professor of English

#### Aborted attempt

Stephen G. Charest's letter to the editor (Sept. 26) demonstrates the importance of not reaching legal conclusions before one knows the facts and has reviewed pertinent statutes and court decisions.

Charest's desire to prosecute county attorney Sampson and other Washington County and Blair officials stems from his allegation that Ruby Scott had the "right to have an abortion under the laws of Nebraska and the Constitution."

This is simply untrue.

If Charest had done any legal research he would have found it is a felony in Nebraska to perform an abortion after the time at which an unborn child has reached viability (defined by law as the state of human development when an unborn child is potentially able to live more than merely momentarily outside the womb of the mother by natural or artificial means).

Breezy Scott (the now 11-month-old girl who was the subject of the planned abortion) was 27 gestational weeks old at the time.

According to the Nebraska Department of Health, over 90 percent of babies born at this gestational age survive.

Clearly, Breezy was a viable, living human being.

Under Roe vs. Wade, the state has a "compelling interest in the life of a viable fetus" and can prohibit abortions after viability.

Although Mr. Charest and the ACLU wish to mislead the public to the contrary, Nebraska law protects unborn children like Breezy from ghastly dismemberment and death at the hands of abortionists.

Steve Graz  
Chief Deputy Attorney General



...to the  
**Daily  
Nebraskan**

Send your brief letters to:  
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Letters must be signed and  
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