

OPINION

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Page 4

Daily Nebraskan

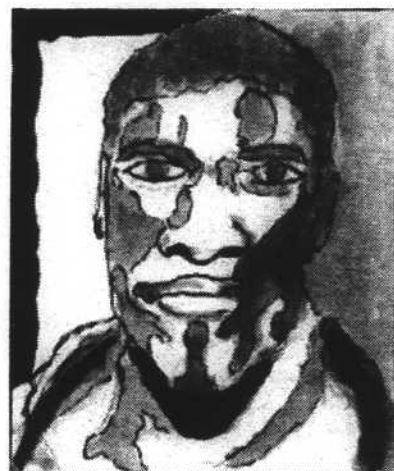
Editorial Board
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

J. Christopher Hain Editor, 472-1766
Rainbow Rowell Managing Editor
Mark Baldrige Opinion Page Editor
DeDra Janssen Associate News Editor
Doug Kouma Arts & Entertainment Editor
Jeff Zeleny Senior Reporter
Matt Woody Senior Reporter
James Mehling Cartoonist

Too soon

Phillips' return needs time

Way back in September, when Lawrence Phillips turned himself in to authorities who were seeking him for the beating of a fellow student athlete, Coach Tom Osborne didn't even wait to hear his plea to "dismiss" him from the team — so sure was he that the 220 pound I-back had done what witnesses later reported: dragged a former girlfriend down a flight of stairs among other things.



Bret Gottschall/DN

Within days, however, the dismissal had become a "suspension" and there was talk about the conditions under which the former Heisman Trophy candidate might be allowed back on the team.

"You never say never, but he's certainly got to get some things accomplished," Osborne said. "There's no time limit on his suspension. Obviously, if he did return, it would not be any time real soon. He will not play for quite a while, if at all."

Many applauded Osborne's handling of this potentially explosive situation.

while others questioned his sincerity — just what conditions would allow this violent character to once again represent the university?

Osborne clarified a few days later: "I told Lawrence that he definitely needs to have some sort of treatment where he can look at how to control his anger. There are several things he has to get ironed out. It's possible that in a month or so, in the best-case scenario, he could return."

Some people felt this was too soon, that the issues raised about Phillips' behavior — and the responsibilities of coaching staffs toward student athletes — had not been answered.

Still, it remained to be seen what kind of professional help Phillips would receive.

The answer came shortly.

After a week of secrecy it was revealed that Phillips had spent three days at the prestigious Menninger Clinic, where Osborne said he received "rather intensive counseling."

Thus the stage was set to readmit Phillips to the team.

Three days of counseling are supposed to counter what Osborne and Phillips' own attorney have referred to repeatedly as a terrible family background and repeated violent explosions.

Meanwhile, disturbing questions remain about Osborne's previous knowledge of prior violence, or threats of violence, by Phillips — such that he even offered, at one time, his home phone number to Phillips' former girlfriend; the very person he has been found guilty of attacking.

Obviously, it's just too soon.

Too soon to allow Phillips to return to play — while the athletic department remains concerned enough for the safety of Phillips' victim to offer her round-the-clock protection.

Too soon to pass Phillips off as somehow "cured" — three days in Menninger is no panacea for a history of violence.

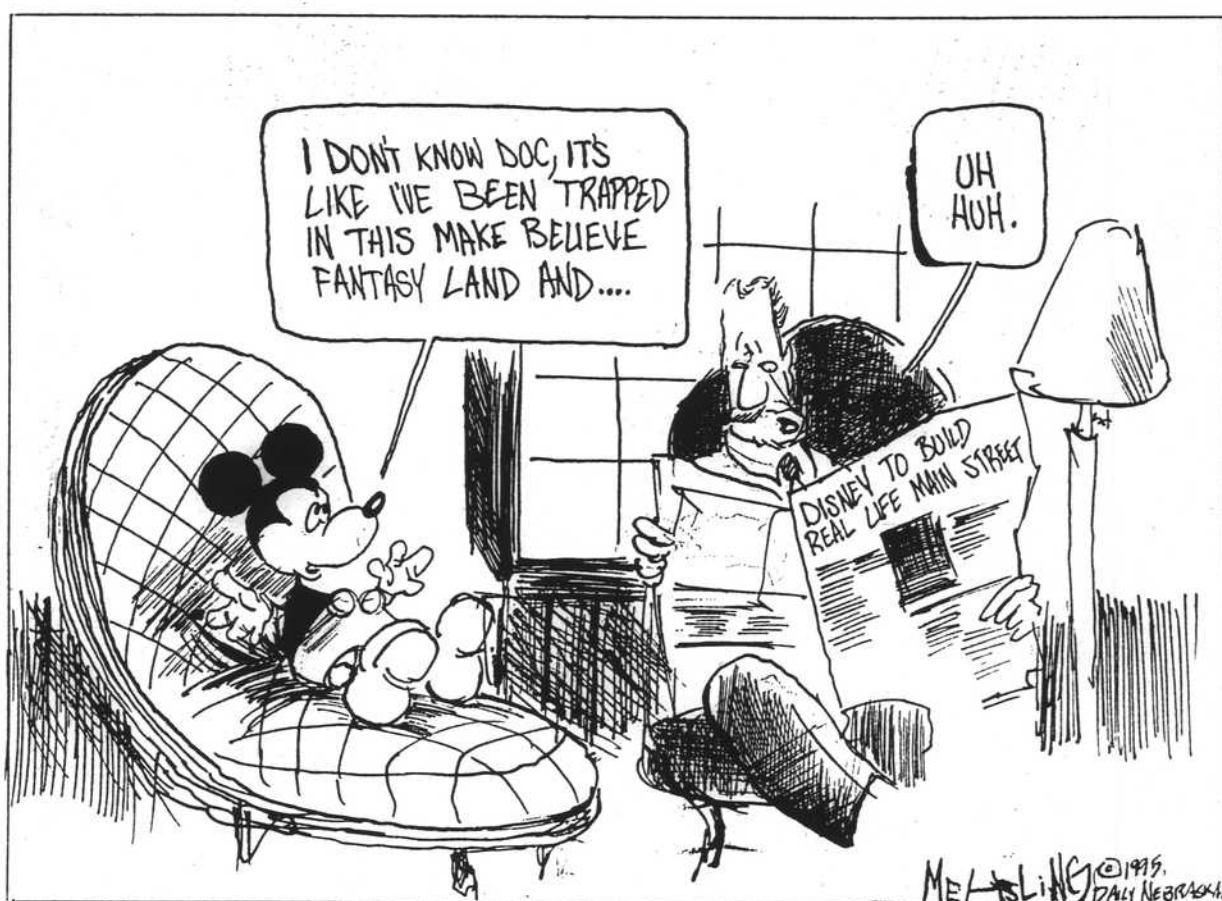
Too soon to forget all the unanswered questions and looming doubts that have arisen over what has been a very dark month for all of us.

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.



MEL SLING © 1995 DAILY NEBRASKAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jamie Karl

In response to Jared Solomon's letter (Oct. 16) about the choice of Jamie Karl as a columnist:

Although the articles written by Karl were often bigoted, racially biased, arcane, and outdated — just to mention a few positive attributes — I am sure that there is at least one of the remaining 24,999 UNL students (25,000 was Solomon's number, 24,999 excluding Karl) who share Jamie Karl's views.

Even though I am not one of them, I commend Jamie for having the courage to voice his opinions.

It was in his ability to spark intelligent thought in others that Karl showed at least some education.

Medea Harmann
Graduate student
Biology

Nekid ladies

It always brings a smile to my face when the DN prints a letter in which someone (most likely of the female gender) complains of the "dehumanizing" strip club ads which "treat women like sex objects."

These strippers have chosen that line of work. They entered employment knowing what the requirements of the job were, what was expected of them, and what methods their employers used to bring in business.

If these women were uncomfortable with any aspect of the job they would have quit.

Money may or may not be a factor they took into consideration when picking a career.

But maybe (dare I say it?) these women might actually enjoy their job and appreciate the amount of business walking in and out of the club.

I, as a female reader of the DN, do not feel as if the paper has treated me with complete disre-

gard.

Amoreè Lovell
Senior
Broadcasting

homeless within.

Scotty Knutson
Sophomore
English

Home for homeless

As a warm and compassionate Nebraska citizen, I would like to take this time to announce the arrival of Lincoln's newest homeless shelter.

It's called the Nebraska Student Union and is located on 14th and R streets.

This fine facility features a newly installed big screen television to give the homeless something to look at while they do absolutely nothing all day long.

There are vending and arcade machines to scrounge for loose change and even complimentary trash bins providing three meals a day.

There may also be some young college men and women milling about in the shelter, but these are just local riff-raff and their only purpose is to be panhandled by he

Free T.P.

To Kwee Tew (Letters, Oct. 16) on the misuse of toilet paper, my sincere congratulations.

You have placed your finger on the most pathetic, petty and meaningless argument I have ever heard.

If the villainous students you speak of insist on "trashing their front yards as a means of decoration" let me remind you that there is indeed a viable solution:

Toilet paper hanging from tree branches is still toilet paper — come on over and clean up the yard.

You'll be doing me a favor — but more importantly our environment will be miraculously saved. And you'll have some free T.P. to boot.

Craig Vacek
Sophomore
Biology



Bret Gottschall/DN



...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.