

OPINION

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Daily
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Fair's fair

Punishment for violence must fit crime

Talk about sending messages.

Members of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Women's Caucus want to suspend any student convicted of a violent crime from extracurricular activities for seven years.

The Faculty Women's Caucus was one of the groups most vocally opposed to the return of Lawrence Phillips to the football field.

They didn't get the results they wanted from the current system; now they want to change the system.

Even if Lawrence Phillips had never assaulted his ex-girlfriend, the system did need changing.

Crimes of violence are different from other crimes. Though theft or slander can damage another person, it's just not the same as having teeth knocked out or fearing for one's life.

And there is no place for violence among students of a university. We live in a hot-house of human contact and emotion — things can get tangled enough without having to worry about getting beat up



Jason Gildow/DN

for what you say or who you date.

A strict and universally applied penalty levied against students who, for one reason or another, can't think of one more cogent point to make without raising their fists would send the right kind of message.

But this message may be too harsh.

There is a big difference between seven years and the six weeks Lawrence Phillips sat out.

There must be a middle ground somewhere.

In addition to a seven year ban from extracurricular activities for conviction, the caucus suggests immediate suspension once a student is charged with a violent crime.

That's not right either.

The penalty doesn't take into account that every day innocent people are charged with violent crimes.

Members of the caucus say the issue is one of face:

What kind of students do we want representing our university?

But if we are afraid that recent events have sullied the reputation of the university, this is not the answer.

Yes. Tell the world that violence is intolerable and that those who practice the ways of violence will in no way and under no terms be allowed to represent our school.

Make the severity of the case no contingent.

Say to those convicted of violence, on or off campus, that they will not be allowed to wear our colors.

But don't discount the difference between being charged and being convicted.

And don't create a penalty that's too harsh.

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Karis

Dear Editor,

It seems that Jim Mehlsing (see Editorial Cartoon, Oct. 26) needs a "savior" from his Spanish 201 inferno.

I would like to extend him a hand of grace by offering him free tutoring for the rest of the semester!

Jill Hasenauer
Jim's Spanish Instructor
via e-mail

ESA

For over 20 years, the Endangered Species Act has worked to preserve and protect America's national treasures.

Under the ESA the best available scientific evidence is used to determine which species are in danger of going extinct.

Eight species have been recovered and removed from the endangered species list, including the bald eagle and the gray whale. More than 25 others are approaching their recovery goals. Overall, 38 percent of all species now on the list are either in stable or improving condition.

Now the U.S. Congress is proposing to turn its back on two decades of endangered species protection. A new bill, HR 2275 will significantly scale back the ESA by eliminating habitat protection and the goal of species recovery to open up more land for exploitation by the oil, timber and mining industries.

This bill's short-sighted emphasis on industry greed betrays the ESA and the legacy we will leave for the future.

Matthew Ramspott
Lincoln

Rush is Wrong

Limbaugh would be proud, Mr. Carson (Letters, Oct. 26), for it appears that you have learned quite a bit as a disciple of the reactionary right. I saw nothing in what Mr. Burger wrote (Letters, Oct. 24) that would imply that he will "find job hunting a bit frustrating."

Seems that you picked up on Limbaugh's tendency to throw a cheap shot at those with whom you disagree, instead of dealing with the disagreement — it's a hell of a lot easier to just change the subject, isn't it?

As far as Rush being "self-confident, well-read, and always right..." There are plenty of self-

Husker fan count

confident idiots in this world. There are even some self-confident idiots who can read. His self-confidence (and his ability to read, for that matter) has absolutely nothing to do with the validity of his arguments.

Kevin Haake
Graduate Student
Computer Science
via e-mail

Tripdilyicious

I wanted to drop a letter in support of the recent columns written by Mark Baldrige. He should be complimented for his frank discussion of the topics of drug use ("LSD shines on one bright day," Oct. 23) and prostitution ("Legal prostitution beneficial," Sept. 11).

I do not understand why Mark Nispel (Letters, Oct. 25) fears the opinion of Baldrige.

If he's had all he "can stomach" of Baldrige's writing, no one is forcing him to read it.

In the same Letters column, Eric Black feels that Baldrige's column is "another example of irresponsible media that we don't need."

I believe that discussion in a public forum is a good thing. How can Black be so "sure" that Baldrige won't be talking about his drug use to his children?

And if he has "statistics of young people who experience permanent psychological damage from using acid," then why didn't he cite them and their source in his letter?

K.R. Theesen
Illustrator
Dentistry
via e-mail

Tripscandalous

I would like to express my disgust at Mark Baldrige's column on LSD.

First of all, referring to LSD as a sacrament is very offensive to me as a Christian; it appalls me that such a hideous remark is printed. Second, if his life is so poor that tripping on LSD stands out for him, that's fine, but please don't subject us to writing like this.

It may be opinion, but voice worthwhile, helpful opinions, not opinions that say drugs are cool.

He's right — we don't care what he does with his free time, just so long as he doesn't spend it writing columns like this.

Christopher Wachholz
Freshman
Criminal Justice

Catholic protestant

I am surprised by Krista Schwarting's blatantly anti-Catholic column ("Religion detached from reality," Oct. 20). She emphasizes that the Church must adapt to the modern world if it is to survive.

I find this conclusion illogical and historically ignorant.

What logical basis can Schwarting provide to demonstrate that a religion must change its moral teachings in order to be true? Truth, not fads, must be the primary concern of religion.

If abortion, or premarital sex, or whatever, is wrong, then the Church must say so — even if it offends Krista Schwarting.

Nicole Beran
Freshman
Broadcast Journalism

No pity

I am writing in response to Lawrence Phillips' reinstatement to the football team. Particularly to a statement I read in the Omaha World Herald on Oct. 25, made by Phillips' lawyer, Hal Anderson.

It read: "I think the young man has suffered an awful lot. Good gracious, the Heisman trophy was his, and it disappeared."

Excuse me, but WHAT?

You mean to say that a man goes out and beats someone up, a woman, and we're supposed to feel sorry for him because he is suffering the consequences of his own actions?

And those consequences are so minimal he can still play football?

Kristina Winnett
Senior
Biochemistry