

OPINION

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

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Daily
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Bret Gottschall/DN

Talk is cheap

Action needed to halt campus violence

The chanting of protesters and the glare of national television cameras have not yet left our memories.

The controversy surrounding Lawrence Phillips has placed an enormous amount of attention on a number of campus issues, of which one of the most important is violence on campus.

Now a task force to study violence on campus has been appointed by Interim Chancellor Joan Leitzel.

"We have a special interest in how UNL can become a community where we have a common value that violence is unacceptable," Leitzel said.

No one discounts the need for violence on campus to be addressed.

Blue lights sprinkled across UNL remind us nightly of the potential for violence on campus.

UNL is a safe campus by most respects. But any campus can be safer.

The Task Force on Conduct Standards and Behavioral Expectations holds its first meeting today.

Leitzel said the task force would examine violence on campus, gather input from the university community and recommend how to communicate UNL's values.

This is a serious issue and the university may be stepping in the right direction, but only if it leads to action.

There's no need for more talk. No need for more messages.

Only action in the form of prevention and penalties can help halt violence on campus.

The blue lights, the campus escort service and now a task force all show that UNL is interested in continuing to provide a safe campus environment.

This semester has served as an important reminder of the need to address violence on campus.

And the university has taken a step toward addressing the problem by forming a task force.

But more discussion is not the answer.

We need action.

Editorial policy

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DAILY NEBRASKAN



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just a glance

A glance at the front page of the Nov. 6 Daily Nebraskan shows that the most important item is that Lawrence Phillips is back on the football team.

This is made clear by the bold type, the large amount of space for the first half of the article, and the rather large picture of Phillips.

To begin with, this is hardly news. The fact that he was to return to the team has been publicized and debated already.

However, more disturbing to me was the fact that, judging by the amount of front page space devoted to the topic, Phillips return is more important than the assassination of Israel's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin.

Admittedly, Rabin's death has been publicized since its occurrence on Saturday, but that is certainly more recent than when the news on Phillips came out. I also hope it is more important.

Sadly it seems that, to the Daily Nebraskan, his death is less important than the return of Phillips to the football team.

Catherine Souliere
Senior
History
via e-mail

Double take

Israeli Prime Minister Rabin is assassinated over the weekend, and your Monday morning 6x8 front page photo is of a FOOTBALL PLAYER?

Charlotte McAvoy Kyriss
Housing Office
via e-mail

NOW!

Athletic programs across the country are beset by violence. Most of these incidents involve violence toward women.

Currently the Nebraska football team features a player who was convicted of attacking his former

girlfriend. The fact that he continues to represent Nebraska on the playing field is a disgrace.

The Faculty Women's Caucus at the university is suggesting an amendment to the Student Code of Conduct which would suspend from extracurricular activity any student who is convicted of a crime.

I support and encourage their effort and urge the university to adopt this amendment to the Code.

There will be no end to battering, rape and murder of women until society insists on severe penalties.

Silence is our enemy.

Anne M. Golonka
President
S. Nevada National Organization
for Women (NOW)

Huh?

I must respond to a letter submitted by Jared Solomon (Nov. 6).

He said his response to Aaron McKain's regular column, was "huh?"

I read Aaron's column every Friday. In fact, it is one of the few things I consistently read in the DN. I never have any difficulty seeing the greater message which Aaron tries to convey.

Obviously the speed and complexity of Aaron's thought processes, reflected in his writing, are too much for some.

Perhaps his no-holds-barred style is too much for others.

We all must remember that this is an institution of learning, and an important place to start is by learning to interpret what others have to say, and by dealing with how they say it. I hope you, Jared, and others will continue to ride Aaron's verbal roller coaster, and try to see the world as it is, despite the blur.

Mike Moscrip
Junior
Anthropology and History
via e-mail

Parking

Few people will disagree with the assessment that the city of Lincoln exudes a certain small-town charm the likes of which many cities the same size are simply not capable of achieving.

However, there is one small-town attribute that the city of Lincoln holds onto steadfastly.

I am referring to the city's metered streets and lack of parking available to the working people of the city.

Recently police have apparently cracked down on the heinous crime of parking for more than the allowed two hours on the streets around the state capitol. When I originally started employment in that area I was assured that vehicles were "rarely marked".

But in the last two weeks tires have been "chalked" virtually every single day, no doubt to increase the city's revenue.

Most of those vehicles belong to employees who either must pay the \$5 per violation ticket, or must tear themselves away from their duties in order to move their vehicle, usually to another spot just a few yards away. Just where is the logic in this practice?

I propose that the employees of Lincoln's downtown area and state employees rally together and vociferously oppose this practice.

By implementing a decal system for employees' vehicles, the city of Lincoln can send us a message that we are as important to it as we really are.

These decals would ensure that any downtown employee would be able to park in any area without fear that doing so might cost them a good portion of an hour's pay.

Tim Bodnar
Dwight
via e-mail



...to the
**Daily
Nebraskan**

Send your brief letters to:
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Nebraska Union, 1400 R St.,
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verification.