

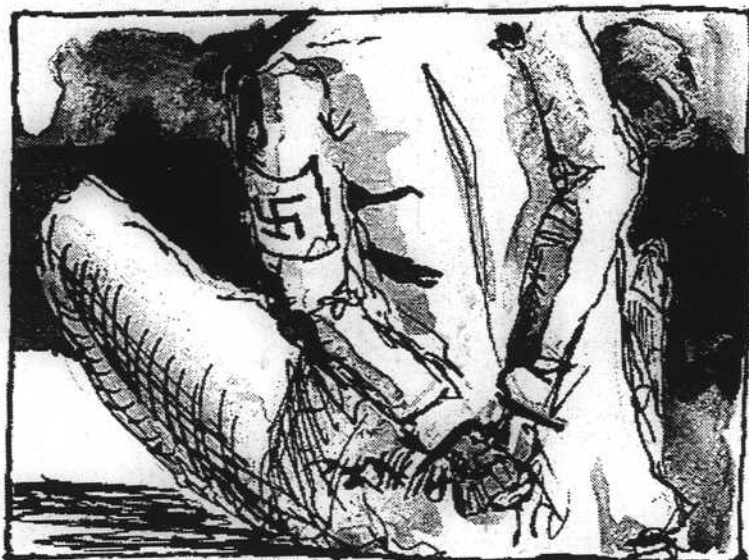
OPINION

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

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Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Bret Gottschall/DN

Behind bars

Lincoln rids itself of Lauck, not hatred

After one year in Danish and German prisons, Nebraska neo-Nazi Gerhard Lauck finally knows his trial date.

On May 9, proceedings against Lauck will begin in Hamburg, Germany. Prosecutors aim to convict Lauck of 38 counts of distributing Nazi propaganda and inciting racial hatred, among other crimes. Chances are, they will succeed.

That's fine with us. It's fine with most Nebraskans. Lauck, because of the international attention he has brought to Nebraska during his 24-year career as a neo-Nazi propagandist, is not exactly this state's favorite son.

He is so disliked, in fact, that the Lincoln City Council last year passed a resolution "disassociating" the city from neo-Nazi activities. The Nebraska Legislature attempted to do the same thing, but failed.

Other parties have been quick to write Lauck out of the picture as well. Newspapers call him "former" Nebraska neo-Nazi, or "Ex-Nebraskan Gerhard Lauck."

He's gone, the reasoning goes. Let's forget about him.

That won't be easy.

Lauck's organization continues to operate — yes, still out of its Lincoln post-office box. What's more, foreigners convicted of crimes usually serve only half to two-thirds of their sentences before being deported — Lauck likely will be back in Lincoln before the year 2000, and there's nothing any of us can do about it.

Finally, his activities are 100 percent protected in the United States by the First Amendment.

So where does that leave Nebraska?

Lincoln is still the headquarters of an international neo-Nazi organization, as much as we may want to "disassociate" ourselves from such activities.

Gerhard Lauck is only a symptom of a greater problem. Hate was not imprisoned with him, in fact, it still thrives — even in Lincoln. The issues of his "New Order" newsletter that have been produced and distributed since his imprisonment are evidence of that.

We wholeheartedly support anyone's right to freedom of speech and expression, no matter how offensive the ideas. We are happy to live in a society where freedom is more than a word.

But we still can take the guilty pleasure of thanking Denmark for doing something America could never legally do: putting Gerhard Lauck behind bars.

At least for a while.

Editorial policy

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1996 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.

UNL
GRADUATE
50 YEARS
DOWN THE ROAD



"WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE WE HAD TO PARK TEN MILES FROM CAMPUS AND WALK THREE MILES JUST TO CATCH THE SHUTTLE BUS, AND THE PARKING PERMITS WERE SO EXPENSIVE WE COULDN'T AFFORD TO BUY SHOES FOR OUR FEET."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Article misses mark

Brooks Hitt's article, "Alternative music label fading fast" (March 11) is drenched with overdone cynicism and blatant falsehood.

Contrary to what Brooks may believe, no station in America plays a given song even close to "at least once an hour." Such a station would suffer a ratings disaster. Furthermore, I have yet to hear a station that has "no sense of musical history." Even contemporary formats like Top 40 and modern rock have '80s songs on their play lists. It's absurd to suggest that music suddenly loses its aesthetic value when it gains mass appeal, or that "songs to sing in the shower" are inherently worthless. Music serves one primary function — entertainment. If a song inspires deep thought, that's an added bonus that I happen to appreciate. But not everyone does, nor do they have to.

The fact of the matter is, if it weren't for the mass success of groups like Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and the like, there wouldn't likely be a market for so-called "respectable bands" like Fugazi, which have more limited popular appeal.

As cruel as Brooks may think it, this is a capitalist country, where money DOES matter. And that's just fine with me.

Nick Wiltgen
junior
broadcasting

Low turnout no surprise

You know, it really doesn't surprise me in the least that there was a low voter turnout. Not in the least. The problem facing this University in the ASUN elections is that voting ballot booths are not in the key locations on campus. We



Bret Gottschall/DN

had both the ACTION and OFFICE parties speak at our senate before the elections and they were under the impression that the Harper/Schramm/Smith Residence Complex was going to get a booth, but I guess they were wrong. Somehow the election committee for ASUN turned their eyes away from our complex. Could this be because ASUN doesn't want to get the Residence Hall residents to vote so that they can keep ASUN mostly Greek?

The HSS Residence Hall usually houses about 1,500 students yearly, and most of them are freshmen. Generally, freshmen aren't aware of the upcoming ASUN elections, except for reading about it in the paper. I would advise the ASUN election committee to make these booths available for the students of the residence halls ... especially those as greatly populated as HSS.

David Williams
junior
English/sociology/film
Harper/Schramm/Smith Complex
president

Parking (cont.)

I am proud to say that I am a faithful reader of Steve Willey's articles. And I am in no way connected to Parking Services. Though to my amazement it appears that Willey has now bitten off more than he can chew.

It seems that you (Steve Willey) have forgotten a few basic powers that the University holds. You hit the nail on the head by stating, "If you don't pay the fines, you won't graduate." But the powers run much deeper than that. You see, unlike you, I have read my tickets in which it states that if my ticket is not paid within 30 days, that they have the power to impound my vehicle.

I can see your concern with the devastation a \$25 ticket can impose on an already poor student. And in your case \$50, with your willful disregard, can really put a dent in a student's budget. But should you have taken your ignorant disregard of rules out on our beloved Meter Maids? Remember these low-life carnivores may have computers to which I am sure your name, address, class schedule and vehicle description are on their No. 1 hit list.

So I heed you this warning in your war against an entity that might even know when you brush your teeth. Always watch your back because they can appear out of nowhere, just as I have seen once my meter had run out. Remember, "they repel from buildings, hide in bushes, and lurk in the sewers" (Michael Justice).

So when you park your vehicle on campus, remember to bid it farewell and good riddance, because it will inevitably be sought out because of your so-called, "War on Parking."

Robert Kelley
junior
biology



...to the

**Daily
Nebraskan**

Send your brief letters to:
Daily Nebraskan, 34
Nebraska Union, 1400 R St.,
Lincoln, Neb. 68588, or Fax
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Letters must be signed and
include a phone number for
verification.