

OPINION PAGES

OUR VIEW

Lovers beware AIDS claims lives, cries for attention

The weekend after Thanksgiving is usually observed as the first official days of Christmas shopping. But there was another observance crammed into the holiday weekend that might or might not have garnered your attention.

World AIDS Day.

Observed across the globe, World AIDS Day was marked by compassion and understanding for all the victims of this pandemic.

It also brought to light some alarming statistics.

A U.N. agency reported that nearly a quarter of the 6.4 million AIDS deaths worldwide occurred within the past 12 months.

This year, 3.1 million people were infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, bringing the total number of people with HIV or AIDS to 22.6 million.

Too many people are infected with AIDS each and every day.

We need to remember that the fight against HIV and AIDS isn't limited to one day.

We've heard and read enough about this disease to be able to recite the information in our sleep: how it attacks the body's immune system, leaving it susceptible to infections and cancer, until the host succumbs to one of these secondary ailments.

We've seen and heard the stories of families and friends left behind to try and cope with the loss of a loved one.

And whether we like it or not, AIDS is now ingrained into our generation's psyche and culture. From the safe-sex ads to Trojan man, HIV and AIDS have left their marks on our daily lives.

No longer is treatment for a sexual disease solely the province of medication and health-care professionals.

Now there is a sexual disease with hardly any physical manifestations — but it comes with a sentence of death.

Attending a public university in the Midwest, we might feel immune to the ravages of this pandemic.

We shouldn't. And we can't.

AIDS is a disease that recognizes no national boundaries. It doesn't care if you're poor or rich, white or black, homosexual or heterosexual. It doesn't care about how many degrees you have or don't have. It doesn't care if you're from a rural area or an urban center.

Its sole purpose is to survive — even if it means destroying its human host.

In this day and age, people should be more prudent about their sexual activities.

The holiday season is marked with goodwill and compassion for our fellow brothers and sisters.

And that's what World AIDS Day is all about.

It attaches faces and names to statistics, making us realize people are more than just mere numbers. Compassion for victims of AIDS isn't a one day event — but a year-round endeavor.

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MEHSLING'S VIEW

HOW THE NEW TELEVISION RATING SYSTEM WILL WORK.

THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM CONTAINS SEXUALLY ORIENTED MATERIAL, VIOLENCE AND COARSE LANGUAGE THAT MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR YOUNG VIEWERS.



MEHSLING BY DAILY NEBRASKAN

LETTERS

SAD COMMENTARY

Woe to the DN. During the two years I have attended this university, I have been an avid reader of your editorial section. This semester you have hit an all-time low. The collective IQ of your contributors is roughly comparable to that of a carrot (a fact which Steve is no doubt proud of).

Case and point: This Monday, your first nauseating column read like a diary excerpt from "My So-Called Life." The second laughable effort was — get this — a biochemist's view of the U.S. role in foreign affairs!

The author, Anthony Nguyen, has obviously been sampling his lab materials.

In short, your columnists are now number one on my top-10 list of reasons to keep abortion legal.

All I ask from an editorial page is that it evoke some kind of emotion from its audience. Shock me. Piss me off. Make me laugh, applaud or boo. Just don't make me cry from boredom.

Brent Hawkins
junior
political science

DEAD PUNK

I would like to thank Matt Ingle for his humorous letter in the Dec. 2 DN. Punk a lifestyle? Matt, buddy, you need to rent "The Great Rock and Roll Swindle." In this movie/documentary, you will find out that punk is no lifestyle, rather, it is a lie. That's right, Matt: a lie.

You will find out the whole punk thing was used to give people a false sense of individuality, and make Malcolm McClaren lots of money.

Also, make sure to mark Feb. 2 down on your calendar. On this date John Simon Richie (Sid Vicious)



MATT HANEY/DN

died and took "real punk" with him.

You see, punk is dead. It's been dead for close to 18 years now. That's why bands like The Clash, The Jam, The Buzzcocks and The Damned began to change their sound.

I really have to laugh every time I hear people talk about how punk is alive. These newer bands that attempt to revive the spirit of the late '70s (punk's heyday) remind me of a set of bad sequels: Newer casts, usually better special effects to hide behind, same tired plot, and, like all sequels, a failure to measure up to the original.

As for the guy at the Descendents show who pulled down his pants, that's punk? Gagging yourself in order to puke on someone is punk. At least it used to be.

Craig Patak
KRNU music director
senior
broadcasting

SELF-VIOLATION

In response to Nick Wiltgen's column in the Nov. 26 edition of the

Daily Nebraskan, I think he needs to be slapped in the face with a head-on car crash. I agreed with the first half of the column in saying the government needs a moral base. I did not agree when he stated that the government has no business legislating against acts that violate yourself.

He argued that the government was not acting properly when it punishes someone for drinking a beer at age 20, because the drinker was not treading on the rights of others. I ask then, if breaking the law by under-age drinking is OK, is it still OK for a 5-year-old? Should this child be allowed to take up smoking, drinking, illegal drug use, etc.? He would not be treading on others' rights as Nick stated! I suppose it would be OK to allow an upstanding member of the community to construct a nuclear bomb in his backyard. (As long as he did not tread on others' rights.) Or maybe society should turn its cheek when looking at parents who use illegal drugs and abuse alcohol around their children. After all, as long as the parents don't infringe on their children's rights, it's OK! Oh yes, don't forget about allowing anyone who wishes to carry an AK-47 on the street to do so because they won't be hindering anyone's rights either.

As you can see, the government constantly needs to put several situations under a magnifying glass and examine the potential of them to violate other's rights. Nick, I hope you know that in your perfect world the next time a drug user gets high and walks by a police officer who knows he's wasted, the cop must allow him to drive his vehicle away and possibly introduce your body to the windshield of his car.

Brett Otte
freshman
finance

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P.S. Write Back



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