

OPINION PACKETS

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Our
VIEW

Saving face

United Nations should use military

It's funny how pervasive movies have become in our national discourse. Take the crisis in Iraq as an example.

In 1978, Francis Ford Coppola released "Apocalypse Now," a strange story of the Vietnam War. In that movie, Lt. Col. Kilgore, played by Robert Duvall, commands the Air Force to napalm some Viet Cong soldiers. "Bomb them back to the stone age, son."

Forward to this week. In a press conference, Defense Secretary William Cohen said, "We are not looking to bomb anyone back to any stone age," but they aren't ruling it out.

While mildly humorous, Cohen's words are at the same time - firm but diplomatic - as the United Nations should be.

The Crisis in the Gulf, as the media has branded it, is more of a crisis for the United Nations than for the United States or Iraq. For the United Nations' credibility is on the line.

In order for the United Nations to save face in this crisis, it should insist upon full compliance with U.N. security council resolutions set in 1991 after the Gulf War.

After the coalition forces drove Iraq out of Kuwait in 1991, a cease-fire was signed and Baghdad agreed to abide by the security council's edicts. One of those edicts was that an international team of inspectors be allowed into Iraq to root around for weapons of mass destruction.

This month, Saddam Hussein decided that the U.S. representatives on the inspection teams were spies, and demanded their removal from the teams. The United Nations refused, Hussein didn't budge and eventually the United Nations pulled the teams out. The U.S. members were expelled from the country.

The United Nations is now insisting on full compliance with the post-war orders. It should. Anything less than that, and the international organization should not hesitate for a second to use military means to a political end.

If the United Nations is to be a governing agency among nations, it has to show solidarity among members - and a willingness to back up its edicts with muscle. This must be a U.N. and not solely a U.S. effort.

If this succeeds it will restore some credibility to an organization that has gone out of its way to destroy its good name. Anyone remember Bosnia? Or Somalia? Iraq is the United Nations' success story, and it is no time to ruin that.

Without full compliance, the United Nations should not hesitate to follow Lt. Col. Kilgore's advice.

Haney's
VIEW



DN
LETTERS

Fight for your right

The DN Special Report (Monday's DN) commented extensively on the high number of on-campus injuries to both pedestrians and bicyclists.

I refuse to call them accidents, as the article does, because they are usually caused by negligent drivers.

The article reports the numerous possible solutions to these "accidents": lowering speed limits, installing flashing lights, diverting traffic, etc. All of these proposed solutions could, of course, decrease the possibility of future injury to pedestrians and cyclists, but they all neglect the most obvious solution. And the least expensive to the university and city, I might add.

This solution is simply to get the message out to drivers that the pedestrian has the right of way in a crosswalk. The most infuriating aspect of this topic is that most of the injuries occur when the victim is in or near a crosswalk or area that implies pedestrian right of way. Yet the article mentions nothing about driver responsibility other than a small paragraph proposing a project to develop community awareness. Yet this suggestion was made by the two people mentioned early in the article who were injured in crosswalks, not by people who could implement such a plan.

Bottom line: Drivers need to slow down and watch for people crossing streets both in and out of crosswalks. When these drivers see someone in the street, they must stop and let them cross. So my fellow pedestrians, take your right of way and don't let drivers push you around.

Be safe, but be assertive!

Robert A. Aguirre
graduate student
English

Home-court advantage?

I've been extremely disheartened lately at the apathy this student body holds toward Husker athletics.

Take basketball, for example. The Devaney Center holds more than 14,000, and through seven men's and women's games, not once have we filled half the seats. Student attendance is just as pathetic. The band outnumbered the students at most games.

Maybe people don't realize what we have here at Nebraska. In Paul Sanderford, we have one of the top coaches in the nation. He has a career-winning percentage of .753 and in 15 seasons has taken 12 teams to the NCAA Tournament and three to the Final Four. Anna DeForge was honorable-mention All-American last year and is one of the best in the nation again this year. Sanderford has bent over backward in an attempt to get students to his games. There are giveaways nearly every night and he even went as far as to send every student at the university free season tickets (with awesome coupons on the back, I might add).

Coach Danny Nee and the men have just as much going for them. They have possibly the most athletic and best defensive squad ever put on the floor by a Nebraska team. Just watching Tyronn Lue play is worth the cost of admission. Lue is also a legitimate candidate for All-America honors and is projected as a first-round pick in the NBA draft.

It's the students who create the atmosphere and can change the momentum at these games. Grandma and Grandpa can't be relied upon to make too much noise. We have to get the students to get out to these games, create a hostile environment for our opponents and give our athletes some support.

When you watch other schools on TV you always see their student sec-

tion packed, making a ton of noise and having a blast. There's no reason why that doesn't happen here, as well. We've got the real deal at Nebraska this year. Both these teams will be playing in March contending for championships. No more complaining.

It's about time we get off our behinds, get out to the games, make some noise and support the Huskers.

Jason Ponc
freshman
secondary education

Check your facts

It would be amazing if those who propose a university holiday for Martin Luther King Jr. would actually stop to study his character rather than just his skin color and the sound bites of ideology.

Fact 1: King plagiarized his doctoral thesis. When this was finally made public, Harvard University changed King's degree from an earned doctorate into an honorary doctorate. Admittedly, the mainstream press scarcely reported anything about this.

Maybe Fact 2: Additionally, there were FBI reports (for whatever they are worth) that King used his title as a Christian minister to sexually seduce young women, similar to the "sons of Eli."

Based upon the content of King's character, he deserves neither holiday nor respect. In any event, why do "liberals" insist on using the power of government to coerce everyone into thinking exactly as they think - or else?

S. Duane England
graduate student
biology

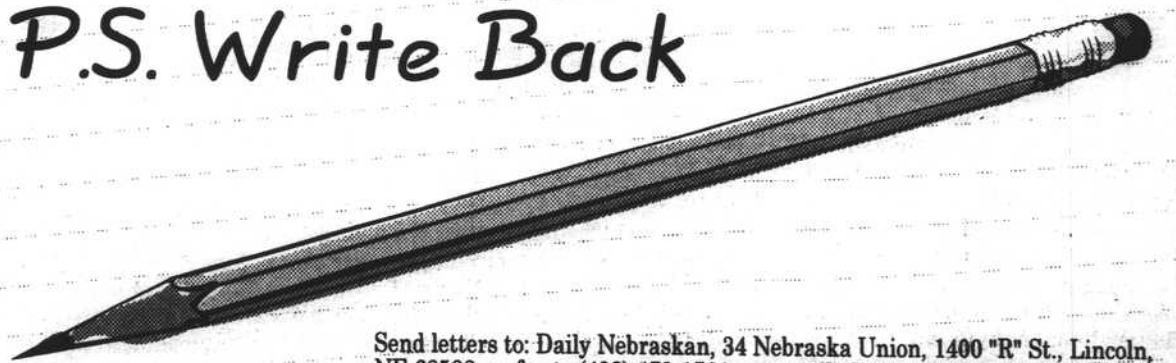
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P.S. Write Back



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