

OPINION PACKAGES

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Quotes of the WEEK

"I don't fit in anywhere. Not back home, because I moved away, and not here (at UNL)."

— *Vernon Miller, outgoing president of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Inter-Tribal Exchange, on fitting in away from home*

"People don't leave the university because they can't do the work, but because of the environment."

— *Venita Kelley, assistant professor of communication studies*

"In saying we have created a colorblind society, we have actually created an all-white society. This is clearly about excluding blacks."

— *Michael Combs, a pastor at Mount Zion Baptist Church and UNL political science professor, about LR314CA*

"I never forget a face once I sit down on it."

— *Rick Swank, master of ceremonies at the 1998 Miss City Sweetheart of Lincoln Pageant*

"Students have made complaints in the past, and nothing has been done. I think he should have been fired."

— *Carole McMahon-Boies, attorney for Valerie Giunca, a UNL student who filed a sexual harassment lawsuit against English Professor David Hibler*

"If you truly believe in something, you must voice your opinion and fight for it. Nothing beats a failure but a try."

— *UNL student Adair Shanks*

"I've done a lot of meditation, and I think I'm a goddess. I think everyone is."

— *NU swimmer Terese Alshammer, who was once named her native Sweden's sexiest woman*

"We're going to miss old Harry. He was always the life of the party, the life of baseball."

— *Former St. Louis Cardinal Stan Musial, whom Harry Caray once called the best player he had ever seen, on Caray's death*

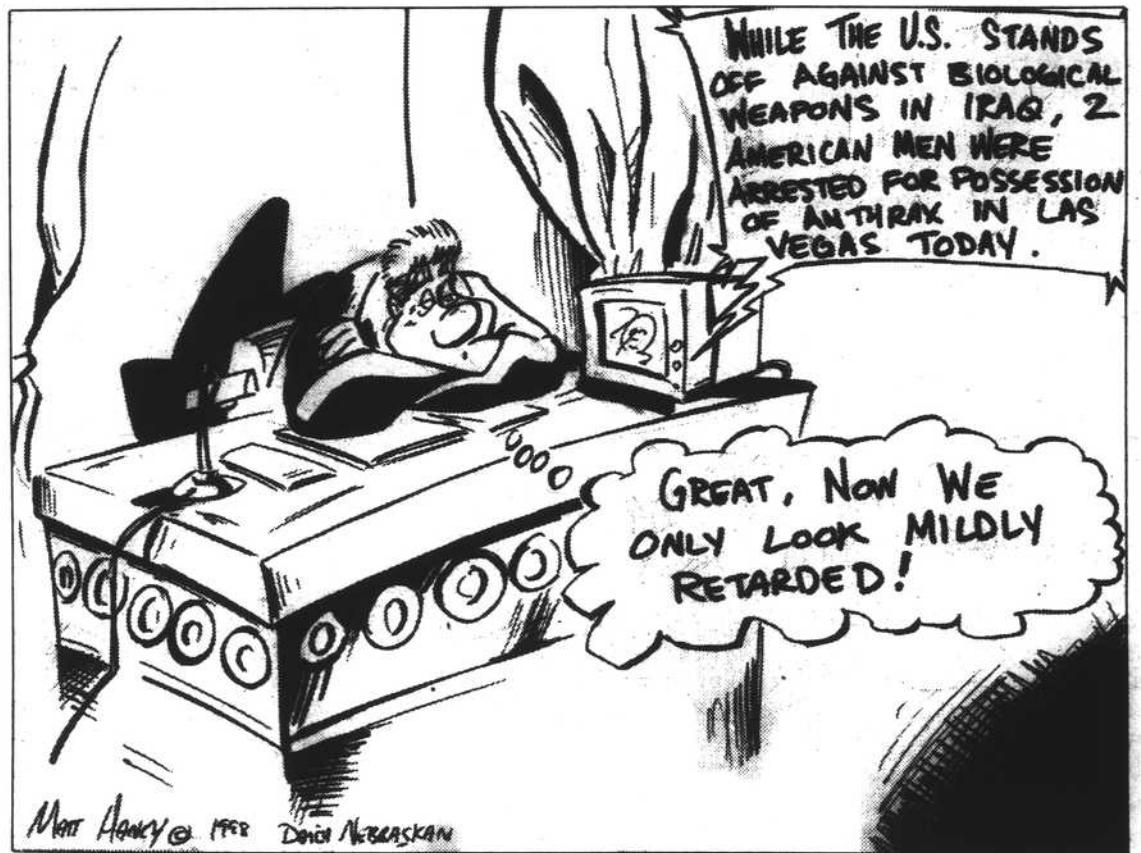
"We went into the halftime saying, 'My heavens, can we play any worse than this?'"

— *Oklahoma Women's Basketball Coach Sherri Coale, about a 101-72 loss to NU*

"Racism is still America's national shame, and I am still fiercely committed to fight for civil rights and equality in education."

— *Poet Nikki Giovanni, who spoke at the Big 12 Conference on Black Student Government*

Haney's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Missing the mark

When I saw that the DN had decided to promote a column on its front page Wednesday, I thought I was going to finally read something with insight. Instead I got Josh Gillin's "Jumping the Gun," which can be summed up thusly: I don't want war because my high school buddy might get hurt.

Yes, Mr. Gillin, contrary to what you see in TV recruitment ads, those in the armed forces not only get great career experience, but from time to time they are also asked to fight.

I realize, Mr. Gillin, that you probably just got done reading "All Quiet on the Western Front" in your History 101 class, but things are a little more complicated than that. Saddam Hussein is concealing weapons of mass destruction, and his warring history gives us no reason to believe he doesn't plan to use them. If the U.S. takes no action, and Saddam does, thousands could die.

But since they will have names more like Muhammad Khedir Al-Tiae, instead of names like Lance Cpl. John Smith, few in the U.S. will care.

Gregory Tripp
U.S. veteran
Lincoln

Where's the love?!

In response to "Wilted flower children" (Wednesday), I realize that Ms. Ovcharenko wanted to seem controversial and prove to everyone that she can write good articles, but instead she proved that she doesn't have the slightest idea of what she is talking about. More, she insulted (a) whole generation of (the) greatest people!

But what really got me is the fact that the whole article is pure nonsense. She says that hippies' philosophy was one of "... freedom, love and peace." And then she says that "... there is no way you can do this unless your ideas match this society in at least a few respects." Excuse me? So, our society isn't about love, freedom and peace? Is that right? "... what's

funny is that those concerts, which usually took place somewhere in the open air, caused the spoiling of nature." In what way?!?!? Hello, reality check!!!

Overall, I understand that if you grew up in a little village in the middle of nowhere you probably don't know a lot, and (the) Internet isn't (a) perfect source of research, but why would you display your clueless nature in front of thousands of people? I'm sorry; your article was a pitiful attempt, as were all of your articles, and it is not intelligent to the point (that) it is not even funny.

Elena Pozdniakova
sophomore
psychology

Death threats

In response to the DN column supporting Nebraska's transition from electrocution to lethal injection ("Our View," Wednesday), I find it humorous that the DN uses the words "civilized" and "humane" in the same sentences as "killing" and "death." The words have no business being in the same sentence.

The fact of the matter is, capital punishment is racist and arbitrary, targeting the poor (1997 statistics). Half of national death row inmates are people of minority race, even though minorities are largely outnumbered by white people in the United States. On top of that, 85 percent of the victims murdered by condemned killers have been of white race, which does influence whether states will seek the death penalty.

And for those of you who think that death is a good deterrent, you're wrong. The murder rate has held a steady pace, even though the number of executions has increased. Besides that, the United States and Japan are the only two "civilized" countries who even have the penalty.

Killers are not heroes and should not be given unpunished treatment, but rather life imprisonment without parole, a cheaper and supported alternative to death.

Jeff Bangert
freshman
management information systems

Dammit, Jim ...

It is more and more apparent to me now than ever that (Gerry Harbison has) a problem with the truth ("DN Letters," Wednesday). This country has never done anything to boost any so-called "minorities" sense of self-esteem.

Your cultural filter has obviously done what education in this country is supposed to do: Make white people feel good about being white. Well, that's just great as long as it stops being to the detriment of other people who have contributed as much, if not more, than white people have. Education in this country has polluted the minds of all the people who go through it, especially white people. It is a travesty and a disservice for someone to think that only people who look like them did everything right and those other people are just whiners and complainers.

America has convinced you and many others not only to believe all the lies, but also to be defensive any time new and different information arises. Let's look at this issue of the "Real McCoy" by answering a few questions.

You are right that the "Real McCoy" might have ties to Scotland. Elijah McCoy was educated in Scotland. However, that is where you lose this argument. How could the "Real McCoy" be attributed to Charles "Kid" McCoy, who wasn't born until 1872, the year Elijah McCoy received his patent for the steam engine lubricator. Charles McCoy didn't even begin to fight professionally until the 1890s and didn't win a professional championship until 1897.

So, could he be the "Real McCoy?" In a word, I think not.

John Leonard Harris
special assistant
office of the vice chancellor for student affairs

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