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Our
VIEW

Fun in the sun

Remember college isn't all serious business

The bass notes shook our windows for hours.

The sun scorched our shoulders, and sweat poured down our backs.

The hot dogs clogged our arteries, and a restaurant ran out of free pizza.

And we liked it.

Three years ago on campus, the Big Red Welcome was a very different creation than the event we saw Sunday. Back then the event was held in the Bob Devaney Sports Center and was open only to freshmen.

Sure, people didn't sweat through their T-shirts or beg for water.

But the limited capacity kept every-

one but University of Nebraska-Lincoln freshmen and student organization representatives from roaming among a bewildering maze of booths and freebies.

The next year the event moved to the greenspace with some success. Last year, the event moved onto R Street.

And this year, the University Program Council and New Student Enrollment really outdid themselves.

Thousands of students - both young and old - braved the August swelter to pack their plastic bags full of giveaways and talk with student organizations.

The pavement teemed with students snagging Pepsi and food from the administrators who served them at the all-university picnic, and the gurus of old-school rap ruled the stage.

So after the recent talk of increased academic rigor this fall, of whether UNL can keep Division I research status, of how a bill to limit state spending could change our level of state funding and of how tuition rose again this year, the entire university community could stop talking and spend a few hours just enjoying itself as a community.

The community also could remember that college is just as much fun as it is work and serious academic thought.

It's an important message we often forget in our staff editorials.

And it's a thought every student should take into a demanding fall term.

“The pavement teemed with students snagging Pepsi and food ...”

Mook's
VIEW



The wrong thing to do

Clinton's attacks will lead to useless deaths



ADAM KLINKER is a sophomore English and history major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

It's "Wag the Dog" come to a haunting reality.

When I first sat down to write this column, America was a relatively peaceful place. Our biggest worry was whether or not the president lied about a sexual relationship with an intern. That's what this column was supposed to be about.

It was instant gratification. This was supposed to be in support of our fearless leader. This was supposed to be a reprimand handed down from a pressman to the press.

This was supposed to be simple. Simple - like when a Tomahawk missile slams into the side of a pharmaceutical plant and starts a chain reaction of fires and chaotic carnage. It looks good on paper.

On Thursday, when the United States unleashed its new terrorism eradication program in Afghanistan and Sudan, suddenly everyone was back with President Clinton.

The attack, in response to U.S. embassy bombings in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, started a new era of good feeling in Washington. Even Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), critical of Clinton's apology address on Monday, was backing the president on Thursday.

"I want to applaud the president," Hatch said. Call it a high rate of turnover on partisanship and congressional loyalties to the executive office.

Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) said in a statement on Tuesday following President Clinton's Monday address, "This presidency is over."

Hagel then said on Thursday that he was standing behind the president and Clinton's decision to attack.

Not surprisingly, most Friday papers buried Monica Lewinsky's second testimonial in front of the grand jury below the front-page fold.

I thought it ludicrous at first that this week, full of trivialities over the president's personal life, would turn out to be the most critical of his presidency.

President Clinton has struck fear

into the hearts of terrorists and Americans alike. All over the world retaliation is feared. In America, terrorist retribution is imminent.

The United States has now embroiled itself in an unwinnable war of immeasurable bloodshed. In order for Clinton's re-ignited antipathy toward terrorists to be taken in fully by the American press and people, this attack will need to be followed up with additional actions.

Otherwise, who is not to say that this move was only a diversionary tactic - that in theory it was really Lewinsky who launched 100 Tomahawk cruise missiles.

We have countered terrorism with terrorism.

It is frightening to think of the numerous ways terrorist factions could, or already have, infiltrated America despite the nation's strong intelligence capabilities.

If this is now truly a war, America can expect heavy casualties and more hit-and-miss guerrilla warfare, all adding up to an immense heap of political and social nothingness. As the glorified sportswriting adage goes: You can't stop it, you can only hope to contain it.

Americans, military and civilian alike, are undeniably in harm's way. The targets of last Thursday's raid, Osama bin Laden and his mercenaries, have made it clear that they make no differentiation between those in uniform and those in plain clothes.

He once addressed an entire mosque full of terrorists, asking how many were in favor of killing all Americans. Every hand in the building was raised.

Maybe bin Laden does not have the capabilities to destroy 260 million American lives, but he certainly has the maniacal drive and sufficient support to attempt it.

He or other breakaway fringe fanatics, including American citizens, as evidenced by Timothy McVeigh and Ted Kaczynski, could strike anywhere, at any time.

People like bin Laden don't die. Every day, thousands of them are created. If one falls, another will assuredly take his place. Every ranting Libyan, Iraqi, Afghani, Bosnian and American shouting "Down with the U.S.A." has the potential to spring up if given the opportunity.

The most striking images from last Thursday were not of the shattered military targets, but of Moammar Qaddafi leading thousands through the streets chanting anti-American sentiments and burning American flags.

Last Thursday's actions did not seem like a typical knee-jerk reaction to a categorical act of war such as the bombing of an American embassy. Rather, President Clinton was said to have done a lot of questioning and investigating into FBI intelligence and solid leads to bin Laden as the man responsible.

Could no other action have been acceptable?

In light of America's recent self-centered isolationism, such a bold step forward would be sure to meet with criticism. Instead, it was praised by several allies, including Great Britain, France and Germany.

Only Russian president Boris Yeltsin condemned the act as "outrageous" and "indecent." Yeltsin wondered if a better-formed policy might have been a more suitable course of action.

Sanctions perpetuated by the United States and the United Nations may lack the strength and savvy of military action, but they have been the weapon of choice in years past. Punish the country harboring the militants, and someone is sure to root them out from the inside.

If America takes a stand, then our allies should follow the lead. Trade should be suspended indefinitely and worldwide recognition of hostile countries also should take effect.

Military action in a war on terrorism should be a carefully designed plot, filtering all available intelligence resources and scouring the maps to find exact locations of not just suspected terrorists, but known radicals.

Last Thursday, stray missiles were reported to have fallen short of the Afghanistan border into Pakistan. Though President Clinton conferred with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Friday, thousands of Pakistanis continued to protest in the streets.

With Pakistan's newly discovered nuclear capabilities, the United States may be entreating on a new, fragile doorstep of concern. Could this World War be the apocalyptic nuclear end-all?

This fight cannot be won. The United States' action can lead only to a seesaw battle between several fly-by-night warring parties, their only strategy being surprise. Terrorist attacks could hit anywhere - government buildings, monuments, universities.

We will have gone nowhere; countless hundreds of world citizens will continue to pay the dearest price, while the instigators go unscathed.

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