

OPINION PACKETS

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Our VIEW

Strictly confidential

Secret Service agents shouldn't have to testify

Who would have ever thought we'd be asking the Secret Service to testify about the president's actions?

With the Clinton-Lewinsky spectacle continuing ahead with no sign of stopping, the Supreme Court now is hearing a case on whether or not the Secret Service has the privilege to keep private the things they have seen during their time protecting our president.

Should the Secret Service have the kind of lawyer-client privilege shared by attorneys, psychologists and priests? You'd better believe it.

When a person goes into a confessional booth and says "Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned," courts have stood by the decision that what was discussed is private information said in confidence. The same goes for what someone confesses to his psychiatrist, or what a client tells his attorney.

Lawyers do not have to testify as to what clients tell them. Otherwise, lawyers wouldn't be able to do their jobs properly. If clients tell their attorneys they aren't guilty of one crime, but they are of another, how could lawyers defend them, knowing they could be called to testify against the very person they are defending?

The same goes for priests and psychiatrists.

And the Secret Service.

We place these people in a position of great importance. We trust them. We all know the image - a big burly man in a dark suit with a pair of sunglasses, one hand to his ear, listening to reports of all the other agents.

Lawyers protect the rights of the accused. Priests protect the spirits of the faithful. Psychiatrists protect the sanity of the unstable.

Secret Service agents protect something a little more tangible. They protect the leader of our country.

If they are told they have to testify, they won't be able to do their job properly. Why? Presidents may start ducking Secret Service agents left and right, leaving the president without someone to take care of whatever threats occur.

This affair certainly wasn't the first, and somehow we doubt it will be the last, but at least while these presidents have had their affairs, someone has been protecting them.

The Supreme Court should agree that Secret Service agents have to keep their eyes on the president at all times and not worry about when to turn away.

The Secret Service isn't our watchdog for the president.

Otherwise, why are we calling it the Secret Service in the first place?

Mook's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Game on

They say hindsight is 20/20, and I wholeheartedly agree. Last year, when the senate under Curt Ruwe's administration chose the migration game, many factors came into play. Most of the contributing factors influencing our choice of OSU over K-State were accurately listed in your editorial. Sure, the seats weren't as good as we would have hoped for, but regardless I still think it was one hell of a game to attend. You can't please 100 percent of the people 100 percent of the time. I just want everyone to realize that with every issue, there are going to be people who agree, disagree, and are indifferent. And although the editorial staff at the Daily Nebraskan disagrees with ASUN's pick, many students still agree choosing the OSU game at Arrowhead was a good decision. Additionally, it may not have seemed like the best decision to those who went and felt their seats were lacking in quality, but tell that to the approximately 300 students who applied to the lottery, wanted tickets and didn't get the chance to see for themselves whether or not ASUN made the right choice. (Sure, they could've traveled down to Kansas City, Mo., in hopes of getting a reasonably priced scalped ticket, but who really wants to rely on scalpers?)

Sara Russell
senior
mathematics
ASUN president

What a hoot

By one estimation, rape occurs in this country at the rate of 78 per hour. That is, one woman is raped every 46 seconds. When this figure becomes obsolete, when rape and sexual assault become as prevalent as cannibalism, then you may convince me to listen to your pretty, little defense of Hooters, Ms. Kuxhausen. Until then, enjoy your chicken wings.

Seth Felton
sophomore
undeclared

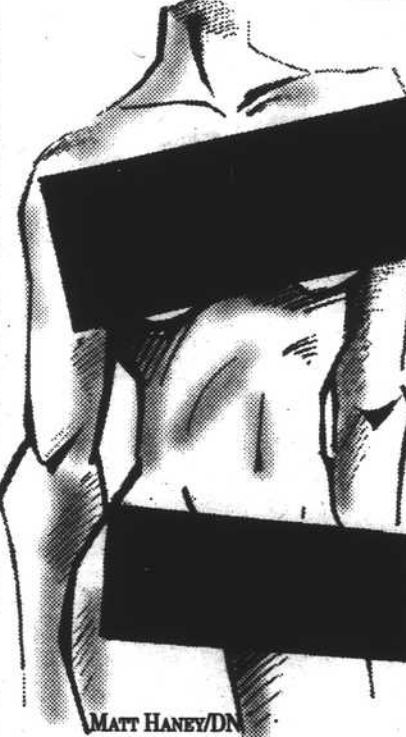
Who's going to hoot?

My thanks to Erin Reitz for making everything abundantly clear. First she

tells us, "This big, wide, wonderful world that we live in is a pretty sexist place." She then is thoughtful enough to provide us with a prime example by saying, "Although I like them, men seem to have an innate need to dominate pretty much everything around them."

Sexism is wrong, whether it's coming from a man at Hooters or from a woman in the paper. I'd take Erin's concerns about it a lot more seriously if her own biased stereotypes weren't so well displayed.

Brad Pardee
library services
UNL



MATT HANEY/DN

Let freedom ring

In reading your student newspaper, I found an interesting theme spanning a number of the articles and columns which I came across. One of your front-page articles mentions the regulation of picketing outside a Presbyterian church - no less the "regulating" of supposedly "free" expression. "... (I)t is constitutional because it does not outlaw what protesters' signs say - only when, where and how they can be displayed." To me that sounds like a direct violation of "free" expression since it is regulated so heavily. Are we to regulate "when, where and how" students can

assemble peaceably everywhere in America? How about in front of every church? This brings me to the other front-page article about reported party complaints decreasing. In this article, Mr. Funk attests to an "increase in the number of complaints during the last few years" which leads me to believe UNL's regulation of on- or near-campus parties has only pushed an existing problem into someone else's backyard. If students were allowed alcohol in residence halls, which they will find regardless of any policies, then at least parties could be watched over much more freely and students wouldn't have to drive off campus, thus increasing the risk of drinking and driving incidents.

Yet, as I made my way to your opinion pages, I found a very interesting head-to-head pair of columns. I was immediately drawn to the candid nature with which Mr. Cooper argues for First Amendment rights, rights which seem to be less than "free" in Lincoln as I know to be the case here in Massachusetts. Truly, America has lost sight of the pure vision our founding fathers (I guess the term is founding "parents" these days) held for us back in the late 1770s. What is "free" speech or "free" expression if we sue each other for paying simple compliments to a member of the opposite sex or outline, in our "obscure and politically worded" documents, the very nature of how we are to go about our "free" expression? Simple. We can't. Either it's "FREE" or it isn't, and sadly I believe, as does Mr. Cooper, that it isn't. I notice, as I read his column, a peculiar word denoted as "s***." Funny, but it's almost as if you prove his point by this notation and by the very title you have stamped upon the page.

Whether in Nebraska, Massachusetts or the Pacific Coast, I think we have a responsibility to fight for the basic rights our nation's founders granted to us - life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Maybe we at Harvard should look outside of our immediate surroundings for the answer. However, I think you already have it. Hopefully, you will choose to listen.

Montgomery J. Kessler
second year
Harvard Law School

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