

OPINION PAGES

Our VIEW

Second chances

Clinton prepares for his annual address

Tonight President Clinton will issue the first State of the Union address given by a president under trial in the Senate.

The timing could draw hundreds of thousands of viewers who otherwise wouldn't watch a State of the Union address—in fact, between 70 million and 80 million Americans are expected to watch.

Increased public interest in the State of the Union address—however short-lived it may be—could be the only good effect of the Lewinsky affair. Thus, the address should be given.

Some leaders think differently and have called for it to be postponed because of the trial, just as it was postponed when the space shuttle Challenger exploded the morning of the scheduled address in 1986.

Some leaders say they won't attend the speech, including House Republicans Rep. Henry Hyde of Illinois and Rep. Bob Barr of Georgia.

Others said they will go out of respect for the presidency, not the man in office. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, told an ABC News team he would "rather go to the dentist," but he will attend the address.

ABCNews.com also reports the Congressional break-room analogy that Clinton giving the speech tonight is akin to adjourning a trial for a pep rally held by the defendant for his benefit.

Analysts are arguing over how Republicans will respond to the speech. Will they stand? Will they applaud? Could some really boycott?

It's political bickering and media-driven speculation, and it's certainly no reason to postpone the State of the Union address.

Last year, postponing the address was suggested when allegations surfaced that the president had an affair with a former intern. But Clinton faced the nation as scheduled, bearing baggy eyes, praising the country's economic strength and sending a warning to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

This year, a disgraced Clinton also will press on.

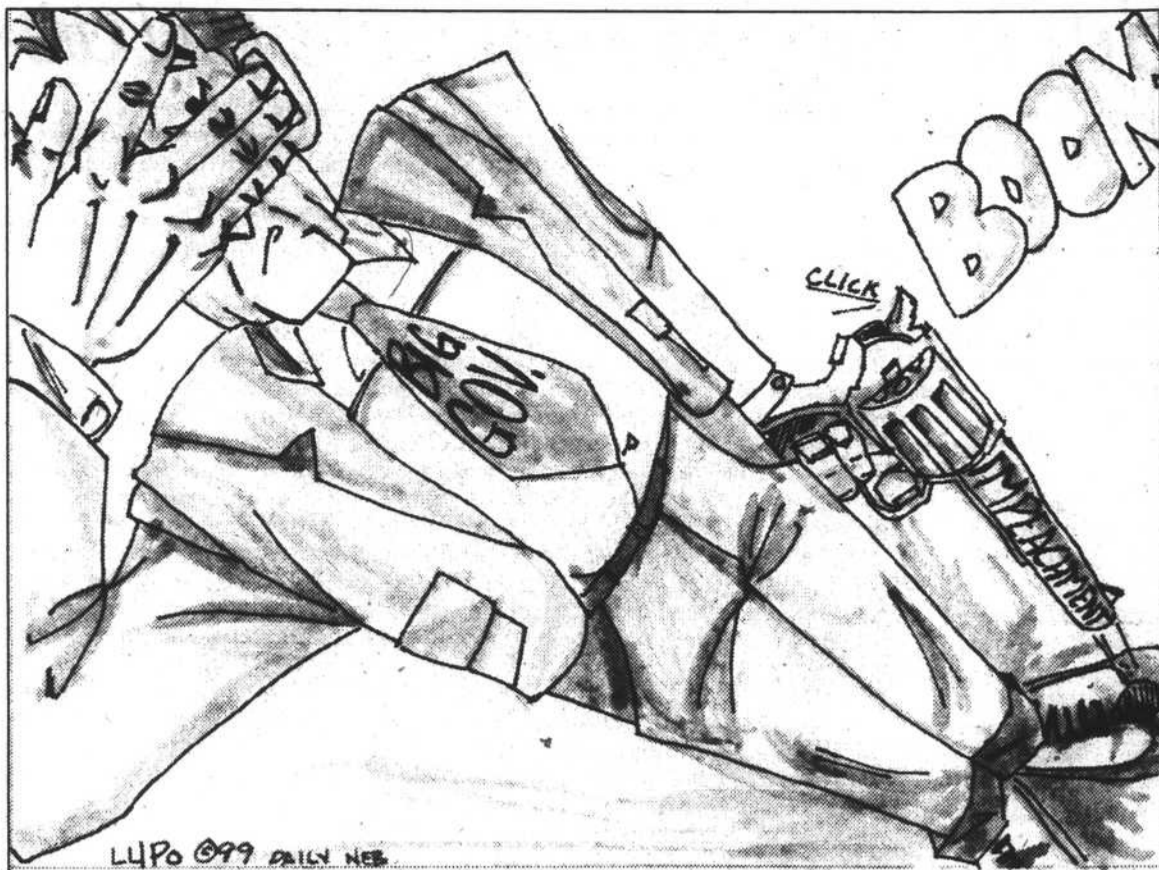
Tomorrow night, he is expected to speak, stressing family and health-care issues. He's expected to propose a tax credit for one-income families with parents who want to stay home to care for their children.

Like last year, he likely will try to rally support outside Congress, rally his party and set a legislative agenda. And, like last year, he will probably forgo mention of the scandal that has stained his political career.

After more than an hour of reciting a speech Clinton has practiced several times in the White House theater, 80 million Americans may remember what he didn't say more than what he did.

But they will have watched, learned and participated. Thus, perhaps some of the harm Clinton has brought upon our country's highest office will have been undone.

Lupo's VIEW



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DN LETTERS

The struggle continues

I'd like to defend, in part, Jessica Flanagan's article. While I don't share all of her viewpoints, I must agree with one of her main points. *Women need to be taken seriously.* We need to be respected and seriously considered for things other than our measurements, our physical appearance, or what pleasures of the mind, eye, or body we can provide to onlookers.

The existence of Hooters alone is not the problem—it symbolizes the state of our society on the whole. Yes, there is sex everywhere, and yes, sexuality is part of the "plan" to ensure survival of our species. However, sexuality does not have to consist solely of a blatant, in-your-face show of flesh. Hooters differs from magazines, movies and the like in that the flesh show is real, not just a far-off fantasy on a page or a screen.

I wonder where imagination has gone. Sensuality, an integral part of sexuality, doesn't require cleavage to be served with the meal. It doesn't require the objectification of women that is obvious in our society. Hooters is a prime example. Getting rid of the establishment will not end the difficulties women face, but speaking out about the attitudes it perpetuates is necessary.

Please don't chastise Jessica or any other woman for being frustrated.

Mindi Schneider
senior horticulture

UNL bordello?

According to Jessica's Flanagan's definition of sexual relations in her column, "Hookers, Inc.," just the simple act of looking at someone is deemed sexual relations. By that rational, I, along with the majority of male students, have had sexual relations with almost every girl on campus. At first I was ecstatic at the idea that I was finally getting some on a regular basis, but then the realizations sunk in.

I'm paying to be here at UNL, so in essence, I'm paying for sexual relations. It's not just me, though—it's all the students who are shoveling out money to go to this bordello.

So I urge all the students to do the right thing and drop out of school

before it's too late. Because after all, the chance for a better life just isn't worth losing some of our dignity over.

Chris Jenkins
sophomore advertising

Madam Solich?

I enjoyed Jessica Flanagan's column. She has a snappy, no-nonsense writing style that leaps off the page.

In her column about Hooters, she defined prostitution as "the sale of bodies." In that case, wouldn't any professional

contributing to the demoralizing of a minor.

Okay, let's calm down now. Jessica is correct. Hooters isn't fooling anybody about what they're really selling. My point is that lots of people sell their bodies, but we don't call it prostitution. We call it sports, modeling, plasma donation or just plain old-fashioned, back-breaking labor. Sometimes it's sexy. Sometimes it's not. But who are we to criticize a waitress at Hooters for taking advantage of her body when we cheer Jackie Joyner-Kersey for doing the same thing?

Curtis Bright
UNL class of 1990

Stop the insanity!

I'm writing in response to Josh Connelly's proposals for the American justice system. The poor, misguided soul is absolutely correct in saying that the justice system is in need of some serious reform, and while the statistics he offered were somewhat out of proportion, his point that very few criminals are apprehended is completely valid. I was with him until he got a little silly and said that "the officer should be allowed to execute the criminal right there on the spot."

That's lovely, Josh, thank you. First thing, I don't know of too many people who would want to see some person get shot in the head right on the street. It would probably be on national TV, because you know the media would find a way to be there. What a good way to bring violence closer to home.

Second thing, I'm not sure that many officers are going to be too keen on just putting a bullet in some person's head. What about mistakes? We are human, right? It's called due process and it's there for a reason. *Because humans aren't perfect.*

The death penalty accomplishes nothing, and it's now proven that after the state executes someone, murder rates increase over a 48-hour period. In Canada they abolished the death penalty; murder rates have dropped 27 percent! Weird, huh? I hate to end on an overused cliché, but it's true that two wrongs don't make a right.

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freshman criminal justice

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