

# OPINION PAGES

## Our VIEW

### East Timor efforts

*U.S. intervention could set dangerous precedent*

Times are changing fast and furious on the face of world politics. The recent crisis in East Timor is a perfect example.

The most recent developments in the crisis have been positive, as the Indonesian government has given allowance for peace-keeping forces to arrive and stay in the nation, which has just voted for independence from Indonesia, a country rife with economic problems.

The East Timor situation is interesting, but so is the reaction of the United States government and, more specifically, President Bill Clinton. Clinton has not pressed nearly as hard for the democratic movement in this situation as he did in Kosovo or even in the current Taiwanese move for independence.

Though we don't applaud his foreign policy much (the recent Puerto Rican clemency comes to mind), Clinton is wise to observe first, then act, if action is called for. If East Timor is any indication, small pockets of people around the world, and especially those in Southeast Asia, will be making similar moves toward wanting their economic and political independence.

We can thank the colonial period of world politics, along with the former Soviet Union's Communist advancements and subsequent U.S. responses for this.

Years of forcing different cultures, religious beliefs and social classes together is taking its toll now. And there are many more "East Timors" out there, many of which rage in the continent of Africa today.

Some critics observe a lackadaisical U.S. attitude that seems to pervade its involvement in Africa. But once Clinton and Co. delve into one country's independence movement, others will fall in line.

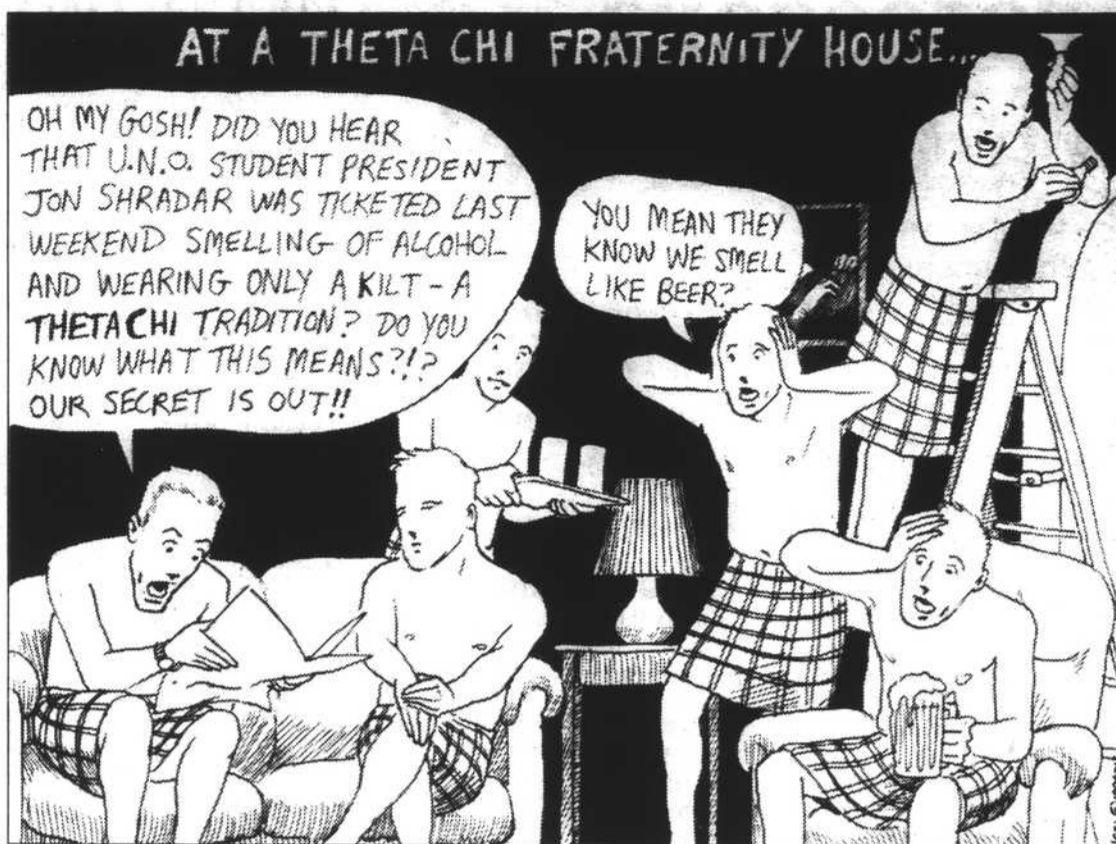
Granted, this nation has always been a champion of democracy and should remain so. But military, or even economic, support can sometimes be shaky. It's wiser to know exactly what one is getting into when intervening in a regional conflict.

Such intervention can cause repercussions, like the recent U.S./China rift, which partly had to do with the continued threat China poses to Taiwan, a country that the U.S. supports. Just recently did Clinton and China's Jiang Zemin reconcile their differences and set up plans to get China into the World Trade Organization. But Clinton still warned China not to make any moves toward Taiwan.

Such a policy can be dangerous. The U.S. will do what it wants, obviously, but East Timor is only the beginning of the burgeoning independence movements around the world, not the end. And we can't solve every single problem.

Eventually, these people must resolve their own misgivings, at least until another world war comes along to change everything back again.

## Obermeyer's VIEW



## DN LETTERS

### Quarter-Back Rebate

To Coach Solich and Nebraska's coaching staff:

Congratulations on your second convincing win of the young season. You appear to have a very talented team on your hands. You also appear to have a quarterback controversy once again.

I don't attest to be a coaching wizard, and this letter is in no way condemning Bobby Newcombe. It is simply my testament that the quarterback of this team is Eric Crouch.

Bobby Newcombe is a rare and exceptional talent, no doubt about it. I truly believe his skills could potentially draw comparison to the likes of Desmond Howard, Rocket Ismail, FSU's current phenom Peter Warrick or even Deion Sanders before him.

These players and a large contingent of college greats don't play quarterback, though many of them did in high school.

How quickly we forget that Mr. Newcombe first dazzled all of us Husker fans while playing wingback and returning punts his freshman year.

The coaching staff still claims he is probably the team's best return man; use that.

Eric Crouch needs to quarterback this team.

Disregarding the last two games even, I believe he has been the most consistent of the two and has been the best influence on the team at the quarterback position.

All facets of the offense seem to run a bit smoother with Crouch. The fact is, Mr. Solich, as Nebraska's head coach you are responsible for figuring out how to get both these extremely talented young men on the field together (with Crouch at flanker I believe you've got the idea backwards, though it was a great play) and give the BIG RED MACHINE an explosive offense

once again.

William Bowen  
alumnus  
San Diego

### Bikers who Break the Rules

If I see one more bicyclist run a red light or go whizzing between cars in downtown Lincoln, I may just scream!

As an off-campus student, I rely on my bike to get me to and from classes and, as a result, have spent a fair amount of time on the road.

I can tell you about countless near-misses with all sorts of four-wheeled vehicles, so I know firsthand how dangerous the streets of Lincoln can be.

At some point, I came to the conclusion that I had three choices: don't bike anymore, whine about it or cinch up my helmet a little tighter and take a proactive stance.

I chose the last one, and so it makes me extremely angry to see half-brained dimwits buzzing through downtown on their way to campus ignoring every rule of the road.

Whenever I'm on my bike, I intentionally try to set a good example of what a bicyclist is in an attempt to demonstrate to the world that commuter cycling is a legitimate form of transportation.

So when you're on your bike and you run red lights, swerve in and out of traffic and don't stop for stop signs, look around and notice the number of people who witnessed your actions.

You have now set the biking community back that many "steps." You say you aren't part of what I am referring to as a biking community. I'm sorry, but every time you get on your bicycle, you join our ranks.

If you don't want to, then get off your bike and do us all a favor. We

will never be taken seriously by those in power (i.e., the car culture) as long as we have bikers who bend and break the rules.

To those of you participating in the Critical Mass rally on Friday, I ask that when you take to the streets you remember that you are representing a group much larger than just those around you.

Your actions will speak louder than words to those who witness them. Help break the negative stereotypes some people hold about cyclists.

And to those of you who drive cars ... share the roads, damn it!

Tony White  
third year  
environmental studies

### Fast Forward to February

I am a student with a green parking permit and have experienced first-hand missed classes because of a lack of parking spots.

For five years now, I have read letters from people whose only solution to the parking problems on City Campus is to ride a bike.

How intelligent do we have to be to realize how absurd this solution is? Sure, right now it's a sunny 75 degrees. Perfect weather.

Let's fast-forward to January: 40-below wind-chill, ice, snow, wind - ahh, Nebraska. So, please explain to me how I am supposed to ride my bike from south of Old Cheney (where I live, 20 minutes to drive to campus) in January in Nebraska.

Not everyone lives a block away from campus, and not everyone can take the bus (impossible in south Lincoln) or ride a bike. How about we fix the real problems instead?

Grace Lasker  
graduate  
plant breeding & genetics

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## P.S. Write Back



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