

OPINION PAGES

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Our
VIEW

Unrealistic blame

Hazing case sets dangerous precedent

Almost six years ago to the day, a UNL student was hazed. He was forced to drink an obscene amount of whiskey and brandy.

Jeffrey Knoll was kidnapped and handcuffed to a toilet. The Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity pledge fell out of a third-floor fraternity window trying to escape.

It shouldn't have happened.

But on Friday, our state's highest court ruled that he can sue the university for negligence, setting a bad precedent.

"The university cannot be responsible for each night of drinking that could go wrong, nor do we want it to."

The Nebraska Supreme Court cleared the way for a legal battle that could in the end make it a lot harder and a lot more expensive for the university if it doesn't

keep a constant eye on students.

The university cannot be responsible for each night of drinking that could go wrong, nor do we want it to.

It can't be responsible for each activity on campus that could have the potential for stupid people to do stupid things.

On that night in 1993, Knoll suffered severe head injuries when he fell from the window as he tried to escape. It wasn't his fault.

But the issue isn't the horrendous act of hazing that night, binge drinking or even the greek system.

The issue is making the university responsible for too much — for an arena that is just too large.

Furthermore, making the university partially responsible for the actions of all of its students and their organizations takes away personal responsibility from students.

Knoll and the National Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity settled a suit outside of court.

The blame should have stopped there.

Obermeyer's
VIEW



DN
LETTERS

Lower 48

J.J. Harder: Not all Canadians want to be Americans (DN, Wednesday).

As one of 20 or so Canadians attending UNL, I would like to take it upon myself to say that your column contains several errors, misconceptions and even a few ignorant statements.

While I understand that it was meant to be satirical, if you would like to have a real discussion about the arguments you have presented, please feel free to e-mail me, and we can ... discuss it.

Joseph Hlady
graduate student
geography

Directions To-do

We at NU Directions feel Thursday's editorial offers a perfect opportunity to start a dialogue about a growing misperception by your editorial staff and many NU students placing all alcohol policy into the "prohibitionist" category.

Though we weren't responsible for the policy decision by sorority presidents, we do know that it does allow for alcohol to be served at any and every pre-game function provided that the sorority (or any other host group) uses a third-party vendor.

Third-party vendors are a great way to have your cake and eat it, too — they allow alcohol to be present but don't leave the host group liable for problems due to underage service or acute intoxication.

We hope there can be room for some middle ground when talking about alcohol here at NU — and that students don't jump to the conclusion that projects like NU Directions or decisions like that made by the sorority presidents are prohibitionist. They aren't designed to be.

Tom Workman
NU Directions

Kneel before Obermeyer

As an avid reader of the DN, both in print and online, the first place I go is to Obermeyer's View.

I find his cartoons to be on the mark 99 percent of the time. They make us think about issues that are sometimes too outrageous to view any other way.

After all, the purpose of satire is to examine life through different eyes, and I find that Neal's glasses are crystal clear. Keep us laughing at the absurdities, Neal!

Ron Baker
class of '73

Value of a Dollar

Human life has never been valuable (DN, Thursday).

At the present 6 billion mark, human life is as valueless as ever — with the exception of maybe the Roman Empire.

If people want to abort their mistakes, more power to them. That's one less unwanted kid sticking a gun in my face, asking for my wallet.

To understand how an animal may be considered more valuable than a human, one need only watch "Lassie" while sitting a table away from loud frat monkeys talking about the new SUV Daddy bought them and which sorority sister they're going to inebriate and screw.

Oh yeah, I could make that decision in a heartbeat. Lassie, stay ...

Ah-ah-ah, not so fast Mr. Frat Monkey.

Todd McCoy
senior
theater and advertising

Someone Sucks

I feel the decision to go ahead and use student fees to support other papers (DN, Oct. 26) would give the Daily Nebraskan a much needed wake-up call in its efforts in putting out quality columns.

No one wants to open up a paper and find sappy columns about Trevor Johnson's difficulties with his girlfriend.

Karen Brown's "K.B. Masterpiece" has taken the DN to a whole new level (it ain't up) and really makes me question what the hell is going on over there in the DN.

Columns like those written by

Jessica Flanagan and J.J. Harder are issues that society needs to focus on. Even though one may disagree with their points of view, the controversy these articles spark are the very reasons we need to keep talking about them.

If the DN maintains its current publication of such senseless material, I will gladly vote for the addition of other newspapers in the residence halls.

Only then will the DN realize that the quality of its paper really does suck.

Dominic Pechota
senior
English

Male Bonding

First of all, I would just like to say that Josh Moening's column about male wussification was the best column the DN has published in a long time.

Believe it or not, wussification is real, and it is most evident in the recent violence we have seen in this generation's youth.

Back in a better day, if you had a problem with another man that couldn't easily be solved, you kicked his ass or got yours kicked trying. That was the end of the conflict, and both men lived to see another day.

Today, you see young kids shooting each other over things as petty as bumping into each other in the hall. Why, you ask? Because kids today are scared to take an ass whoopin'.

They hide behind guns because they have no respect for their fellow men or themselves.

I can hear some of you now: "How can physical confrontation solve your interpersonal problems?"

Well, the reason that most men keep the same set of friends for long periods of time is because they know how to express their anger frequently and effectively. Sometimes this leads to a brawl, but if the contestants are friends, you will probably see them sharing a drink 15 minutes later.

Chad Kamler
junior
electrical engineering

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