



THE NATIONAL COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

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U. is published eight times a year by The American Collegiate Network, 3110 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405. (213) 450-2921. Copyright 1989. All rights reserved. Subscriptions: \$18.



COMMENT AND OPINION



BRIAN SHELLITO, DAILY NEBRASKAN, U. OF NEBRASKA, LINCOLN

Sometimes you've just got to break the rules

By Allison Glock
■ Indiana Daily Student
Indiana U.

This column is addressed to a few of my new, very special friends. You know who you are. The very special people who make my life a living hell.

You are the rule-followers.

You are the people who are Republican because your parents are. The people who insist on driving the speed limit even at two in the morning when no one else is on the road. The people who read the required chapters before the lecture. The people who actually observe dorm quiet hours. The people who voted for George Bush.

Now, by themselves, these idiosyncrasies are tolerable (the last one not included). After all, it is your life. It is when these idiosyncrasies interfere with the lives of people who are not rule-following bozos that it gets ugly.

Take, for example, the employees of virtually any college admissions office. These people hate college students. They work in an admissions office so they can torture college students. How do they do it? Easy. They follow the rules.

"Hello, this is the admissions office."

"Yes, I received a letter that said you didn't have my transcripts, but I'm sure I sent them."

"Were they official?"

"Of course they were official. They were notarized and everything."

"But, (pregnant pause), were they in envelopes?"

"Envelopes? Well, no, but they were tamper-proof. If you will just look at the document."

"So you're saying they were not in an envelope?"

"No. But . . ."

"Then they are not official."

"But now my whole application will be delayed. I may not even make the deadline. I may not get accepted. How can you do this to me?"

"It's not my problem young lady. I'M JUST FOLLOWING THE RULES." Click. Dial tone. Primal scream.

Every day — every single day these toadys make life difficult for normal,

well-adjusted folk like you and me. Take your average hormonally imbalanced bar bouncer. You present your out-of-state I.D. You smile, because you are 21.

"This is expired."

"No, there is an extension sticker on the back."

"It ain't under the plastic."

"It's issued by the state police through the mail. You see, I'm from out of town and that's the only way I can extend the date."

"I don't care if you're from friggin' North Island Jamaica World or some-thing, it ain't under the plastic."

"Listen, I come here all the time. If you'll just read the sticker."

"I ain't gonna read it 'cause it ain't under the plastic. Listen sugar, I'M JUST FOLLOWING THE RULES."

Shove. Slam. Primal scream.

Every day. The question is — how do we get rid of them? Can we designate a certain island somewhere off the Gulf Coast for them to live? A colony of driver's license bureau workers and telephone operators. A tiny place, where those with tiny minds can sleep eight hours a day, have 2.3 children, subscribe to *USA Today* and eat oat bran.

Think of the possibilities. George Bush could rule the Isle O' Mindless Obedience. His recent decision not to extend the visas of Chinese students proves he is perfect for the job. So what if, upon their return to the homeland, they will most likely be brutally murdered. When your visa is up, you go home, that's the rule.

George likes to follow the rules. George also likes to make the rules. FOR ALL OF US.

If not the Isle O' Mindless Obedience, then what? We could round up the little lick-spittles and force them to experience life. We could wean them from bologna and cheese, make them watch R-rated movies, stay out late. . . .

But these tactics take time and effort — time and effort these namby-pambys don't deserve.

Something must be done. If not, I fear the end is near. The day will dawn when we will all be following the rules.

Primal scream.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Society faulty, not SATs

To the Editor:

"Girls do better in high school and college, yet score lower on the SAT." (February 1990) It's no surprise that feminists conclude from this that the SAT is biased against women. A basic tenet of feminist argument is: Any difference between men and women that favors men is due to bias against women, but any difference that favors women is due to the natural superiority of women.

This premise is one-sided. To balance it we would have to argue its opposite. Any difference that favors women is due to bias against men, but any difference that favors men is due to the natural superiority of men. If that sounds more ridiculous to you, it's because you've been hearing so much feminist propaganda that you've come to believe it.

Otherwise, the headline might read "Critics say grade bias costs men jobs, scholarships." Our schools are full of teachers who are frankly sexist, admitting openly that they just don't like boys. People who don't like boys should not be teaching them.

What needs to be reformed? Not the SAT, but rather our gullible acceptance of biased feminist propaganda.

Elbert D. Porter,
graduate student, U. of Colorado

Remember Rosa Parks

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the February 1990 letter to the editor titled "Boycotts don't help."

Ngeng Hia Phua holds Neanderthal beliefs, thinking nothing can be resolved by boycotting. Maybe he should review some history books of when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Ala., was subsequently arrested and became the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement."

Perhaps the South Africans are as tired as the African-Americans were 25 years ago and are willing to sacrifice now to get what's needed in the future. The long-term goal is much more rewarding and worth the short-term agony one must go through to get what's believed in.

I encourage Ngeng Hia Phua to do more research before screaming out that it doesn't work. As I write this letter, Nelson Mandela is now free and many other positive things are happening in South Africa.

Keith L. Swann, sophomore
U. of Maryland, College Park



STUDENT
OPINION POLL

1-800-662-5511

Should your student fees
be used to fund
gay and lesbian groups?
Tell us what you think.

Responses to Spring Break U. Poll

In the Spring Break issue, we asked readers what they would do if an instructor inserted his opinions in lectures without qualifying the statements. Half the students said they would discuss it with the professor, 32 percent said they would do nothing, and 13 percent would complain to the instructor's supervisor. Only 5 percent said they would actually drop the class.