



# letters to the editor

As Mike Hammer aptly points out in his letter, April 16, energy policy should not be strictly in the purview of the politician. But neither should it be strictly in the hands of the engineering "expert." Mr. Hammer assumes that our society must have more and more large generation facilities. This puts society as a whole at the mercy of the centralized military industrial-governmental complex. The road to energy independence for this nation is the road to energy independence, from the energy conglomerate for the individual citizen.

Richard Sutton  
Assistant professor  
Horticulture

## Engineering ethics

In a recent editorial, Mike Hammer states that thermal pollution is a by-product of all power plants. What he neglects to say is that thermal pollution from a solar plant is insignificant. Sunlight is transformed into heat whether it strikes a solar collector or not.

Unfortunately, pollution from a nuclear plant is of great significance. No mention is made that nuclear production shares the same impact as was stressed for coal production. Strip mining, toxic by-products and degradation of the environment are common characteristics of both. Even if it was economically feasible, only some nuclear wastes can be reprocessed. As to the remaining portion of wastes, there is no acceptable means of disposal.

Mike notes that ten square miles of land must be used for the mirrors of a 1,000 megawatt solar plant. Yet he makes no note of the land consumed by uranium strip mines and obsolete nuclear plants. Nor does he note that people can safely live much closer to these mirrors than to uranium tailing or nuclear plants.

Nuclear power with all its shortcomings is supposedly an economic necessity. Yet the price of a wind energy system is competitive with the price of additional nuclear power in Nebraska. Once built, renewable energy systems can operate for years with maintenance the sole additional cost. In addition, materials can easily be recycled when obsolete, a claim that cannot be made of nuclear plants.

Mike remarks that "conservation... and alternative fuel sources will not replace nuclear plants." This seems to suggest a serious dependency upon nuclear power. Yet nuclear power plants supply only 12 percent of our nation's electrical consumption or 3 percent of our total energy consumption.

The problem of energy lies not with the production of electricity but with replacement of non-renewable fossil fuels for transportation and heat generation. Renewable energy sources can be adapted more efficiently to perform needed tasks than can nuclear power.

Mr. Hammer questions the faith placed in the opinion of politicians. By the same token, should we trust those experts who are presidents of utility companies or manufacturers of reactors. Trust is a difficult quality to acquire when so much money and so many careers depend on the continuation of nuclear power. We should trust ourselves and respect some of the experts.

In our technological society, engineers and scientists should, and rightly so, take credit for their accomplishments. Yet if they receive credit, they must also be held responsible for exposing the drawbacks of the technology they create. We are humans first, engineers second, and thus have moral obligations which supersede any technical obligations.

Eugene Iacone  
Graduate Student  
Mech. Engineering

Larry Hassebrook  
Senior  
Electrical Engineering

Jeffrey V. Lindstrom  
Senior  
Mech. Engineering

Darryl Boyd  
Senior  
Urban Studies

## Draft alternative

Historically, our country has demobilized during periods of no war, guarding against the dangers to democracy posed by a perpetual standing army and allowing people and resources to be devoted to other needs on the human agenda. With the advent of nuclear weapons allowing zero lead time, this strong American tradition has been violated and we remain constantly mobilized, throwing valuable resources into an arms race. Carter's proposed allotment of income tax dollars for next year would give 46 percent to the military. (When the administration says military spending is 23 percent, it is counting in the expenditure of trust funds such as Social Security, a ruse introduced by Nixon.)

In this situation, our responsibility to the young people of this nation is not to require national service to build loyalty and trust in the government, as Rep. John Cavanaugh would have us believe. Our responsibility is to turn our attention to the intricacies of disarmament and the establishment of peaceful means of settling international disputes; to free ourselves and the world of the oppression of a nuclear presence. This will take many years, and what we as a nation should be asking of young people is their fresh commitment and new insights in the difficult tasks.

The military draft aspect of a new National Service Program at worst would promote war and at best would tie up more lives and money in inflationary "defense" spending. The alternate service option could be an opport-

unity for creative development of talents, but would more likely be a down-played, uninspiring subsistence pay, drudgework choice.

Young people have much more to offer than this and deserve a much better opportunity.

Marian Todd

## Student Court complaint

"What we have here, Associates, is simply another isolated case of student concern and this student should not have any reason to believe that he has a personal stake in the outcome or process of this issue. It is so ordered. . . ." A familiar scenario in which the student voice falls upon deaf ears; obviously another NU Board of Regents' meeting. But there is a difference in this scenario, a difference much more dire in its implications. Because this time it is not the regents who have ignored the students, but a branch of our own student government—the judicial branch known as Student Court.

In the past month two students have brought suits before the courts on matters of concern which affect all students; specifically, who our elected representatives are and how they are chosen. The merits of the cases brought by Bob Gleason and Ben Shomshor will never be known because the court, in all its wisdom, declared that these concerned students have no stake in the way student government is run on this campus and, therefore, they had no standing to sue in Student Court. With premature visions of a possible Law Review presidency dancing in their heads, the members of the court have effectively ignored the rights of students to check the functioning of the association of which they are all members—blatantly rejecting Article III of the ASUN Constitution. What the court is mandating is that each one of us need not bother to vote because we have no stake in the current election.

Chief Justice Cassel has succeeded in creating a legalistic quagmire in which the often indecipherable nuances and vagaries of the law swamp the typical student unschooled in such a field. This court no longer belongs to the students for whom it was intended, but has become a legal playground where the chief justice and his associates play a judicial God-gave with the rights of students on this campus.

Some form of action must be taken with respect to judicial reform. Whereas impeachment proceedings would further undermine the credibility of student government in this election. I would urge the members of next year's court to consider the ramifications of recent actions and further, I would urge the members of the new senate to seriously consider the possibility of legislating judicial reform perhaps reconsidering the "need" for a law student

to serve as chief justice.

It is indeed a dark hour for students on this campus when the time has come that they have no recourse to check the actions of student government. Injustice rather than justice is served by holding students to the same complex legal standard found in higher courts. The purpose of the student court is to serve the students, its functions should be made indicative of its name. . .

Brad Belt  
Senator

**College night**  
Thursday April 19th  
7pm-10pm  
**\$5 CUTS & \$7.50 STYLES**  
**HEADS TOGETHER 17th & "R"**

Men - Women  
**OPPORTUNITY!**  
Take a break today you'll be glad you took for the rest of your life. Meet with a special selection team from the Department of the Army.  
The team will be in Lincoln for four days only at the Clayton House, 10th & "O" Streets.  
Wednesday, April 25 - 10am-8pm  
Thursday, April 26 - 10am-8pm  
Friday, April 27 - 10am-8pm  
Saturday, April 28 - 9am-Noon  
Explore with these specialists new worlds to conquer. Skill training, educational opportunities. Officer and nurse programs. Cash bonuses. One of the best benefit programs around.  
The team also will have a NCR 260 computer request terminal, linked into a worldwide Army job/training system. With it, they'll show you how an applicant is match with the right job and training provided he/she qualifies.  
Call Now for an Appointment  
483-2221  
**JOIN THE PEOPLE WHO'VE JOINED THE ARMY**  
An equal opportunity employer.

**Use carpool**  
**HOTLINE**  
2-3555  
to share the ride!

**\$19.95**   
Coupon Good thru April 28th  
**LENS OR FRAME SALE**  
All lenses and all frames on sale for only \$19.95. Take your choice and pick any style from our enormous collection of fashion eyewear for the low price of only \$19.95. Pick any type of lenses; in any prescription such as photograys, photo-suns, plastic half-weights, tinted or even oversized fashion lenses.  
**The Optical Shop**  
333 No. 12th St. 477-9347 Mon.-Fri. 10-5 pm Thurs til 8 pm Sat. 10-1 pm

Take your choice and apply this coupon towards the lenses or the frame. In either case you will be getting the biggest bargain in eyewear history. This coupon is applicable only when ordering a complete pair of glasses (lenses and frames). We can copy your eyeglass prescription from your present glasses, or make them according to your doctors prescription.  
Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Offer good only at time of order. This may not be used in conjunction with any other offer at The Optical Shop.