

opinion/**editorial**

Constitutional abortion ban is improper

A constitutional amendment to ban abortion?

The Moral Majority wants one, the Republican Party wants one, Sen. Strom Thurmond, the new Senate Judiciary Committee chairman, wants one, Ronald Reagan has promised to push for one and the National Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops now says it wants one as early as possible.

The Daily Nebraskan's position on abortion this semester has been decidedly pro-choice. However, we do not wish to oppose the constitutional amendment plan on the basis of our abortion views.

Rather, we think the idea lacks merit because of our views of what

the constitution was designed to be: A framework for government, establishing and limiting the powers of the government created therein.

The right-to-life position is based on a very simple, straight-forward argument. A fetus is a human life, therefore it is murder to abort a fetus.

If it is appropriate to place a ban on abortion in the United States Constitution, why then is there no constitutional ban on murder? Or rape? Or robbery?

It seems fairly clear the nation's founders did not intend to codify a judicial code with which to clutter up the document intended to set a

framework for government and government powers.

This society is full of real and imagined evils, but the constitution is not designed to solve them. It is intended to set up the machinery that solves them, and to refine that machinery when it is necessary.

It is for that reason that the constitution does not list the 10 (or 100) commandments of right living in the United States. State legislatures are there for that purpose.

Certainly, murder, robbery and rape should be illegal in every corner of America. To ensure that, should we pass a constitutional amendment banning those violent crimes? Or should we just leave it to the states?

Those who oppose abortion, if they want a federal policy outlawing the act, could approach Congress requesting a law making it illegal to cross state lines to obtain an abortion.

But they should not clutter the framework of our government with their morals. They should not weigh down the constitution with something that doesn't belong there.

If our argument is in error, then we call for constitutional amendments to ban murder, rape, robbery, burglary, bribery, blackmail, heroin sales, double parking and whatever else tickles your fancy as being a wrongful crime against society.

Eat, drink and be stuffed; midnight hunger conquered

BOSTON—In my long career as a lunch eater, I have been flanked by thin coconut-cream pie eaters and fat carrot-stick munchers. I have heard underweight people tell me they can eat anything they want to and overweight people swear that they hardly eat a thing.

I confess here that I have not always believed them.

goodman

The way I figured it, the thin people probably skipped things. . . like supper. They probably stopped eating when they were full. Kinky stuff like that.

As for the chubbies, I assumed that they kept Hershey Bars in their sock drawer and didn't count anything they ate between meals. . . even the meals.

But now scientists have proved that Mother Nature has played yet another nasty little trick on us. Some people can eat whipped cream and look like whippets. Others can eat modestly and look mountainous.

Lurking in the blood cells of each innocent newborn is the real villain of the weight-watching world, something known as ATPase. According to the latest study coming out of a group of Harvard-affiliated hospitals in Boston, there is this biochemical base to weight.

This is, of course, the ultimate proof that life isn't fair. If you have a lot of

ATPase, you are going to burn more calories—so you can eat more. If you have a little, you will use up fewer calories and add on more fat.

The good news here is that maybe people will stop judging self-worth by the pound. Some of us apparently have no more control over our weight than our height.

The bad news is that you can't go out and buy a pack of ATPase. Yet.

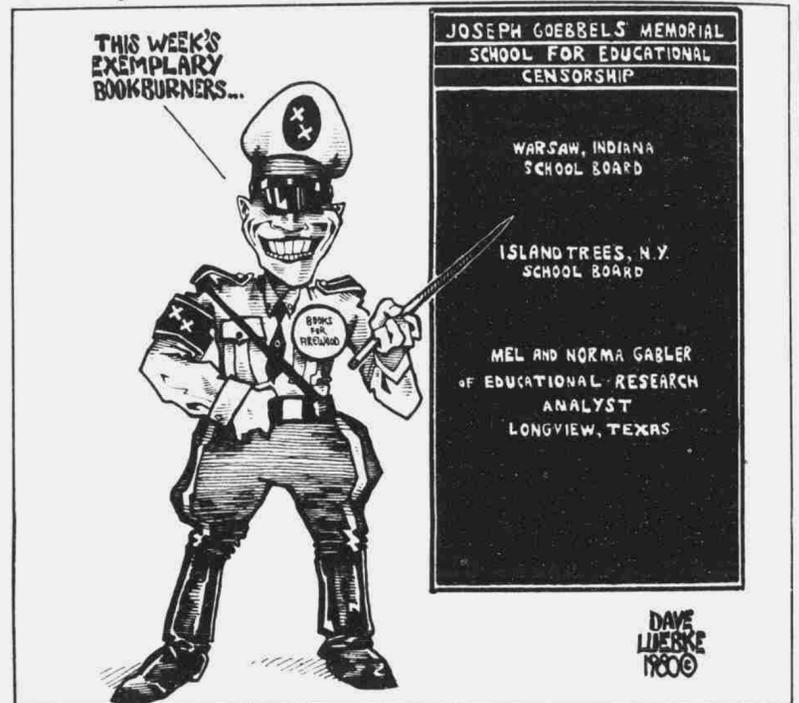
There is room for fantasy. After all, the real growth industry of the decade has been loss-weight loss. Anybody who can get a patent on this stuff could make a fortune.

If I were a king or president of Harvard University, I'd drop all those plans to go into the business of DNA development and start talking ATP.

The sales possibilities here are endless. Every Monday, millions of Americans are eager to burn up the weekend bloat-over. Every day millions more are starting the eternal 10-pound crash diet. The ATPase tablet could replace everything from the Scarsdale to saeccharin.

Few of us, I know, actually suffer from a loss of ATPase. I myself have a different sort of biochemical problem. I was born with a defect in my genetic makeup that forces me, entirely against my will, to keep moving my hand toward my mouth. My hand is rarely empty.

Also, from time to time, a metabolic switch in my brain is turned on which can only be satisfied with a bag of chocolate-



covered wintergreens. A friend of mine has a similar problem, a deep chemical response to the sight of a full plate. He is compelled to empty it.

But the discovery of this wonder ingredient gives hope to the hopeless.

The drug companies, which have brought us all kinds of goodies, are surely inventive enough to develop a blue pill that would burn off cheesecake, and a red one to gobble up a banana split. Someone will produce a main-line injection right smack into the old blood cells to work off a regu-

lar six-course pig-out.

I could envision television ads with cartoon ATPase creatures gobbling up human hips. Billboards across America will boast, "Eat, Drink And Be Thin." The Anti-Exercise Institute will instruct: Let Enzymes Do The Jogging.

At last there is promise from the wonderful world of science. Today, eat your heart out. Tomorrow, eat to your heart's desire.

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Following the insurrection of the oppressed masses of Iran, and the downfall of the hated regime of the Shah, the reactionary regime of Iraq found that there existed an

appropriate situation for its expansion into the Persian Gulf. Since then, it has been preparing itself for military actions against Iran.

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The downfall of the Shah's regime, which was the imperialists' gendarme in the region, has created a situation which has encouraged the reactionary Ba'athist regime of Iraq to consider undertaking expansions and becoming the main power in the region of the Persian Gulf and the sea of Oman. The Ba'athist regime has claimed that some Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf are in fact Iraqi territories, and has waged a war of propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The foreign policy objectives of Iraq are to extend its land and sea borders by occupying the above-mentioned islands in the Persian Gulf, and to become the unrivaled military power to which the small countries of the region will accede.

The domestic policies of Iraq have revealed its reactionary and counter-revolutionary nature. It has harassed and massacred revolutionaries, released unbridled suppression on the workers and toiling masses of Iraq and has shed the blood of the Kurdish people of Iraq, who are waging a just struggle.

The goal of these domestic policies has been to suppress the popular movement in Iraq. Iraq's military intervention into Iran is in fact a continuation of a policy which does not benefit Iraq but in practice is in the service of world imperialism.

It is the duty of progressive Iraqi people to condemn the military intervention of Iran and the anti-popular policies of the Ba'athist government of Iraq.

Approximately 19 months have now passed since the bloody and heroic victory of the people and the downfall of the Shah's regime. Our poor and toiling masses are still living in the worst conditions. The economic crisis, poverty, lack of housing, unemployment and high prices and are all threatening to destroy the lives and existence of the toiling masses.

The ruling system, in spite of its continuing statements of promises, has not been able to improve the living conditions of the working class, the peasants and the toiling masses of our country. The Islamic Republic's policy toward the oppressed nationalities of Iran (i.e., Kurdish, Turkamans . . .) has been a policy of confrontation and suppression rather than accommodation of their basic demands.

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to the editor