

opinion/editorial

Smokeout is good time to lay the habit aside

Today is the Great American Smokeout, the 24-hour period during which nicotine addicts are urged to lay their habit aside.

We think the smokeout is a good idea. Surveys show that most smokers would like to quit, and providing an incentive to try it for one day might be all some smokers need to really give quitting a try.

Tuesday the president of the National American Cancer Society was in Lincoln. His message about smoking was fairly logical—that the elimination of cigarettes would be a giant step toward decreasing the cancer rate.

That's obvious. Smokers can feel and taste what cigarettes do to their bodies, and everyone can see what it does to the air.

The very least that smokers can gain from giving up cigarettes today is the great feeling of not being nagged by a single anti-smoker all day. Or, smokers won't have to worry about getting caught with a cigarette on an elevator. Tonight would be a good night for non-smoking smokers to visit a nice restaurant. When the host or hostess asks "Smoking or non-smoking," the temporary non-smoker can say, indignantly, "Non-smoking, of course."

And for one day, smokers can feel the freedom of not having to carry matches, and can enjoy the full rights of citizenship.

Departing from the first rule of journalistic writing for a second, it should be pointed out that the author of this editorial is a smoker.

For that reason, I depart from third person voice briefly.

I quit last year during the smokeout. It was kinda fun, and not as difficult as I expected. I'll try again today, mostly because I'm one of those people who needs social pressure to give up bad habits.

Also, I'll be able to look down my nose at those who dare to pollute their lungs and my clean air on this hallowed day. I'll keep taking deep breaths, imagining that the air feels cleaner, and I'll chew my food longer, imagining it tastes better.

There are some myths about giving up cigarettes, even for one day. Your love life does not improve radically and suddenly. The world does not look cleaner. The temptation does not go away, but you do

not lose your motor control.

There also are myths about things that will help you quit.

Bubble gum, for example, does not help. It rots your teeth and makes your jaws hurt and tends to contribute to bad breath. Sunflower seeds do not help. You get the shells stuck between your teeth, you need an ashtray twice as big as the one you use for cigarettes and you lose all of your friends.

Nobody wants to go into a restaurant and sit across from a sunflower seed muncher.

Actually, the only way to quit smoking is to want to quit smoking. The smokeout provides that for some people. We hope that if you are one of them that the day of abstinence helps you quit for good.

Illegal parker calls for help

They took my car away. Not for falling behind on the payments or because the cops suspected I had dope stashed in it. They took it away because I was parked on 10th Street between 4 and 6 p.m.

It sounds trivial to me that the cops would have to haul away something worth . . . well, more than my blue jeans anyway, because I was parked on 10th Street between 4 and 6 in the afternoon.

val swinton

Maybe I made the meter maid angry because I parked under a sign that read "No parking between 4 and 6 p.m." Maybe she thought I was flaunting some sort of authority, so she called in the tow truck.

I don't know. All I know is that when I went out Thursday afternoon, with the cold wind blowing and the snow falling, my car was gone. At first, and I admit this, I was elated. I thought that some idiot stole that hunk-of-junk and with any luck, wrapped it around a telephone pole. That way, at least, I could take the insurance money and buy one that runs.

You can imagine my dismay when I called the cops and they informed me that I was out of insurance check, but I'd

actually have to pay to get it out of hock. That really stinks.

And the cops saved their dirtiest trick until the end. After I bothered a friend to drive me over to West P Street, and after I paid my 22 bucks, and after I trudged through a muddy parking lot, there, on the stupid windshield, was a parking ticket. A stupid parking ticket! I never realized how clever the people at City Hall are. They'd put a pickpocket to shame.

And there's something wrong with a system that tries to rehabilitate drug addicts and alcoholics, yet does nothing for the chronic illegal parkers.

Oh yes. There are several of us out there. I'm an acute 10th Street parker myself. I park on 10th Street even when I go shopping at Gateway Mall. I can't kick the habit, yet I don't see anyone coming up to me and offering some sort of rehabilitation. I'm out in the world alone. Even my wife doesn't understand.

And I know a young woman who was nearly hauled into court for having so many parking tickets. Well, actually because she hadn't paid them. But that's another symptom. And I didn't see any shrinks asking her to recall her unfortunate childhood so they could figure out



where she went wrong.

We shouldn't have to live in a system that allows meter maids to play dirty tricks like sticking parking tickets on cars that are being towed away and then

refuses to help those of us who can't help ourselves.

And now that I've brought this ugly blemish on society out in the open, I expect Ronald Reagan to fix it.

Letters to the editor

Concerning the recent "silver bullet hunt" sponsored by Coors Light and the Daily Nebraskan. It was understood by the student body that the bullet was to be placed somewhere conspicuous on campus four weeks ago, and whomever found it would receive a prize of \$200.

After the first clue was released, many students includ-

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ing ourselves concluded that through process of elimination that it must have been located in the Sheldon Sculpture Garden. We searched on and around every statue, but only to find nothing. After much frustration - we gave up. As the clues continued to be exposed, they still added up to one location. The Sculpture Garden. Again we searched, but the bullet was nowhere to be found.

1. Isn't it possible that the bullet was not in fact hidden until a later date because of ulterior motives related to prolonged advertising?

2. If point number one is a feasible possibility, one could logically take it one step further. However profitable a scheme like this one would be, not only for the Daily Nebraskan but also for Coors Light, it would nevertheless be considered unfair, unethical, not to mention totally unprofessional. In addition to this, it would do anything but help the Daily Nebraskan's credibility which they are supposedly trying so hard to restore after the Rocky Strunk incident last Spring.

3. If this theory is in fact true, the student body would expect and deserve an explanation from the Daily Nebraskan and Coors Light rectifying the situation. It may not be easier but it is definitely appropriate to swallow one's pride than deceive one's patrons.

Laura Shestak
Accounting

Bernadette Bedrar
Business Management

Karen Borchman
Life Sciences

Breck Wilson
Construction Management

Bob Stine
Life Sciences

Editor's Note: The Daily Nebraskan and Coors want to assure the campus community that the Silver Bullet Contest was legitimate. The bullet was hidden the evening before the first clue appeared. The very nature of the contest requires that it be difficult to find the bullet. We regret that some attempts to find the bullet apparently were unsuccessful, but the bullet was found, proving the contest was not unfairly difficult. Coors is a regular Daily Nebraskan advertiser, and therefore neither Coors nor the Daily Nebraskan had anything to gain from prolonging the contest.

Space ventures needed

Kathy Chenault's concern for our economy is commendable. Your logic in refuting man's venture into space (Nov. 10) at this moment is not!

The total federal budget outlays for fiscal year 1980 are estimated at \$564 billion. Of that, \$127 billion, or 23 percent, went to the Department of Defense, \$217 billion, or 37 percent, went to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education (formerly HEW). NASA received approximately \$5.01 billion which, in terms of inflationary dollars is less taxpayer support than it had a decade ago. The Department of Defense spends the equivalent of NASA's budget every 14 days, while the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education spends it every seven days. Where is the money going?

In 1975, Mathematica, Inc., traced four specific examples of the second application of NASA technology. The four examples were integrated circuits, cryogenic multi-layer insulating materials (first developed for

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