

Nuclear weapons, power dangerous at any stage

I'm writing in response to Bryon Bakenhus' Dec. 1 letter to the editor that suggests that the difference between nuclear weapons and nuclear power lies only in their purpose.

The hazards and similarities of the nuclear cycle, be it in weapons production or the generation of electrical power, are very dangerous at every stage of production.

The mining and milling of uranium has inflicted more lung cancer to mine workers than a century of coal mining and black lung disease. The reprocessing and trans-

Let's be sensible and freeze the further production and deployment of nuclear weapons as well as channel research funds into alternate energy sources with the same capital and enthusiasm that we put into our initial nuclear experimentation.

Technical superiority means military superiority in this field. The two are not separate. Why would an oil rich country, like Iraq need an atomic reactor? So it can produce the plutonium needed for atomic weapons and become another cardholder in the Domsday Poker Game.

Our government's interest in fission research has endangered the public while laws like the Price-Anderson Act are passed to protect utilities and limit their liabilities. The Price-Anderson Act limits a utility to \$500 million liability - not a lot of money if every homeowner and businessman would have been reimbursed for losses had Three Mile Island melted down. That meltdown was a "virtual impossibility," according to "experts," but was as close as if 30 minutes of prolonged overheating had occurred, according to the NRC.

Let's join the other 182 municipalities in America that have banned the transportation of nuclear wastes through their communities and support on site dry cast storage.

Tom Bogus of NPPD (Daily Nebraskan, Dec. 1) suggests that dry cask storage is only "pioneering in the

field" and continues to advocate rail shipments through Lincoln and the UNL campus.

I would like to suggest that most of our so-called experts possess the skill and awareness of the barbers who practiced surgery in medieval England.

The facts are that nuclear armaments and nuclear generated power are costly and dangerous, and are very active threats to the well being of all of us.

I hope that Bakenhus and his colleagues will use their conscience as well as their technology to work with them each day when they begin to practice their skills in the field of engineering.

W.P. Swearingen
junior, speech communications
Letters on Page 6

Guest Opinion

portation of wastes produced by both weapons manufacture and electrical production are dangerous, unsafely executed and insufficiently regulated.

The truth is, we could be better off without either.

Nuclear-generated electricity has accounted for less than 13 percent of electrical output in the United States since 1979. More energy is produced annually by Americans using wood stoves.

Although our enormous military expenditures rank us at No. 1 or No. 2 in world war-making potential, we rank only 20th in doctor-patient ratios, only 13th in infant mortality and only ninth in life expectancy.

Bakenhus suggests that "extreme care is taken in the use and handling of waste products." I only can hope his words are of comfort to the people of Harrisburg, Pa., who live near the infamous Three Mile Island, or to the people of Omaha who last winter were subjected to gases and steam released from Fort Calhoun.

The words of faith spoken by experts and engineers mean very little when you stop to remember that the Nebraska Public Power District was assessed a record fine by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for failing to install adequate emergency warning systems in Brownville, Neb.

That fine, by the way, will be passed on to consumers in rate hikes. It's funny our "experts" called nuclear-generated power "too cheap to meter" just a decade or more ago.

Facts'...

Continued from Page 4

The meager little Akron law just tells women the consequences of abortion. Surely we should be telling women the consequences of motherhood.

We might write down a modest list of facts, facts that have the advantage of being factual. The patient might, for example, like to know that the risk of death from childbirth is about 10 times higher than the risk of death from a legal abortion.

More information would be due minors, I suppose. Assuming a safe delivery, this young mother, if she is like nine out of 10 teen-agers, may keep her baby. Then, like three out of four of her new peers, she may drop out of school, often because she can't find affordable day-care.

In the spirit of financial information, someone also should mention that a female-headed household has less than four-tenths the income of a two-parent household. That same household is much more likely to be on welfare.

None of these facts would be presented to frighten the patient. I merely offer them in the spirit of knowledge. After all, there appear to be a great many citizens who consent to harassing pregnant women without being informed about post-partum realities.

The Akron lawyer on Tuesday called his city's regulation "choice enhancing." If the Supreme Court refuses to strike it down, we'll surely need more enhancements. If no pregnant woman can have an abortion without informed consent, then henceforth and forever more, no pregnant woman can deliver without informed consent. Sorry, the law is the law.

(c) 1982 The Washington Post Writers Group

Bring In This Coupon



HOLIDAY SPECIAL

\$10 OFF Perms

Heads Together

We Make Heads Turn

17th & R Exp. Dec. 18th, 1982 475-4902

Give Holiday Coin Bags
\$10 or \$15



You can depend on a friend

GATEWAY BANK & TRUST

MEMBER FDIC

16th & P

CASH in this Christmas!




Now with Christmas looming ever closer... you need extra cash even more.

So cash-in your textbooks.

Sell your textbooks now for cash and get up to 60% of the new price on textbooks that are being used for spring classes.

Special Holiday Hours OPEN THURSDAY TIL 9 PM

Open Monday-Friday, 8-5:30, Saturday, 9-5:30

NEBRASKA BOOKSTORE

12th & R Streets in Lincoln Center 476-0111