

Editorial

Nuclear waste proposal emphasizes safety

Nuclear waste transport is one issue that UNL students had better learn about, because the stuff is going to pass right under our noses.

Spent fuel rods from the Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper nuclear power plant near Brownville will be taken by rail through Lincoln on the track which goes by the Harper-Schramm-Smith residence halls.

Lincoln City Council member Eric Youngberg was the first person to object to NPPD's plans for the nuclear waste transports, but he has been joined by the Lincoln Coalition of Rail Crafts, a group of railroad employee unions, and UNL physics professor Dan Schlitt, among others.

Youngberg has proposed an ordinance which would restrict, but not eliminate, the shipment of nuclear waste through town. By this ordinance, which comes to a vote in the City Council meeting Monday, the mayor must get notice 45 days in advance of a shipment. The notice would tell who the shipper is, how and what will be shipped and the exact route through the city.

A public hearing at least 15 days before the shipment would look into the packaging and labeling of the waste, liability insurance in case of accident and would also consider any alternatives to transporting the nuclear waste through the city. A permit for a shipment would be issued only if NPPD furnished proof that no alternate route exists.

NPPD would have to show that each shipment is "urgent public policy" rather than simply a less expensive alternative than building waste storage at the Brownville plant. All local officials concerned would have to be notified. But actual details of a shipment would not be made public to reduce the danger of sabotage.

The basic idea of all this is that NPPD has to bear the burden of proof that each particular shipment is safe.

Youngberg stresses that his ordinance is not directed against the nuclear power industry in general. He has noted that the Cooper plant itself is extremely efficient, and insists the issues of nuclear power and nuclear waste transportation should be considered separately.

So far the 60- to 70-ton casks in which the waste fuel would be contained have not been tested in any of what Youngberg calls "real life conditions." Because of the greater cost of such real-life tests, the casks have been tested only by computer simulation and scale model testing.

The casks are supposed to withstand a 30-foot drop onto pavement, a 30-minute fire at 1,400 degrees, a 40-inch drop onto a steel stump (to see whether the casks are puncture proof), and submersion in water for three hours. They have passed these tests in computer simulation and scale model. But, as Youngberg points out, they haven't yet been tested in real life. It isn't the same.

Everyone admits that the chances of a dangerous accident are small. NPPD can



cite statistics about the miniscule odds against even the slightest accident which make its opponents look petty or paranoid. But even though the chances are small, the danger in a potential accident is very great. The radiation from three tons of spent nuclear fuel in a burst cask

is not something we want Lincoln people exposed to if there are alternatives.

If there are other ways to handle the stuff, Youngberg has said, "Don't haul it through the middle of the second largest city in the state." It makes sense.

Eric Peterson

Letters

Action ignored GLC's efforts

As an active member in the Government Liaison Committee, I have seen this ASUN working committee more than triple its membership in the last three years. I was very disappointed, though, after reading the article dealing with the Action Party's announcement of candidates and platform (Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 26).

First, I'm concerned about discussion of legislative liaison being among Action's foremost needs. GLC has been very successful in gaining and maintaining contact with our legislators, administration and the regents. GLC activities concentrating on the legislators have included:

- correspondence and individual meetings with each senator.
- the Adopt-A-Senator program.
- providing information about UNL and individual student concerns directly to the senators.
- preparing and presenting testimony to Legislative Committee hearings.
- sponsoring open forums on campus to provide interaction between senators and students.
- GLC-sponsored breakfasts with senators on campus

GLC and the Student Legal Services are two service-oriented organizations of ASUN. GLC always has and will continue to provide a non-paid lobbyist and has developed and fostered interaction and communication between the faculty senate, administration, regents, parents, citizens and students of this state. GLC also plays an integral part in extensive budget research. In fact, until this school year, GLC members personally performed all research activities.

GLC has been very successful in reaching all entities affecting UNL and its student population. It bothers me that Action totally ignored the vast accomplishments already achieved and instead of talking

with GLC members or attending any of the meetings open to the public, they have decided to ignore our committee and act as if they are developing a totally new idea.

Heather Housand
GLC Vice-Chair, Federal Liaison
junior, political science

Football tickets for all 'taxpayers'

Greg Stanislaus is in error when he refers to the University's denial of football tickets to NU Medical Center students (Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 27). He is free to pay for his tickets just as any other taxpayer. What he appears to be bothered about is the University's attempt to treat him like an adult, albeit in a small way, and charge him for one minor service it provides.

Stanislaus, a third-year medical school student, hopes that, like me, other graduates of the medical center "will not even open their checkbooks" when the university asks for donations. Thousands of dollars have been poured into this student's education and he acknowledges none of the communities' kindness. I find this to be tasteless.

F.W. Barney
doctoral student
agricultural economics

KLIN Pep Band receives thanks

The KLIN Pep Band made a tremendous impression at our Scottsbluff High School-Cheyenne Central boys basketball game last Saturday night. Not only did

they perform superbly, but the down-to-earth friendliness and sincerity struck home. The response was enthusiastic and they made themselves feel right at home.

We certainly enjoyed their cross-state tour and we do hope that they and other groups will come to Scottsbluff in the near future.

Thanks KLIN Pep Band.

L. Dean Maxwell
Director of Bands
Scottsbluff High School

Aim to enhance all life

In response to the letter, "Pro-life movement is insensitive to the poor," (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 2), I do not believe that all "Pro-Lifers" are discriminating against, and insensitive to, the poor. I strongly agree that we, meaning all human beings, should mourn "the unfair backward steps we are taking at the expense of the politically weak," and in fact not only mourn but actually do something about it. Social programs, educational opportunities, financial assistance and changes in attitudes are all very necessary. But to promote the destruction of human life in order to reduce this problem is not the answer.

To me, being pro-life means fighting hard to enhance the quality of human life for women, men, children, rich and especially the poor.

Duane Voigt
graduate student, educational psychology

Legal abortion also kills

It seems to me there are basic misconceptions on the issue of legal abortion and the pro-life movement. Rockford G. Yapp stated that "countless women died before legalized abortions," (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 2). Is Yapp assuming that legality is synonymous with safety? Doesn't he know that legal abortions kill women also?

In his letter, Yapp also states that "the rich and educated are insensitive to

Daily Nebraskan

EDITOR Margie Horz
GENERAL MANAGER Daniel M. Shattil
ADVERTISING MANAGER Jerry Scott
PRODUCTION MANAGER Kitty Policky
MANAGING EDITOR Michela Thuman
NEWS EDITOR Sue Jensen
ASSOCIATE
NEWS EDITORS Mary Behne
Duane Rutzloff
John G. Gocke
David Wood
GRAPHICS EDITOR
NIGHT NEWS EDITOR
ASSISTANT NIGHT
NEWS EDITOR Leslie Boeltstorf
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Patty Pryor
SPORTS EDITOR Bob Amstutz
ART DIRECTOR David Luebke
PHOTO CHIEF Dave Bentz
ASSISTANT
ADVERTISING MANAGER Carol Fehr
PUBLICATIONS BOARD
CHAIRMAN Doug Metz, 472-2454

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN (USPS 144-680) IS PUBLISHED BY THE UNL PUBLICATIONS BOARD MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY DURING THE FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS, EXCEPT DURING VACATIONS. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE DAILY NEBRASKAN, RM 34 NEBRASKA UNION, 18588 SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$13/SEMESTER, \$25/YEAR. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LINCOLN, NEBRASKA. ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1983 DAILY NEBRASKAN

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorial represent the policy of the 1983 Daily Nebraskan but do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Nebraska, its employees or the NU Board of Regents.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who have established a publication board to supervise the daily production of the newspaper. According to policy set by the regents, the content of the UNL students newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.

the poor and less fortunate." He must believe that sensitivity means allowing thousands of babies to be murdered each year.

It angers me, Mr. Yapp, that you cannot see past the economic myths of legal abortion to the basic ideals of the pro-life movement — the protection of thousands of unborn children who are murdered each day. We stand for the abolishment of all abortion, whether legal or illegal, by the rich and poor.

David Simon
freshman, political science