

Editorial

College drivers need to be responsible, day and night

Leave it to some ASUN candidates to come up with an emotional proposal, back it with illogical arguments and use it to win support from the student body.

This time, it is the United Students party and its plan to have the UNL Police Department stop towing cars at night. Representatives of the US party last week presented the Parking Advisory Committee with a petition containing the signatures of 2,000 students who oppose night towing.

It cannot be considered any great accomplishment to get that many students to sign the petition. In fact, it is a safe bet that most students would sign a petition favoring the end of all towing or even the end of giving parking tickets.

But that is not how any system of law enforcement works. Those who stand to be punished because they broke some regulation cannot determine what the punishment will be.

It is necessary to have parking regulations to maintain some semblance of order on this campus. In turn, the UNL police give tickets — lots of them — because many students choose to ignore those regulations. If the students choose to ignore the tickets as well, they must be prepared to pay the

consequences.

Representatives from the Student Watch Group have correctly pointed out that night towing presents a safety problem, but the fact remains that students know the rules as well as the risks they take by not following those rules.

Tickets issued by UNL police all state that vehicles with unpaid violation notices are subject to impoundment after 20 business days. As an additional courtesy, the police send reminders to students who have unpaid violations and whose cards are registered with the department.

College students are supposed to learn, among other things, how to accept responsibility. The university — in this case, the police department — clearly has met its obligation to make its policies known to the campus community. It now is up to the students to choose their response.

The wisest choice would be to park in authorized areas, but since many students choose to do otherwise, they must be willing to pay the price.

If, after a fair amount of time, parking tickets remain unpaid, it is not unreasonable for the police to impound the car at any hour — day or night.

Mexican president faces crises of economy, population, politics

One year ago a new president of Mexico took over a desperation situation . . .

A nation \$80 billion in debt with an annual inflation rate of 250 percent.

In 1981 you could exchange 26 pesos for one American dollar.

By the end of 1982 it took 150.

Unemployment in Mexico was 50 percent plus.



Paul Harvey

Then along comes President Miguel de la Madrid. In one year he has made enough improvement to deserve to be listened to — about our role in Latin America.

Mexico still is in deep trouble: deep debt, official corruption, rampant crime, and desperate poverty.

And there are "outside pressures"; some 40,000 Guatemalans live in refugee camps on the Mexican side of that border. Fifty thousand more are hiding elsewhere in the country, a potentially explosive force.

Yet, despite what would appear to

be his country's desperate need for some outside help, he is inviting us to stay home and mind our own business.

He says United States intervention in Latin America can only worsen things.

De la Madrid gives us some reason for hope but Mexico remains a time bomb on our border.

De la Madrid, American-educated and well-intentioned, remains a prisoner of his long-entrenched PRI Revolutionary Party with a top to bottom tradition of graft and corruption.

This good-ole-boy chain of command limits his prerogatives for substantive change.

And Mexico is presently doomed by a B-bomb of its own making, an uncontrolled proliferation of its population.

Every land reform, which breaks big farms up into small ones, leaves the small farms in the hands of inexperienced and inept managers. So Mexico, once an exporter of food, now imports food — even its sugar.

Too little food and too many mouths to feed.

And that is the population presently spilling across the Rio Grande, bringing Mexico's problem here.

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Letters

Mural moving, too?

It seems that a decision has been made to take the first floor lounge in the union to accommodate the current academic fad — the computer. I have read the pros and cons of the argument and take no position on the matter, but I do have a concern.

On the west wall of this lounge is a three-panel painting by a Nebraska artist, Elizabeth Dolan. I believe this mural was part of the original furnishings of the Nebraska Union. While Elizabeth Dolan is not a nationally-known painter, her works achieved a local fame and I believe the mural should be preserved. Somehow her style does not go well with computerland. Can someone tell me what is to be done about the mural?

Beverly A. Cunningham
Lincoln

Rotten potatoes

Just suppose I have a basket of rotten potatoes. You have a basket of real good potatoes. I come to you and demand to put my rotten potatoes in with your good potatoes to improve the condition of the rotten potatoes. You would say, "Man, you've got to be out of your mind!"

This is exactly how the Nebraska Education Association leaders are trying to corrupt the Christian quality of

the independent Christian schools.

The State of Nebraska, including the courts, the Legislature and Gov. Kerrey are tools in the hands of the corrupt NEA. Non-union teachers are heckled and harassed in the teacher meetings to force them to join the NEA.

It is primarily the NEA that is trying to destroy the Christian school. Why would we citizens let these union bosses put a ring in our noses and lead us around with a chain?

Christian schools have cleaned up their act to get cleaner and better education. It is the NEA teachers who need to be tested and have their pupils tested each year.

We have been robbed! Give us back our freedom!

Donald Virts
Lincoln

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names from publication will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

Witch doctor lobby puts voodoo in schools

Warning: The following column contains many sordid untruths.

I've concluded that it isn't too bad of an idea to teach creation science in the public schools. If we ever decide to do this, we might want to follow Haiti's example.



Krishna Madan

In that country, the witch-doctor lobby recently got the parliament to pass a law requiring the public schools to teach voodoo science.

The witch doctors apparently were upset because students had been taught that the weather is caused by atmospheric conditions. They considered that to be a great violation of the country's religious tradition.

Things now are much better in Haiti. Students there are now taught that two shakes of a witch-doctor's rattle and a twitching of his ear will produce rain.

The secular humanist discipline of meteorology and climatology are out. All the books pertaining to these fields now are being burned in the fires around which the witch doctors cast their incantations.

Of course, it hasn't snowed in Haiti as yet. However, the snow-loving president of that country has taken steps to address this problem.

He recently commissioned a voodoo science expert from Louisville who reputedly has awesome meteorological powers. This expert has claimed responsibility for December's frigid weather, saying that it was punishment for Nebraska's sinful teacher certification requirements.

This expert plans to fly to Haiti by helicopter and to make a dramatic entrance in the midst of a blizzard. Rumor has it that the whole lot of voodoo science experts in Louisville may join him if their school remains permanently closed.

These fine religious scientists would not encounter any problems with evil secular authorities in Haiti since Haiti does not have teacher certification laws. Indeed, Haiti does not even have a teacher's college!

But, anyway, let's go back to creation science. There is one slight problem with teaching this sub-

ject in the public schools. The problem is that each religion has its own creation story.

Of course, this is easily solved. We'll merely teach the American version.

We'll just omit creation stories that originate in other parts of the world, especially those that originate in the Middle East — a region that only seems to produce religious and political troublemakers.

The American version of the creation story is, of course, that of the American Indian. So, we'll have to begin by teaching about the Great Spirit in the public schools.

We could also please those who want prayer in the public schools by requiring all students to recite a prayer to the Great Spirit five minutes before classes begin. In addition, we could require students to participate in various American Indian religious rituals during the school day.

To further address the concerns of those who talk about the lack of moral education in the schools, we could start teaching traditional American Indian values such as sharing and community ownership of property.

I'm sure that this will please not only religious authorities but also business and government leaders.