



Letters

Landfill supporter says costs would be minimal for students

The editorial by Lauri Hopple on the landfill in the Sept. 14 Daily Nebraskan was really a bunch of garbage. I am on record as supporting the bond issue to buy and equip a new landfill. Space is running out at the present landfill and the process of finding a new one can be a long one and needs to start now.

The cost for burying Lincoln's wastes is an ongoing expense not really affected by the bond issue question. Transportation costs could increase if the new landfill is located farther away from Lincoln. I never said that Lincoln's public institutions use the landfill

most, in fact their contribution is small compared to the total amount buried every day. UNL's cost under the last tipping fee proposal would have been \$30,000 per year. An increase in hauling distance to a new landfill could cost more than this. Our point is that the more material that is recycled, taken out of the waste stream, the less that has to be hauled and buried.

The increasing amounts of waste our society generates are not going to just go away. Property taxes are not the fairest way to pay for disposal. We should design our waste management systems

to recover the maximum value of these secondary resources, reducing disposal costs, pollution potential and the drain on our natural resources.

If the students had to pay all of the cost of burying their wastes, it would not amount to much more than a dollar each, hardly enough to justify the scare headline and inaccuracies in your editorial on a subject which is very complex and needing calm, rational thought to solve a problem which affects us all.

Steve Burdic
Executive Director
Small Farms Action Group

Student says U.S. government supports foreign dictatorships

Following the vicious murdering of Philippine opposition leader, Benito Aquina in the summer of 1983, the CBS "Night Watch" show interviewed an opposition figure from South Korea living in this country. The exiled Korean wondered, "If you Americans like and believe in democracy, why do you support the dictatorial regimes and non-democratic states in the Third World countries?"

This observation reflects a deep concern of the people in Third World countries. The Europeans who colonized those nations in the name of "modernization" and "humanistic" slogans have proven how cruel and racist they are.

Of course, no modernization, democracy, or any social, political or economic improvements were achieved under those invaders. Rather, those countries were exploited by the colonialists. And before they were forced to leave, the colonialists "hired" some of their close friends in the countries to continue imposing their imperialistic policies.

This simply is how things are in Third World countries. Governments never have people's approval; presidents or kings hardly are elected, and if elected, a king

or president always wins by 999 percent. Such governments, as expected, do not try to serve their people or defend their country. When I was asked by some American friends and a Canadian classmate about the reaction of the Iraqi government following the destruction of its nuclear reactor in 1981, I told them it would be no more than "words" or condemnation and a "complaint" presented to the U.N. Security Council. And that is exactly what happened.

But where do the American people and their government stand amidst this sad story of the people in Third World countries? The American government, that supposedly represents the American people, has inherited European colonialism in a modern sense. I can't imagine how the American people who struggled for freedom can support dictators in Third World regions like Africa, South and Central America, the Middle East and Asia.

Recently, I spoke with an American student about foreign policy. Asked about positions taken by his government, the student told me, "I do not know why, I like to see other nations having demo-

cratic governments." These, of course, are not words of a politician employed by businessmen. Rather, I think they suggest the thoughts of an ordinary American. I furthered my point by asking, "If you are worried about communism and its expansion, as we are in the Third World countries, why don't you stand by the people of these countries and help them establish democracy there?"

If you, the American people, are worried about democracy in Third World Countries, I assure you that we have favorable conditions at home where democracy can survive and flourish.

We are powerful enough to establish democracy ourselves once you stop standing behind our dictatorial regimes. A question often jumps to my mind: Do the American governments really represent the people of this country? Or is it as one American millionaire noted: "We, the millionaires, do not care who is in the White House or which political party is in power, we are the owners of America."

Abdullah Hamad
Graduate Student
Linguistics

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EDITOR: Chris Weisch, 472-1788
GENERAL MANAGER: Daniel Shattil
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Kitty Policky
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Tom Byrns
PUBLICATIONS BOARD CHAIRPERSONS: Nick Foley, 476-0275; Angela Nietfeld, 475-4981
PROFESSIONAL ADVISER: Don Walton, 473-7301

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