

# Editorial

## Legalization of lotteries is a creative solution

Nebraska Attorney General Robert Spire's opinion on the legality of lotteries seems to have quickly stifled the rumblings of legalized gambling in the state of Nebraska. But the people of the state should remember Spire's opinion is just that — opinion, not law.

Spire said lotteries that generate \$1,000 or more during a 24-hour period are illegal. Only non-profit groups are allowed to conduct lotteries.

As the top law enforcement officer in the state, Spire's opinion will carry weight with the courts should the issue get that far. But the issue is still not settled.

The law had previously been interpreted by Assistant Nebraska Attorney General Mel Kammerlohr as allowing casino-type gambling as legal lotteries when operated by non-profit groups but not allowing video slot machines. The State Department of Revenue later said non-profit groups may hold such lotteries as long as any one pot or hand did not exceed \$1,000.

Last week the non-profit Freedom Park Greater Omaha Military Historic Society began sponsoring black jack and craps gambling and The Orthodox Monastery of Archangels in Lincoln made plans to do the same.

Jack Karstens of Freedom Park said his operation could not stay in business if it were limited to \$1,000 per night because of start-up costs and equipment rentals.

The Nebraskan believes non-profit groups and the state should be allowed to run casino-type gambling and lotteries, including blackjack. The activities can be used as fund-raisers and the proceeds can benefit the public. A state with such financial problems should not be afraid to use creative solutions such as ticket lotteries to raise funds.

Lotteries and casino-type gambling are not necessarily a degenerate activity. They will not necessarily contribute to societies' problems. One of the objections against lotteries is that citizens prone to addiction to gambling will be tempted. If we are to outlaw every temptation in our society, why is alcohol legal when it may tempt potential alcoholics?

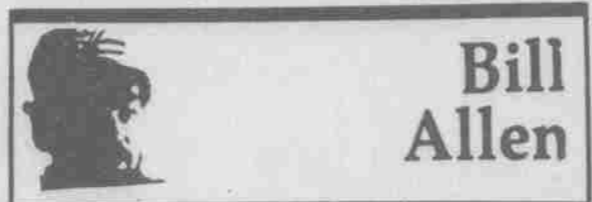
Another objection is that the lotteries would be a thinly-disguised tax on the poor because they would be the ones most likely to participate. No one would be forced to spend money. Freedom of choice still exists and there are already other forms of gambling readily available in Nebraska. Allowing horseracing, especially the Pic-Six race at Ak-Sar-Ben, and Bingo while outlawing lotteries is a double-standard. Allowing casino-type gambling and lotteries by non-profit organizations is far from turning Lincoln or any other Nebraska city into a Las Vegas, Jr. It is simply one more form of fund-raising and one more form of gambling in a state in which both already exist.



## 'We are the apathetic...' Entertainment not humanity aids the starving

I bought "The Making of We Are the World" videocassette partly to aid starving Africans, but mostly because I wanted to see all those music stars in one place and have a copy of the song's video.

That's a pretty tough confession to make since most buyers of the USA for Africa's single, album and now videocassette would lead you to believe that their sole purpose for the purchase was to aid the starving millions in Ethiopia.



Bill Allen

I was under the impression that it was the reason I bought the video until I was really honest with myself.

For instance, for years I and the rest of America have seen Sally Struthers and others begging for dollars for CARE or other organizations that would send the money to Africa. Yet, never did I slip off the couch and pledge money.

I simply didn't care. I don't mean that to be as caustic as it sounds, but in the simplest possible terms that is the fact. My apathy is shared by millions of other Americans, many of whom did buy the USA for Africa single, album or video.

It says something about our culture and priorities, I would think, that it took the likes of Lionel Richie and Cyndi Lauper to spur people into spending a few dollars to keep people alive.

It says even more if you come to the realization, like I did, that your motivation was more in the way of personal entertainment than any higher, more humanistic motivation.

This is definitely not in any way criticizing the efforts of the music artists who gave their time and talent to call mass attention to the plight of millions of fellow humans. In all, 45 of the biggest names in rock and pop music combined their egos and talents in a unified and unselfish production. Thousands of radio and TV stations joined in the effort and some \$50 million has been raised so far.

All of a sudden the whole country, especially the teenage "uninvolved" group, caught onto the fad.

Did I say fad? Did I imply that this interest in the starving millions in Africa was but a passing phenomenon that will fade away as soon as the next proverbial Hula-hoop comes along?

In this month's Rolling Stone magazine the single has dropped out of the Top 10 and the album has dropped to number five in sales. And I haven't heard very much about the starving in Africa from the younger set. All I hear is Madonna this and Madonna that. I don't even remember her being in the "We Are the World" video. And where was Slim Whitman?

The only place I do hear about the starving Ethiopians is in the newspapers, the one place you can be assured that most 14-year-olds won't read it.

Also, I read in the newspaper that the \$50 million earned by the USA for Africa group will do very little to alleviate world hunger.

The reality of it is that it would take years of concentrated effort and support by everyone on earth to supply food and self-sufficiency methods to the starving millions in the world.

"We Are the World" was a beautiful humanitarian effort that deserves some praise, but I'm not sure it wasn't more of a statement than an

effort with lasting effects.

Toward the end of "The Making..." video Lionel Richie pleads with people to keep giving, to keep the awareness, and to keep caring until the hunger problem has been solved and there are no more starving people in the world.

The sad thing is that Richie is mainly talking to the most fickle age group known to mankind and possibly the most apathetic nation of people.

The United States government sends more overseas aid to other countries than any other nation in the world, but I'd bet that the majority of people don't know that, or care.

Hitler was responsible for the deaths of six million Jews. Every year that many people die of starvation. Who is responsible for them?

I enjoyed watching the video. My wife loves it. But eventually it'll probably sit over by the old albums I have and hardly ever listen to.

I feel guilty that it wasn't really an overbearing desire to help starving people that prompted me to buy the video. It was short-lived entertainment. Sure, it was a warm feeling knowing I might be doing a small part, but that wasn't my primary motivation. And I'm sure I'm not alone.

The real test, of course, will be the next time Sally Struthers comes on TV late at night, a starving baby in her arms, tears in her eyes and asks for money for CARE.

When I slip off the couch and pick up the phone will it be to pledge money or order a Domino's pizza to add to my already portentous girth?

That will be the real test of "We Are the World," and whether I pass or fail that test, many starving people won't.

## The Nebraskan

EDITOR: Stacie Thomas, 472-1766  
 GENERAL MANAGER: Daniel Shuttell  
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 ASSISTANT ADVERTISING MANAGER: Mary Hupf  
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 LAYOUT EDITOR: Don Walton, 473-7301  
 PUBLICATIONS BOARD CHAIRPERSON: Chris Choate  
 PROFESSIONAL ADVISER: Don Walton, 473-7301

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## Editorial Policy

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## Nursing student praises quality of Lincoln program

I am writing concerning the proposed closing of the Lincoln division of the College of Nursing. I graduated from the Lincoln division with my associate degree last May. I am also currently enrolled in the baccalaureate program, to continue my education in nursing.

I decided to study nursing while I was already an undergrad at UNL. When I made my decision to become a nurse, I checked out the area facilities and Lincoln was, by far, my first choice. I chose the Lincoln division over Omaha because it offered an all around university education type setting. I have thoroughly enjoyed and benefited by living on the UNL campus. A campus

atmosphere not only allows for education growth but also provides a means for personal growth and maturation.

Another aspect of the Lincoln division that attracted me was the class size. It offers smaller classes than the Omaha facility, and the student to clinical ratio is 8 to 1. This allows for a more personalized education that has given me great satisfaction as a student.

If the Lincoln division of nursing is allocated to close, it would not only affect me personally, but also affect many of those who plan to begin their education in nursing, and would like to do so in Lincoln. In order to obtain a university education in nursing, these people would have to commute to or relocate in Omaha. For many people this move may not be possible due to financial reasons or family commitments. They

would also be denied that beneficial campus environment. This same problem will be faced by those working nurses who wish to or must continue their education.

I realize that money is short and that there are many difficult decisions involved in balancing the budget, but eliminating whole programs or divisions seems to be a drastic step. Nursing is a respected profession that is continuing to grow and expand. It is predicted that the need for nurses will increase 40 to 47 percent by 1990, and the University of Nebraska should be prepared to meet that need.

I am proud to say that I graduated from the Lincoln division of nursing and I believe that others should have the chance to do so too.

Lisa Gentes  
 Bellevue, Nebraska

## Letters