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Air-quality rules

Council adopts regulations on pollutants

The Nebraska Environmental Control Council took a cautious but intelligent approach in adopting the state's first regulations for toxic air pollutants.

The council rejected a call last Friday for a delay in adopting the regulations, which will control emissions of 308 chemicals from stacks.

Nebraska has been slower than other states in adopting the regulations, but the council is taking precautions before a potential problem becomes reality. States like Colorado have had to deal with pollution problems once they reached a serious level. Denver enacted "voluntary no-driving days" and other programs after the city's air became seriously polluted.

According to an Omaha World-Herald article, the last time air samplings in Nebraska violated federal standards was in 1985, when tests showed problems in Omaha and Weeping Water.

The council also passed regulations that will control small particles that come from smoke and enter peoples' lungs, causing health problems.

The new regulations drew praise both from state air-quality officials and from the corporations they will monitor.

Gene Robinson, state air-quality chief, told the World-Herald the regulations are "relatively lenient" and won't affect current industries except to change emission-reporting procedures.

One of the companies that will have to change its reporting procedures is Brunswick Corp. in Lincoln, which asked the council to delay its vote on the regulations. Brunswick argued that it wanted more time to study the regulations before they were voted on.

But the Environmental Control Council moved swiftly in an attempt to isolate problems that many other states haven't dealt with effectively.

Letters

Unhealthy practice promoted by the RHA

Recently, all University of Nebraska-Lincoln residents received a Student Survival Pack for the second semester sponsored by the Residence Hall Association. Found within this survival pack was a sample package of Vivarin — a chemical stimulant which allows users to stay awake for prolonged period of time.

As residents, we are concerned because this is promoting the use of a potentially unhealthy practice. We feel other, more beneficial products

could be used in the survival packs. We hope, in the future, RHA will use more discretion in choosing what products are included in the Student Survival Packs.

Teri Hoelting senior food science

Beth Boswell senior business education

Deb Cast senior consumer science

Mary Blazek senior nursing

Hall policies cause big inconveniences

Although some of the reasons mentioned by Residence Hall Association President Russ Johnson (Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 29) for the low percentage of students living in residence halls are true, there is one more reason that seems to have been ignored by University Housing.

It's inconvenient to check in and out at least eight times a year. When residents sign a contract, there is no guarantee that their hall is going to stay open during semester breaks. Even Selleck graduate housing and Piper Hall can be closed, according to what is written in the contract. However, because of a typing or printing error, graduate students are assured for vacation housing in one page of "The Good Life" booklet. I decided to live in a residence hall based on that information. It happens that someone either at the top or bottom of the system made a mistake in writing that guarantee. Those of us who were at East Campus and decided to stay during Thanksgiving break found out that we had no place to go.

The bad thing is that nobody told us our hall was going to be closed (despite the assurance on page 7 of "The Good Life") until it was too late. Plus, it is not mentioned in any written material issued that students who need housing during vacations need to make reservations early. And worst of all, when I talked to one of the officials at University Housing, it was all my fault not to have made reservations early and not to have read the

contract carefully. (I should have read page 16 instead of page 7). Our complaints were heard because of one of the student assistants at Fedde Hall.

Despite the hostile approach, I was pleased by the attention given to my problem by International Educational Services when I asked for a place to stay during Christmas vacation. Ironically, the secretary at the IES office tried to help me by calling the International House, which is under the Office of University Housing. It worked.

After living in residence halls for three years at another university, the system at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has made me decide to live away from campus no matter what the differences may be. I'm still living in the residence halls, not knowing where I will end up during spring break. I know this will not happen to me next year. I am worried for others who might end up in the same situation. I have already met four of them who checked in this semester. One of them asked me why he should think about where he was going to stay instead of what he was going to do during spring break. It was a good question, but the wrong place to ask. It seems the residence hall system at UNL is designed for those who leave campus as soon as the last class hour is over.

Michael Gebre
graduate student

Should pseudonyms be used?

Annoyance and disgust accompany encounters with petitioners

When I was a freshman, it used to annoy me that petition gatherers would blockade the north doors of the Nebraska Union and demand to know whether I was registered to vote in Lancaster County.

"Who wants to know?" was my standard response. But it wasn't usually effective, because the petitioner often would interpret this as a sign of a challenge.

"I'm a member of the United American Democratic People's Freedom Party, and we're circulating a petition in support of peace, equality and justice," the petitioner would explain.

"That's nice. What exactly do you want to do?" I asked.

"Eliminate nuclear weapons, outlaw abortion and impeach Reagan," he said, or something like that. "Just sign by No. 3."

"Oh, I'm sorry, but my wrist is sprained and I can't write my name today." I grabbed my wrist and grimaced in pain, then walked away.

But that was when I was a freshman. I'm a senior now, and after three years of being pestered by petitioners, I've learned a better way to deal with them. I just sign my name "Carlos Santana" or "Bobby D. Maverick Jr." and put down a fake Social Security number. They hate it when you do this, because once they think they have enough signatures, they stop collecting them, and the petition fails if they find too many invalid signatures. By the time they realize what happened, it's too late. Ha, that'll show 'em.

It seems every time you turn around, there's another petition drive going, and they always make sure to hit the students. Apparently they think college students will sign anything—and many will. But if enough sign "Michael Jordan" to these far-out petitions, they won't stand a chance.

I remember a group of petition-

hounds on campus last semester that was trying to start a new political party in Nebraska. The group members said the reason they had to form a party was that the Republicans and Democrats were engaged in a conspiracy to keep them out of the system and suppress their views.

"What views do you mean?" I asked a petitioner.

"We think the Republicans and Democrats are both about the same, and they offer the country no real choice on the issues," he replied.

Curt
Snodgrass



"What issues?" I asked.
"All of them. It's a conspiracy," he explained.

I think I signed that one "Clint Eastwood" or "Julius Caesar"; I don't remember which.

There are some worthwhile petitions, of course, in addition to all the stupid ones. An example of a well-intentioned petition was the effort to get more staffing for the financial aid office last fall. But like most serious petitions, this one embarrassed the people in charge, and the problem was swept under the rug. Any forthcoming changes in that office will be slow and of little value.

A few years ago, a petition was circulated to ban bike traffic on Vine Street. It was begun shortly after a young woman was killed when a pickup ran into her bike at about 23rd Street. I can't count the number of times I have been driving down Vine and seen bikers slip and slide out of traffic as if they had a death wish. The petition was a good idea, I thought. Even though it would upset some bikers and be tough to enforce, I

signed it (with my real name this time). However, nothing ever came from this petition. It made too much sense, I guess.

Sometimes petitions can be used for political games, too. A friend of mine who was campaigning for a certain candidate once asked me to sign a petition for him and donate \$1 to the campaign. He explained that this would reduce the embarrassingly high amount of his average contribution. Petitions are useful for just about everyone and everything, as long as you know how to manipulate the message at the top of the page.

People are becoming more and more suspicious of petitions. One night I was at a meeting of about 60 people, and five petitions were being passed around on clipboards. Someone finally got sick of all of them and made up another one as a joke. It said something like, "We support freedom of choice for all people" — a very nice, unobjectionable ideal.

But one guy at the meeting was struck by the idea that this petition was being circulated by gay-rights activists. Immediately, he grabbed the petition and announced to the rest of us that this seemingly harmless piece of paper was really a homosexual-rights petition. He was overcome with paranoia and said he was going to keep it until whoever started it up came to get it. Everyone who was in on the joke was in hysterics. Petitions can be great practical jokes.

But what, then, is the best way to ensure that petitions are not used to twist your opinion to support a view you don't hold? The preferred way is, of course, to read what it says.

But in this age of petition mania, it may also be necessary to ask who the petitioner is working for and what purpose is behind it. Only then can you know whether to sign your own name . . . or someone else's.

Snodgrass is a senior economics major.

Professor: Calero is some hawk

The announcement that Adolfo Calero, leader of the Contras, will speak at Nebraska Wesleyan University may be greeted with mixed feelings by University of Nebraska-Lincoln students.

Nebraska Wesleyan — dedicated to the memory of the great church reformer who served the cause of the liberation of the industrial masses in another era — has served the purposes of peace and conflict resolution in the past through its speakers program.

Guest Opinion

One should not begrudge the institution a token hawk. However, Calero is some hawk. In a secret memo sent by CIA operative Robert Owen to Oliver North and released by the Iran-Contra committees, Owen told Harpers magazine Calero is a "creation of the U.S. (Government)" and he keeps around him people who are "liars and greed- and power-motivated . . . not the people to rebuild a new Nicaragua."

Calero was a CIA representative in Nicaragua for some time before the Sandinista revolution. As the head of the Managua Coca-Cola plant, he presided in Somoza days after Nicaragua's cola colonialism. Only when it was clear that Somoza was going to lead an anti-Somoza businessman's movement. Since leaving Managua, his chief Contra military aide has been Somoza's military leader, Col. Bermudez, and his FDN officers mostly have been former Somoza people. For a time after the Sandinistas took over in 1979, Calero seemed to represent the loyal opposition. He was soon to have a greater role — commensurate with his CIA connections.

In 1980, the FDN, Calero's wing of the Contras, was formed. It was created by former Somoza warlords and military from the Argentine right, which was important in the creation of the country's reign of terror.

In 1982, FDN squabbled with other anti-Sandinista elements. At the same time, the CIA, working with Miami Nicaraguans, created the FDN leadership including Calero, former Somoza followers and sugar estate people. Calero left Nicaragua on "business" and suddenly appeared as the head of the armed opposition. Shortly thereafter, Nicaragua took over his Coca-Cola plant, claiming that it was backing the Contras.

Although Calero was now the leader, the Contra troubles continued. In May 1984, the CIA and Calero's FDN had trouble with Contra Eden Pastora, a former Sandinista who refused to accept Calero's right-wing leadership. A bombing attempt to kill Pastora was made at a press conference at La Penca. Eight people, including one American, were killed and 28 wounded, including Tony Avirgan, an American journalist. A suit has been accepted in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida in behalf of Avirgan. The suit charges Calero with helping to plan the assassination attempt.

Recently, charges of corruption, drug running and forcing out Contras who have serious democratic inclinations have emerged. Owen suggests there is "some money going somewhere." Calero's CIA salary was \$3,000 monthly until mid-1984, and he also has been paid from the FDN's \$31 million in foreign donations. He has controlled the FDN pocketbook while Contra soldiers suffered lack of supplies and equipment in the field. This year the Christie Institute suit

will present further evidence of drug-running connected to the Calero group. Drug financier Ramon Milian-Rodriguez has named Calero as one of the recipients of his cash transfers. This issue is presently being investigated by Sen. John Kerry's staff.

In February 1987, Calero's two most recent co-leaders left him because of his right-wing dictatorial ways. On March 10, Arturo Cruz, the most democratic leader the Contras had, pulled out of the Contra leadership, saying it had defined itself "not as a pluralistic structure" in the service of a "pluralistic goal." Since then, the CIA has tried various efforts to put together a Contra leadership group, but nothing has worked well. Meanwhile, Calero's FDN uses terror as its main weapon in Nicaragua. On Jan. 5, 1986, Edgar Chamorro, former FDN fighter, described the FDN's tactics as premeditated terrorizing of civilians, "hundreds of civilian murders, mutilations, torture and rapes." These charges have been confirmed more recently by numerous human rights groups active in Nicaragua.

Calero's liberation is not anything like the quiet liberation of the industrial masses which John Wesley sought in the late 18th century. When he gives his speech and dines with Nebraska leaders, we should hear the cries of the murdered, mutilated, tortured and raped described by Chamorro. Despite the recent congressional vote, the war will continue. It will be financed by the internal and international actors in the Iran-Contra hearings, unmindful of the proscriptions of the Neutrality Act. Calero has not taught us to love justice or to say, "Blessed are the meek."

Paul A. Olson
professor
English