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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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No more clouds

Smoking policy to clear the air in July Cough-cough.

It's a sound everyone knows, but one; that won't be heard quite as often on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus after July 1.

On that day, the UNL administration plans to implement a smoking policy that would prohibit smoking in most areas of buildings on campus.

The policy would:

· Require professors who smoke in their offices to buy and maintain a smoke filter.

· Require signs that say "Smoking Allowed" and "No Smoking" in appropriate areas.

· Require deans, directors, department chairpersons, managers and other supervisory personnel to enforce the policy and punish those who don't comply with it.

Time magazine reported in its April 18 edition that some 26 percent of American adults now smoke. That figure is down from 38 percent 30 years ago. It's obvious that the appeal of smoking is on the decline and smoking policies like this are becoming more acceptable across the nation. The new policy is just one more step in that direction - the right direction.

While many smokers might testify that the policy infringes on their rights, they must realize that smoking isn't a right. It's a privilege, for those who want to smoke and have the money to support their see all the places they can't smoking habit. Like any other privilege, smoking can annoy and sometimes cause health of the Daily Nebraskan. difficulties for innocent bystanders.

Smoking is far from an individual act. Once the smoke smoke they don't want.

leaves the smoker's lungs, it is expelled into the air air shared with non-smokers. Most would agree that breathing is a much more significant right than satisfying one's nicotine addiction.

Consuming alcohol is an individual act, until one gets behind the wheel of an automobile. Alcohol isn't allowed on campus anywhere and few complain, because several bars and nightclubs in Lincoln are available to satisfy one's desire to drink.

Smokers, too, can satisfy their craving in specific places with other smokers who don't mind breathing smoke and, more importantly, away from those who don't smoke.

R. Neale Copple, dean of the College of Journalism, said a no-smoking policy was inevitable and that he and other smokers in the college will have to go along with it.

When the policy is employed, the deans will determine where the smoking and non-smoking areas will be in their colleges.

'We will treat us smokers with as much equality as we can," Copple said.

Shawn Boldt, former first vice president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, has said that, once implemented, the policy will meet with resistance from smokers at UNL.

"I think as soon as students smoke, they'll really be upset.' Boldt said in the March 2 issue

Maybe. But probably not as upset as non-smokers are each day they're forced to inhale

U.S. leans eastward New York not as hot as media thinks it is

lopsided. It leans heavily to the table than he was before. East. At least, this is the impression I get from the national news media, particularly from network television. There is an unashamed and inexcusable Eastern bias in national news reporting and in the analysis of national and international issues.

Sometimes it comes out in the most annoyingly petty ways. When-ever Joe Witte or Willard Scott gives the national weather on NBC's "Today" show, the concerns of the East are the concerns of the broadcast. If there is a drought in the East, we are given the impression there is desperate need for water everywhere.

A couple of weeks ago, while we were enjoying early spring and temperatures above 75 degrees, dear old Joe spoke of the cold snap that "has the nation in its icy grasp." It seems that most states east of the Ohio River were having sub-freezing lows. Of course, the three-quarters of the nation beyond that point was basking in sunshine and breaking out the croquet sets, but is there really life beyond Philadelphia?

What is generally an Eastern bias actually works its way specifically to a New York bias - whether city or state. (What's wrong with this line: "New York, New York?" Give up? I said the state first.) All three major networks have headquarters in New York, and it shows. The fact is that few people outside of New York care what happens in New York, but the people inside New York cannot fathom that. And since they make the programming decisions, we get to hear a lot about New York whether we like it or not.

This was never more evident to me than it was this week. You may not have realized or cared, but the New York primary was this week. It was old news. There is no Republican race anymore, and the Democratic race was all but predictable: Dukakis a strong first, Jackson a respectable second and Gore a pitiable third. The picture is not different than it was

Editorial Policy

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But that is not the impression one gets from the New York-based news media. On the aforementioned "Today" show Wednesday morning, Jane Pauley spent the first 10 minutes of the show talking about the primary and interviewing Michael Dukakis and Jesse Jackson, breaking with the regular routine of going straight to the news desk after preliminary introductions. When they finally got to the news desk, we heard the story of 31 airline passengers finally set free by Iranian terrorists after being held hostage for 16 days on board a Kuwaiti jetliner. Now, which do you think was the more important story? It all depends on whether you live in New York.



For National Public Radio's 'Morning Edition" program (which originates in Washington, D.C.), the New York primary was only Wednesday's third lead story behind the freed hostages and the funeral of assassinated PLO leader Khalil al-Wazir. It barely edged out the quiet Persian Gulf after two days of upheaval. That sounds to me like a saner assessment of the day's events, although I think I still would have put the primary behind the Baltimore Orioles losing their 13th straight game and tying major-league baseball's record for consecutive losses at the beginning of a season. (Hang in there, Frank Robinson.)

The fact of the matter is that Iowa, New Hampshire, Super Tuesday, Illinois and even Wisconsin were all much more decisive and important in the development of the presidential race than the New York primary. Most people are pretty tired of the Christian Fellowship.

Rezac, copy desk editor; Jen De-

selms, managing editor; Curt Wag-

ner, associate news editor; Chris

Anderson, associate night news edi-

don't know if you have before the primary, except that whole affair and are ready for a little noticed it, but this nation is Dukakis is a little closer to the inevi- break before the conventions this summer heat the whole thing up again in a mad dash for November. We don't want to look at Dukakis and Jackson first thing in the morning, and we certainly don't want to hear Jane Pauley or anyone else droning on about what New Yorkers did among and to each other in a has-been presidential struggle.

New York-city or state-isbig. It is really big. There are more people in that one city than in most of the states surrounding Nebraska com-bined. Almost 10 percent of the nation's population live in the Empire State. But there are a few more of us out here in the rest of the country, and we're getting a little tired of hearing about how everyone either lives in New York or wants to. I, for one, fail into neither category. I come closer to the "couldn't pay me enough to group.

I have never been to New York. I have also never played golf or had an ingrown toenail. I will not consider myself particularly impoverished if I reach my grave having accomplished none of these feats. You see, the South and the Midwest are places, too, and it is there that I have made my abode. I have lived in states that have produced presidents, national college football and basketball champions. Nobel Prize winners, and some of the greatest friends a person could ever have.

So we don't control the dinosaur TV networks. Atlanta is the production center for cable television, Omaha is the telecommunications capital of the country, and Indianapolis is the world headquarters for amateur sports. New York has lots and lots of people, and little else anymore. As we enter the 21st century, rest assured the fading star will give way to a whole galaxy of new and exciting centers of national and international importance. Start spreadin' the news....

Sennett is a graduate student in philosophy and campus minister with College-Carcer

Johnson, editorial page editor; Joan tor and Joel Carlson, columnist. Editorials do not necessarily re-

flect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

Member of community liked DN joke issue, looks forward to more

Every story has two sides, and I would like to say how much my husband and I laughed over your parody issue of the Daily Nebraskan.

The state senator who objected on grounds that abuse of freedom of speech results in its loss is out in left field. The implication is that freedom of speech is controlled by a panel of good taste. I'm almost sorry that isn't the case. Maybe Congress could benefit as well from an arrangement, or the National Enquirer.

While some articles were not to my taste, that is my judgment call, not anyone else's.

The humor was evident and in some cases very broad and poked fun at a lot of sacred cows. Keep up the good work. The purpose of the press is to stimulate discussion of a subject by presenting the facts. In that, you have succeeded admirably

By the way, I feel your reporters illustrate a better grasp of the English language and sentence structure than some local "paid" professionals. Scn. M.L. Dicrks refers to "poor

taste" in the parody issue. Good taste is a very personal response, in this

case, borderline good taste, but I'll defend your right to do it again.

Do I really have to wait another year for the next issue? Or will November elections supply your staff with more opportunities to do it again?

J.D. Heinzmann

Lincoln Reader says friends attending other schools liked the April 1 issue

I have seen a few letters published recently condemning the Daily Nebraskan staff for the April 1 joke issue, the Daily Half-asskin. Personally, I enjoyed it thoroughly. In fact, I sent copies to friends at a few other bastions of academia. The reviews are in, and the unanimous consensus is: a job well done!

It's too bad that a lot of folks don't seem to have a sense of humor, but I say if they can't take a joke, piss on them! I suggest that the next time one of those pious, self-appointed guardians of public morality see a copy of the Half-asskin, don't pick it up and read it. Do us all a favor and go scratch.

I would like to go on, but I have to get Mr. Falwell's copy in the mail now so he can add it to his list. As

soon as his friends in Washington get our rights to a free and unencumbered press squashed, they will stop you degenerates and make the world safe again.

Don Hess student at-large charter member Small Minds for a Clean Country

Abortion not best way to find the solution for unwanted pregnancies

In response to Jolene Shumake's letter (Daily Nebraskan, April 18), there are people who protest abortion who have been faced with an unwanted pregnancy.

To make a long story short, at 19 I was pregnant, unmarried and in no position to care for an infant. Nine months later, I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl I named Karen. I reveled in the wonder of her birth and experienced the joy and ecstasy of life itself. Three days later, as I held her in my arms, I studied her tiny features so that I would never forget what she looked like. Then I said goodbye to her and handed her to a very caring woman from Nebraska Children's Home Society

The little girl I kissed good bye is

now 11 years old. Twice, through the the bottom of a garbage can in some adoption agency, I have exchanged letters with her parents - I am told by them that she is a happy, generous and intelligent child. I'm told of the love she has brought to their lives. I'm told of the happiness she has brought to their home. I am also told of the wonder and joy of raising a daughter. This is in sharp contrast to the life of the "unwanted" child portrayed by Shumake.

The argument that abortion is an answer to "unwanted" children is a fallacy. Furthermore, abortion gives no more of a "second chance" than does adoption. As the abortion statistics indicate, there are many who disagree with me. This letter will not change the minds of pro-abortionists. It is only intended to illustrate that unwanted pregnancies do not have to have disastrous endings. The elation I felt when Karen was born was no less than the elation I experienced when each of my other four children were born. The key to the celebration of life, any life, is the ability to love a child more than you love yourself. We live in such a "me" society that many people find it hard to place the best interests of the child first.

No one will ever convince me that Karen would have been better off in

abortion clinic. I doubt anyone could convince her parents either.

Sally Buscher junior law

Readers: Joke issue combination of satire, mockery and vulgarity

Congratulations to J.B McCombs, (Daily Nebraskan, April 20) on admitting to having a sense of humor. We also thought the Daily Nebraskan's April Fool's issue was a masterful combination of satire, mockery and, yes, vulgarity. Why not? This is a college newspaper, read mostly by college students, and is not targeted toward state senators, several of which obviously lack a sense of humor. They should stick to reading the regular edition of the DN (which was also printed that day!) We think that college students need humor, and this issue was mild compared to what we laugh about in private. Lighten up, senators!

Susan E. Morris James K. Purtzer senior junior secondary education advertising

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