

Daily Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Stopping brain drain

Plan would help students get to college

The Nebraska Legislature advanced a bill Thursday that would allow Nebraskans to deposit up to \$2,000 a year in a federally insured financial institution without having to pay taxes on that money.

LB140, the Nebraska College Savings Plan Act, would make the tax-free savings available to Nebraskans when they enter private, state or technical colleges as full-time students.

That's good news.

State Sen. Jerry Chizek of Omaha, a sponsor of the bill, said middle-class Nebraskans often cannot afford to pay education costs in lump sums. Seventy-five percent of Nebraskans have federal adjusted gross incomes of less than \$30,000.

Tax-free sounds good to anyone, so the bill would encourage Nebraskans to save for their children's futures. If the bill can help more Nebraskans go to college, maybe the income figure will improve. Poverty perpetuates ignorance, and ignorance often, if not always, perpetuates poverty.

Chizek said the rising costs of education justify the bill. He's right. Nebraska residents pay \$48.50 per credit hour at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, up from \$22.50 in 1978.

State Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln, while supporting the bill, showed concern that state funds lost through the tax breaks would detract from the \$4 million in need-based aid given to state colleges and universities.

But the bill has the potential of decreasing the number of students who need state aid. If students can show up in Lincoln or Kearney with enough cash for four years of classes, taxpayers throughout the state will feel the relief. In addition, state colleges and universities could see increased enrollment, which would help make up for the lost revenues.

The only problem with the College Savings Plan is that it doesn't go far enough. The bill has a provision that would charge students a 10-percent penalty if they want to attend college out of state.

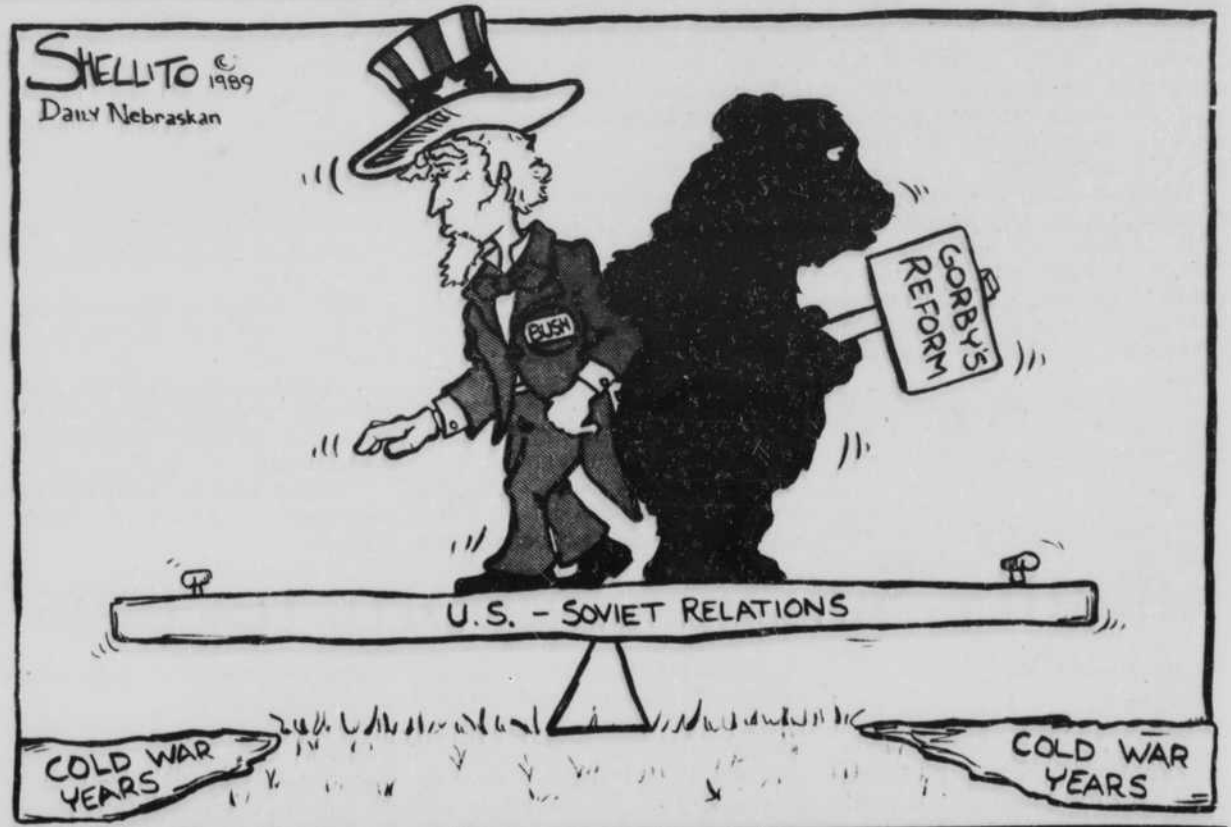
What the provision attempts is obvious: To stop the "brain drain" of talented students out of Nebraska. But students should be given every opportunity to go to college wherever they want, including other states.

After all, broadened physical horizons can be just as important to an education as mental ones. Students should have incentives for coming back to Nebraska, not penalties for leaving.

Besides, while UNL may offer exceptional programs in certain fields, it's certainly not the best in the nation at everything. A Nebraska high school student might enroll in an out-of-state school that offers the best program, or one that UNL doesn't even offer, with every intention of returning after graduation.

Granted, that student's tuition payments are gone forever. But if the student returns wiser or more skillful, then Nebraska has won.

-- Brandon Loomis
for the Daily Nebraskan



Racial injustice is alive and well

Columnist encounters prejudice and inequality across America

Now is the time to open the door of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

--Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1963

I remember it as if it were only yesterday...

It was late December, 1981, and my cousin and I were on our way to Miami for the Orange Bowl. Nebraska would lose that particular game 22-15 to Clemson, but the game was not the most memorable experience of the trip for me.

We were just outside of Mobile, Ala., at about 7:30 p.m. four days before the game. For some reason, it still seemed light outside, but the night was about to get a lot darker.

We stopped at an interstate convenience shop to fill the car with gas and grab a few snacks. While we were there, I struck up a conversation with the clerk behind the counter.

He was a typical, Southern good ol' boy, warm and friendly and full of wit. He, my cousin and I talked about football, winter in Nebraska and various other unimportant things. He was one of the nicest people I met on the whole trip -- at least at that point.

After a few minutes, a black Alabama State Patrolman entered the store. As he walked up to the counter, he looked at me and nodded a hello. I said "Hi" and pulled out my wallet to pay for a can of Pepsi. By this time, I noticed that a strange hush had come over the store clerk.

The patrolman walked up to the counter with a snack and pulled out his money to pay for it. He exchanged some small talk with my cousin and I, but the store clerk remained silent.

Finally, the patrolman tapped at his watch and shook his head. It apparently had stopped running. "Do you have the time?" he asked, to nobody in particular.

As I started to look at my watch, I heard something that would change my life.

"It's time to get outta my store, nigger!" the clerk shot back. "Leave now, or you'll be sorry. Damn sorry."

Everything went silent. I got a numb, knotted feeling in my stom-

ach. I couldn't believe what I had just heard.

I was waiting for the patrolman to pull out his nightstick and beat the clerk into next week, or slap the cuffs on the little redneck and take him to wherever people like him are taken. But none of that happened.

What did happen had more of an impact on me than the initial, racist comments that spilled out of the clerk's mouth.

What happened was nothing. The patrolman looked at the clerk for a few seconds, straightened his hat, snatched up his snack and left the store. As he left, he looked back at my cousin and I with a melancholy smirk of his face -- an expression that told me he was used to this kind of inhuman treatment.

Chuck Green



It was unbelievable. Here was an Alabama State Patrolman, who had four inches and 40 pounds on the clerk, carried a gun, a badge and the U.S. Constitution, and he wouldn't respond. His only response seemed to be acceptance of the situation, as if he were raised on it.

Unfortunately, he probably was. As the patrolman drove off, the clerk shot us the old "I guess I told him" look. We both demanded our money back for the snacks, paid for the gas and left. Neither of us spoke a word for the next 30 miles.

I was a high school sophomore at the time. Being a white, Catholic male, my exposure to racism was, at best, lacking. But that incident opened my eyes pretty wide.

After that, I started noticing racism everywhere, and with each incident, I loathed it more and more.

The other day, as I was walking to the Daily Nebraskan office in the Nebraska Union, I overheard three students telling racial jokes and talking about how half the world's prob-

lems are caused by... well, minorities. Believe me, "minorities" wasn't among the phrasology they used.

I started thinking about Nebraska, and how people here pride themselves on being different from the rest of the country in that they're "friendlier" and accept people more readily. It's true in most cases, I guess, but the conversation between those three students brought out an important point.

Racism is alive and well everywhere -- something everybody knows. Even here in Nebraska, where race riots and civil rights marches of 100,000 people have never occurred, the seeds of racism hang over the plains like a black cloud, growing unnoticeably into a huge, uncontrollable storm.

Remember the stories from Rulo? White supremacists, neo-Nazis, and on and on and on. It can happen here. Don't be naive enough to think it can't.

Back in the early 1960s, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. -- a man I admire and respect more than any other human being ever -- tried to enlighten the "world's greatest melting pot" on the basics of equality and justice. His efforts brought about many changes, but not nearly enough.

King died for his beliefs -- the ultimate sacrifice. His dream didn't die with him, but it stalled like a skateboard in quicksand. In many ways, the pursuit of equality, among all minorities in the United States, continues to stall.

If people of the same nationality can't cooperate, just because of skin color, how can the world community ever survive? The answer is out there -- it won't survive. Read the newspapers.

The easiest thing in the world to identify is injustice. Often, it's just as easy to understand injustice. But possibly the hardest thing in the world is to change it.

At least one Alabama State Patrolman knows it -- better than most people.

Green is a news-editorial and criminal justice major, a Daily Nebraskan sports-writer, sports and editorial columnist and copy desk chief.

letter

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

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 will not be granted.

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

opinion READER

Saving unborn is urgent need

Early in his campaign, George Bush proclaimed his intention to make America a kinder, gentler nation. He was applauded from the left, as well as the right, for his genuine concern for the poor, the unprotected and the unrepresented members of our society.

In this light, Bush's strong support for the protection of the unborn is not surprising. There is no category of

Americans who have suffered as severely as the unborn. Hopefully we have finally elected a person to the White House who will forcefully assert the constitutional claims of all his fellow Americans. Protection of the unborn is the logical first step toward a kinder, gentler nation.

James Feyerherm
senior history

editorial POLICY

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UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper.

According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.