

Daily Nebraskan
Editorial Board
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Amy Edwards, Editor, 472-1766
Lee Rood, Editorial Page Editor
Jane Hirt, Managing Editor
Brandon Loomis, Associate News Editor
Brian Svoboda, Columnist
Bob Nelson, Columnist
Jerry Guenther, Senior Reporter

What others think Condoms, animal agriculture questioned

These are scary times. Today's sexually active individuals now have to worry about whether the condoms they use can prevent transmission of the AIDS virus.

Three national brands of condoms -- Lifestyles Contracept Plus, Trojan Naturalube and Trojan Ribbed -- allowed the AIDS virus to escape in laboratory tests.

Overall, the study, conducted by researchers at the University of California at Los Angeles, found that 66 percent of all the condoms tested, or more than one in every 200, were not effective. Lambskin condoms, which had earlier been cited as ineffective, did prevent leaking; and condoms recommended for use include the Ramises, Sheika, Meuser and Gold Circle products.

The No. 1 way of avoiding transmission of the AIDS virus is abstinence, a choice that has become both acceptable and widespread in the 1980s.

But if students do choose to have sex, they should become more responsible. If they are not already, choosing a better brand of condom is a wise idea until the California study results are widely accepted, but it has become imperative that sexually active people know the sexual histories of their partners.

(Today) thousands of people in the U.S. and nations around the world will observe World Farm Animals Day to call public attention to the abuse and devastating impacts of today's intensive animal agriculture industry.

Farm animals account for 95 percent of all animals that are abused and killed by human beings. Veal calves are taken from their mothers at birth, chained by the neck in wooden crates too narrow to allow them to turn around, deprived of bedding and light, and fed a liquid diet deficient in iron and fiber. Laying hens have half of their beaks clipped off and spend their lives crammed five to a cage the size of a folded newspaper. Breeding sows are immobilized in small pens, often with electric shocks which cause sores and lameness. Newborn piglets are weaned within three weeks and the sows are given only one week to recover before being inseminated again and returned to the gestation stall. Both sows and piglets are raised in the U.S. under deplorable conditions of severe crowding, deprivation and frustration.

But animals are not the only victims of intensive animal agriculture. Nearly 1.5 million Americans are crippled and killed prematurely each year by heart disease, stroke, cancer and other chronic diseases that have been conclusively linked with excessive consumption of animal products. The costs of raising farm animals could easily feed the 600 million people that face starvation around the world. Intensive animal agriculture threatens our own survival by depleting irreplaceable topsoil, polluting water, contributing majorly to the pollution of our air and seas, and destroying our wilderness areas.

Today also is the birthday of Marjorie Galt, the most prominent proponent of farm animals in modern times. Galt claimed that "the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated." We have a long way to go.



APPEASING THE GODS

Cop addresses drug legalization

First step is to teach young dealers evils of 'easy money'

John is a white Chicago cop. He doesn't want his full name used because what he has to say might not please his superiors, although many probably agree with him.

"I'm a sergeant and I've worked on the West side by choice most of my career. So I know something about the problem of drugs. I think I know more about it than some of the people who do a lot of talking about winning the drug war and make the laws and set our national policies, but have never been on the street where everything is happening.

"For years I've been advocating, mostly to my friends, the legalization of drugs and using the billions we'd save from trying to fight the import and sales to cure those who want to be cured.

"The way things go now, the courts will sentence drug offenders and people who steal to get drug money to rehabilitation as a condition of probation.

"But what happens when they want to go straight and can't get into a program for six months, which is very common? I'll tell you what. They go right back to their friends and habits. So instead of spending all those billions pretending you're doing something, some of the money could be used for rehab, some of it for ad campaigns not to use it, the way it's done with cigarettes and liquor.

"We'd still have laws against the sale to minors. You know, it pains me to see how rich drug laws have made punks and white collar opportunists. But once the profits aren't there, the punks and the others are out of business.

"On the West Side, kids used to complain that we stopped them because they were black and driving a new Cadillac. That was true. Most

often the car was stolen and we had to chase them.

"But now that's changed. Now the cars belong to them and they've paid cash. And some of them aren't even old enough to drive.

"Those of us in law enforcement look like fools trying to fight a battle we can't win. And that just breeds contempt for law and order.

"You know, even if we were able to stop the coke from Colombia and Peru, it wouldn't change things. It would come in from somewhere else.



someone who lives in a drafty apartment and is wanting for food and has no chance for a decent education or a job for selling drugs?

"How are you going to convince the kids to get back to school so they can be a factory worker, or get a low-paying job in a fast food place, or be unemployed, when they can sell drugs for big money?

"Then they're going to have kids and they won't be able to steer them away from drugs or get them to go to school because they can't lead by example. If you're going to have values and morals, they have to come by example. And that's why we have all the casual violence out there, the disregard for life and death.

"The way we're going at this thing reminds me of Vietnam. A quagmire. Lives lost, then we pack up and leave.

"One of the reasons we study history is to learn from our own mistakes. Well, it looks like we didn't learn anything from Prohibition.

"I keep reading that every poll shows that most people are against any kind of legalizing of drugs.

"You know what that tells me? It tells me that most people who get polled can't know what the hell is going on out here."

That's one cop's opinion. But I suspect it is also the opinion of thousands of other cops in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles and in most cities where the problems are the same.

Since they're the ones who are actually fighting this no-win war, I respect their opinions more than the word-warriors in Washington who have never been any closer to Chicago's West Side, or New York's Bronx, or Los Angeles' Watts than their TV sets can get them.

"How can President Bush fault

c. 1989 Chicago Tribune

editorial

Signed staff editorials represent the official policy of the fall 1988 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Amy Edwards, editor; Lee Rood, editorial page editor; Jane Hirt, managing editor; Brandon Loomis, associate news editor; Bob Nelson, columnist; Jeff Petersen, columnist; Brian Svoboda, columnist.

Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the 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.

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 sub-

mit 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. Letters should be typewritten.

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.