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Nebraskan
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EDITORIAL

Promises, promises

Voters shouldn't trust Bush's no-tax vow

President Bush has once again made a promise he will never keep.

Bush renewed his no-new-taxes vow Wednesday, pledging he would not raise taxes again, "ever."

Some people will say anything to win.

"I went along with one Democratic tax increase," he said, "and I'm not going to do it again. Ever. Ever."

Absolutely, positively, never ever ever, no way, huh-uh.

After breaking his most well-known campaign pledge last time around, the president expects taxpayers to believe him now.

Bush revealed a re-packaged economic plan yesterday that suggests a 1 percent across-the-board tax cut.

Don't fall for it.

George Stephanopoulos, Clinton's campaign communications director, best summed up the plan.

"Promises, promises," he said. "Four years ago he promised no new taxes and 30 million jobs and what we got was no new jobs and more than 30 new taxes."

Consider a worst-case scenario: Bush wins in November.

A renewed Bush presidency would be no different.

As the economy would continue to plunge and the deficit continue to swell, Bush would have few other places to turn but taxpayers' pocketbooks.

Bush's only other alternative to raising taxes would be slashing social benefits.

That move would take away the very purpose for paying taxes.

Bush has given voters no more reason to trust in his campaign rhetoric this time around than he did the last time.

Never say never again, George.

OTHERS' VIEWS

Canada sets example

U.S. lags in homosexual couples' rights

Our neighbors up north are paying attention.

Americans should take notice of the broader recognition Canada has given to gay and lesbian couples.

The Ontario, Canada, government received orders (Sept. 1) to extend survivor benefits to the partners of gay and lesbian government employees.

In 1991, the Ontario provincial government extended health and dental insurance coverage to the partners of employees in same-sex relationships.

Some companies in the good ol' U.S. of A. already extend similar benefits to workers with same-sex partners.

Companies that do not extend similar benefits should. It is only fair that same-sex partners of workers be granted the same benefits as the partners of heterosexual workers.

These rights should include the right of people in same-sex relationships to show their love for and commitment to each other by marrying.

Our society's definition of marriage needs a revision. Why do our laws and courts make reference to marriage as an institution for "husband" and "wife," for "man" and "woman?"

Even Webster's College Dictionary defines marriage as "the social institution under which a man and woman live as husband and wife by legal or religious commitments."

A marriage should be defined as an institution for two people who wish to live and love with commitment.

Homosexuals make up about 10 percent of the U.S. population. It's about time we grant them the same rights every heterosexual citizen has and end discrimination based on sexual orientation.

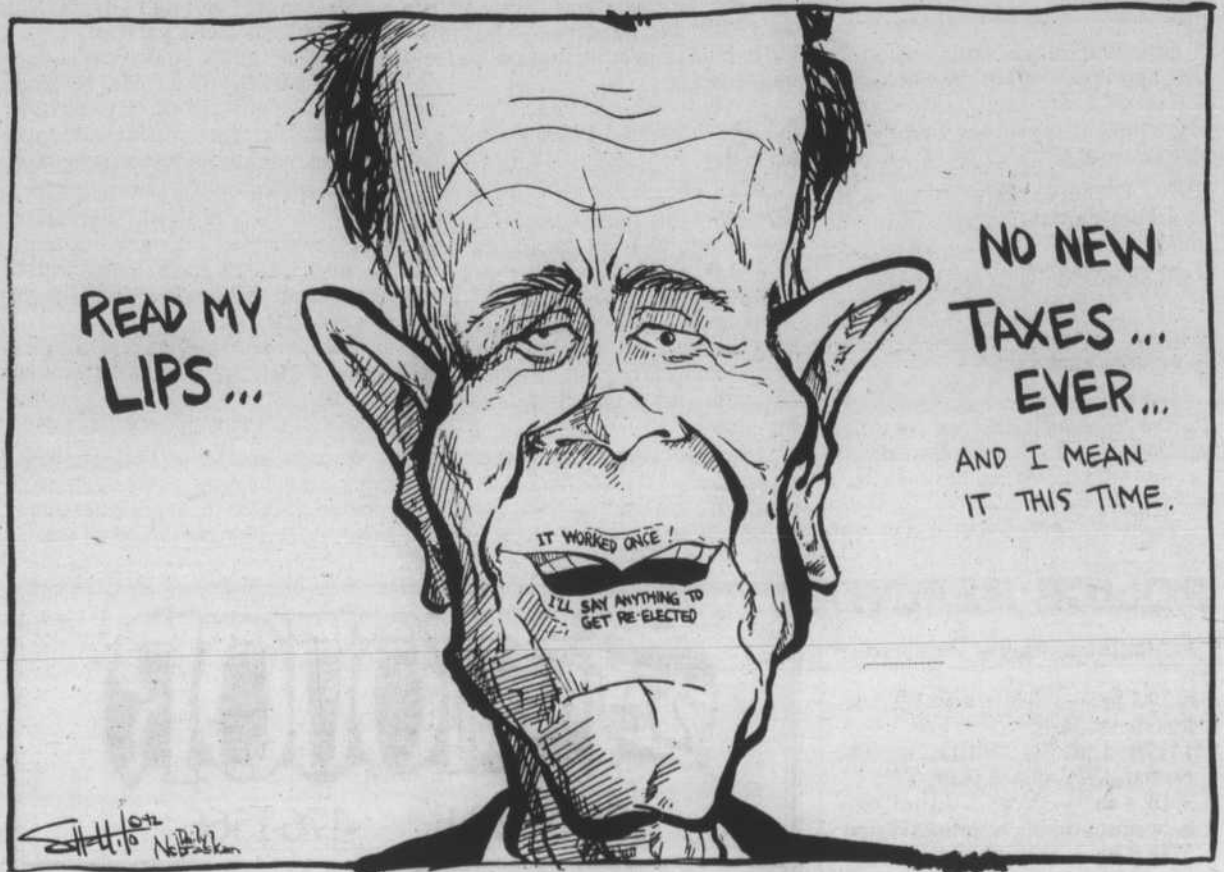
-- Kansas State Collegian

EDITORIAL POLICY

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LETTER POLICY

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 or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. 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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Housing policy

I would like to address the issue that has been recently publicized in many different forums. The issue is the lawsuit that has been filed against the University Housing policy regarding students in wheelchairs.

I have been a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the past year. My perspective on life is from a wheelchair.

I have quadriplegia, which means I have no feeling or movement below my chest. Everyone has different lifestyles. People in wheelchairs are not excluded from this fact. It is important to realize and respect these differences, yet not force other individuals into living a lifestyle that is not one's own.

Having an attendant is very personal for the person requiring the care. The attendant must do things that most normal people can do on their own. Just throwing someone "off the street" into a room with a physically disabled person requiring attendant care is wrong because it will put a lot of stress on a roommate-roommate relationship.

Last year, I had a roommate. He was also physically disabled, using a wheelchair for mobility. Because I have limited movement, I require attendant care. This encompasses rising in the morning 2 1/2 hours prior to my first class.

My attendant would let herself into my room, get me out of bed, assist me in showering, help me get into my clothes, comb my hair and set me up for breakfast.

Even though my roommate knew about the attendant care, it was still a great inconvenience for him because he woke up for class one hour early. No matter how quiet we tried to be, the attendant care would still bother him. It would wake him up two hours before his alarm was set to go off.

If I would not have known my roommate prior to our rooming together, I would have been ashamed to make him live with someone who requires attendant care.

I do not believe that the university policy is meant to exclude a person in a wheelchair from having a roommate. The university has set the policy so that a physically disabled student who requires attendant care may have the privacy he deserves. The University Housing Department and the Services for Students with Disabilities have helped ease my transition back to school after 10 years.

Military

I would like to direct this at Jeremy Fitzpatrick's article, "There's more to life than politics" (Sept. 1) and the response in the DN on Sept. 3.

Mr. Fitzpatrick, I am not a die-hard pro-military person, but I would like to express my feelings on the following:

Firstly, I served four years active army. I was a medic by training, but as anyone will attest, you don't always work in your field of expertise. Anyway, I served during "Operation Just Cause" and "Operation Desert Storm." I am 23 years old, and most of my friends in the military were the same age, give or take a year or two. I imagine you are the same age as well. So I guess the question is, do you consider yourself a boy or a man? I personally consider myself a man, just as the most of the 750 other guys — or men, if you will — who served in the same infantry battalion I did in Germany during "Operation Desert Storm."

Secondly, I can tell you from experience that it's OK to be scared. Everyone I associated with was, me included. But — forgive me if I am wrong — don't hide behind your fear for whatever reason. Someday you might be called on to fight or defend some country you have never heard of.

Last, but not least, I really don't know what, or why, you had to go all the way back to World War II to find an example of a war that was fought for the rights and lives of innocent people. What do think we were doing in Kuwait? Maybe you should research your facts before you put them on paper for hundreds of people to read.

I guess the main point is, your statements are backwards. Especially the one about the boys and the men fighting. The men are the ones fighting, the boys are the officers fighting for the authority to point the finger.

The rest of your article was great if you want to be an "ultra left-wing liberal" or a "die-hard conservative." It's America, so be it.

Dan Carpenter
freshman
biology

Abortion

I am writing this letter in response to Craig Heckman's column entitled "Republican Party angers women" (DN, Sept. 1). I am a NWU student

who read the article and questioned how Heckman could get away with the lies he fed his readers with.

First of all, please tell me, Craig, where you get your facts on what the majority of Americans feel about the amendment to end abortion? I know of many Americans who favor it. And Craig, you brought up the rape/incest issue. Did you know that according to the National Rape Crisis Center, the U.S. Center for Disease Control and an organized survey done by Planned Parenthood, less than 1 percent of all abortions are done because of rape and incest. Also of all abortions done in Nebraska last year, not one was done for either of these reasons.

Also, isn't the rape traumatic enough by itself? Many women have reported that the abortion is even more traumatic. I sincerely feel for the woman who is raped, but I also feel deeply for the child who is not to blame for the rape and has the right to live as we all do.

Another misconception you told your readers is that many pro-lifers feel it is all right for a 13-year-old girl who is raped by her father to have an abortion. You also said the women feel this way more so than any of the men who wrote this plank of the platform. Not only men, but women wrote this plank and voted for it.

You also talked about how many Reagan Democrats do not like this plank of the platform. These same Reagan Democrats you said voted for Bush four years ago. The fact is that the platform was just as pro-life four years ago as it is now. So why would these Reagan Democrats have changed their minds?

The Republican Party is one of family values. We want to teach our kids love, respect and kindness. If we took the position of Democrats on this issue, then we would not respect these values. How can we teach our children love, respect and kindness when the killing of babies happens every day?

Here is the kicker and a big mistake in your argument. You mentioned that the U.S. Senate was against women and has alienated them. You said this was prevalent in the Anita Hill/Clarence Thomas hearings. You made it sound like it was the Republican Senate who was at fault. Remember that the Senate is dominated by Democrats. If the Democrats really cared about women's rights, they should have organized on Hill's behalf. I guess they really did not care.

If you want to write facts, stay with a good newspaper. However, if you want to continue to mislead your readers, write for the National Enquirer.

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