

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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OTHERS' VIEW

President Clinton has just unveiled his new health-care package, and one of the top issues on everyone's mind is how to pay for it. Clinton has two proposals: Increase "sin taxes" on cigarettes and create a new payroll tax.

Sin taxes are a great idea. There's no better way to raise money than by taxing products such as cigarettes that people don't need anyway. What better method to raise money than by discouraging unhealthy and dangerous behavior?

Critics might argue that the sin taxes will eventually bring in lower amounts of revenue, since people will become less inclined to smoke. But that's partly the point of the tax. And, even if revenues decrease, the public will gain from the lower amount of secondhand smoke and the decreased costs of treating lung cancer.

But payroll taxes have some problems. If the government forces businesses to pay more taxes for each worker, employers might respond by firing some of their employees. That could be a prescription for heading back into a recession.

Unlike sin taxes, payroll taxes create disincentives against something the government wants to promote: employment. If anything, work should be encouraged — not penalized by higher taxes.

— The Daily Texan
University of Texas

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I'm very scared."

— Omaha insurance agent Richard Wilkinson, in reaction to President Clinton's health-care reform plan

"If (Laurence) Powell and (Stacey) Koon elect to, they may walk out of the prison. I expect they are going to make a U-turn and get out of here as fast as they can."

— U.S. District Judge John G. Davies, after granting Powell and Koon two more weeks to appeal their case to the Supreme Court. The two Los Angeles police officers have been convicted of violating the civil rights of Rodney King.

"That's going to cost millions to fix up Richards Hall. Millions."

— Paul Carlson, UNL interim business manager at an open forum supporting Green Space.

"I think the citizens of Texas see through this. They see that this is sleazy politics."

— Republican Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, who has been indicted on charges of misusing her office in 2 1/2 years as state treasurer

"When I first came here, I knew I didn't deserve to be on the field."

— Nebraska football player Gerald Armstrong, who last year tied an NCAA record for scoring touchdowns on six consecutive receptions

"It was a good match. I can't put my finger on any one specific thing we did wrong."

— Nebraska volleyball player Nikki Stricker, following the Cornhuskers' loss to Notre Dame

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1993 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents. Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish 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 students.

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.

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LAST JANUARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ecology Now!

As a third-year member of Ecology Now!, I am disturbed by the allegations made by James Zank (DN, Sept. 30) against this group. He concluded that the most likely explanation for Ecology Now!'s public support of green space was to make a political move to coddle the chancellor's favor by supporting his "pet project." Sorry to disprove your line of reasoning, James, but you're dead wrong.

If you will recall, when Ecology Now! intended to storm Spanier's discussion in the Selleck TV lounge more than a year ago, our purpose was to get him started on campus recycling, a project he advocated when he took office in 1991. This is a far cry from wanting "to become chums with Spanier for Ecology Now!'s future use." In fact, Ecology Now! was one of the main forces that produced the Chancellor's Committee on Recycling, created three years ago.

So what's the real reason for Ecology Now!'s endorsement of green space? Would you believe it's for the unselfish reason of seeing it as a beneficial long-term investment for the campus? Even you, James, would agree, as you have stated, that this is not an ecological reason. The facts that were circulated with the petition are summarized as follows: Only 155 parking spaces will be displaced, half of which may go to the Union Insurance Building, and the other half will push back student parking only one row farther — all for the benefit of 24,000 people who would enjoy a campus quad.

Koborn L. Cha
junior
chemistry

I also challenge the moral superiority of the generation labeling us "X." Everyone was not better back then. For every Peace Corps worker, there was an all-for-money type. For every civil rights activist there were two or more segregationists. Those activists set great examples for us, but we must remember that they were not everyone in that generation.

Trevor McArthur
senior
teachers college



James Mehlsing/DN

Safety

I attended the forum about the green space issue. Due to the fact that it was held on the last half of my lunch hour, I was unable to speak out against the issue. I have already written to the chancellor with my opposition.

Paul Carlson spoke on behalf of the chancellor. During the time I was at the forum, he spoke more than once about how this plan to take the campus parking to the outskirts of the campus began in 1967. I think Carlson needs to wake up and realize that this is 1993 and the campus was not nearly as dangerous in 1967 as it is today. The crimes against people and property were not nearly what they are today.

In 1967, I was the same age as the students of today, and I can tell you from experience I was not afraid to go anywhere in this town alone, and did on many occasions, both on foot and in my car. Today when I get in the car at night, I lock the doors and roll up the windows, and if I have to stop on my way home, I am constantly making sure no one is creeping up on me.

Barb Stevens
office of admissions

Gun control

Kudos to law professor Peter Hoffman for, without realizing it, siding with the pro-gun crowd and the NRA (DN, Sept. 30).

Hoffman correctly pointed out that the murder rate in Northern Ireland is significantly lower than that in major metropolitan U.S. cities like New York, Washington, D.C., and Detroit. However, let us not overlook the fact that some of the most rigid handgun control legislation in the United States evolved and exists in those same cities with zero reduction in gun-related crimes.

It is simply not logical, with all that we have learned about gun control, to assume that new restrictive laws aimed at the legal purchaser of a firearm will bear any impact on reducing violent crime.

One example of a more effective strategy would be for the United States to embark on complete redesign of the federal, local and state judicial systems. Designed for an era of criminality completely dissimilar to what we are experiencing now, the judicial system at present is continually proven to be woefully inadequate.

The juvenile reform system, for example, is just one microcosm of our current failure to deal with a complete breakdown of the moral and ethical value base and societal changes in America. Enacted to fairly exact justice to minors who commit "minor" crimes, the juvenile correctional system finds itself ill-prepared to deal with juvenile delinquents who repeatedly commit horrendous crimes. Nebraska, along with a handful of other states, are on the right track with their adoption of a "boot camp" style of juvenile corrections. Arguably a small step, at least it does begin to attack the root causes of juvenile lawlessness — a disrespect for authority.

Until Americans are willing to face the fact that another gun control law will do absolutely nothing to reduce crime rates or criminal behavior, we are all relegated to grasping at straws in our attempts to manage lawlessness.

Thomas K. Eads
junior
political science, English

Green space

I think that the hotheads in opposition to the proposed green space/sanctuary of nature could use some exposure to snow drifts and subzero temperatures.

The fact that it reduces parking may prod these heathens to incorporate such God-fearing methods of transportation as walking and carpooling. That is a laudable measure by any means.

Andrew Seaton
sophomore
international business