

Daily
Nebraskan
Editorial Board
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jeremy Fitzpatrick Editor, 472-1766
Kathy Steinauer Opinion Page Editor
Wendy Mott Managing Editor
Todd Cooper Sports Editor
Chris Hopfensperger Copy Desk Chief
Kim Spurlock Sower Editor
Kiley Timperley Senior Photographer

EDITORIAL

No time limit

Welfare plan needs alternative focuses

A task force formed to study Nebraska's welfare system has developed some suggestions to get recipients off welfare and make them self-sufficient, employed citizens.

Families with one adult who is physically and mentally able to work would be eligible for welfare for two years. They would receive cash payments only if they signed contracts and followed the state's plan intended to help them become self-sufficient.

Welfare reform is a good idea. But whether or not this plan is the answer is not clear.

A time limit on welfare benefits is a questionable idea. Time limits could restrain recipients from getting into truly beneficial job-training programs, especially those that last more than two years. Those who receive welfare need it to survive. They should be able to depend on these needed benefits, rather than wondering when their time will run out.

This plan seems to exclude single-parent families and others who need child care in order for the parent to consider working outside the home. Some money and effort should be put in to working out a child-care system for these parents so they can either get a job that pays a living wage or get the education needed for a job that pays well enough to survive on without welfare assistance.

Welfare reform especially needs to focus on why these people are on welfare and work to get rid of those problems, such as lack of education or lack of needed child care. The task force should concentrate on ways to help welfare recipients attain good jobs, not how long these people can get benefits.

International action

America should ready itself for intervention

The domestic unrest in Russia has reached the boiling point. Now the United States and its NATO allies need to be prepared to take extraordinary action to stabilize the situation.

President Clinton has few options in dealing with Russia's internal problems. But he should take any steps possible to support Boris Yeltsin and his democratic government.

Thousands of hard-line protestors broke the government's siege of the Russian parliament Sunday. The protestors also seized other key installations in the worst political fighting in Moscow since the Bolshevik Revolution.

The Associated Press reported that parts of Moscow were turned into virtual battle zones as 10,000 protestors armed with sticks, clubs and rocks broke through line after line of riot police.

The protestors waved red Soviet flags. Some of the protestors yelled "Down with America."

The domestic unrest in the former Soviet Union is critical to the future security of the United States. In many ways, we cannot separate the stability of Russia from the stability of our own country.

Russia is still a nation with many nuclear weapons. If hard-line protestors hostile to the United States gain control of the country, the U.S. government will no longer be able to focus on domestic challenges like health care. The Cold War could begin again.

President Clinton needs to take unprecedented and bold action to support the Democratic government of Boris Yeltsin. If democracy fails in Russia, it will falter elsewhere in the world as well.

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Green space

I am writing in support of Graham Spanier and a car-free campus. Our new chancellor was chosen as a result of a truly open selection process. Since then, he has done an unprecedented amount to solicit input from the university community on issues.

As a biker and pedestrian, I am tired of my life being threatened by cars barreling through the middle of campus looking for that last parking space! Cars are a threat to campus safety, as they kill 40,000 people in the United States annually.

I am a former resident of Selleck Hall, located next to the parking lot proposed for elimination. While living there, I was awakened every morning at 6 a.m. by the "car culture" as hundreds of hydrocarbon chugging, noisy vehicles would race into this lot outside my residence hall window, fighting for every last bit of cherished pavement.

What good is convenience when your sleep and safety are compromised daily?

Jeff Riggert
UNL graduate, employee and commuter

Ecology Now!

I am writing in response to the letter to the editor by James Zank (DN, Sept. 30). As the instigator of the petition supporting the green space and an active member of Ecology Now! I would like to urge James to check his facts. The petition was started independent from Ecology Now! by myself and Mark Petersen, who happens to be the president of Ecology Now! Although Ecology Now! did vote to support the petition, it was never advertised as an Ecology Now! project. When speaking to ASUN, RHA, the DN and the chancellor, we spoke as students and not as representatives of Ecology Now!

In defense of Ecology Now! I know you have not attended a meeting in at least two years, so you don't know all the good things we have accomplished and all that we are working toward. Ecology Now! is responsible for the current recycling programs on campus, and we are working closely with the new university recycling consultant to develop a comprehensive plan for the whole campus. In addition, the club is responsible for the Green Lights program being implemented in the Nebraska Union, the new daily Ride Share program, and the annual Earth Day EcoFair geared to educating the public.

Ecology Now! also arranged educational speakers, and last semester these speakers were broadcasted on educational television. We are also currently working with local high schools to get new environmental clubs started.

Ecology Now! is an environmental activist organization dedicated to "promoting ecological awareness" and

James, we invite you to attend our meetings any Thursday night at 7:30 in the union to reacquaint yourself with our true goals.

Kimberly Haskett
senior
computer science

Drugs

It seems strange that we spend billions of dollars each year fighting drugs in this country and accomplish



James Mehling/DN

nothing but the creation of an extremely violent black market, yet the four most dangerous drugs are readily available. Not only are these drugs available, but three of these drugs are legally pushed through false advertising.

Tobacco, alcohol, meat and television, what a pity! No doubt tobacco, alcohol and meat each kill more people than all the illegal drugs combined; we've all heard the statistics. TV, on the other hand, in the manner it is used in this country, kills mentally. It works indirectly by slowly sucking away the life and creativity of those addicted.

Nicotine is the No. 1 drug when it comes to difficulty in giving up, and alcohol addiction is stronger than heroin addiction with more severe withdrawals. Then there's meat, which I can say from my firsthand knowledge is addictive.

Don't believe it's addictive? Try to give it up. TV is addictive too. Look at all the millions of Americans who spend most of their waking hours glued to a TV set, never growing as individuals or doing anything for this society that is in deep trouble because of our apathy. This drug is very dangerous because of the images it gives people. Images of violence, sexism and materialism rule the TV.

It would be so much easier to take the old-fashioned conservative approach and pretend these drugs aren't problems, but it bothers me that the United States is No. 1 in bad health and violence. We are also No. 1 in meat consumption and TV watching, as well as heavy users of alcohol and

tobacco. Anybody else see the connections?

Paul Koester
senior
soil science

Gun control

In regard to Nicholas Taylor and the ongoing debate regarding firearms: Mr. Taylor failed to see the connection between the IRA's campaign of terror and the nearly unilateral disarmament of the ordinary citizens of the United Kingdom. I'm not clear on the connection that P.G. Szczepanski was trying to make, but it may be that thugs will always have access to weapons regardless of law.

I'm also confused about a connection that Mr. Taylor was making when he stated his preference to "face a mugger with a knife than a handgun." Does Mr. Taylor mean that he would rather be so armed? Does he presume that further legislation will convince a mugger — who by definition is already engaged in criminal activity — to use a knife rather than a gun on the people he will attack?

In any event, connections to the United Kingdom are immaterial; the issue is the U.S. Constitution and whether further infringement upon the liberties of the people of this country in the name of crime control are to be desired. Whether the United States or the United Kingdom has or will become a totalitarian state is less important than whether or not the government has the means to impose totalitarian rule upon the people.

Like Mr. Taylor, I have been a member of my country's armed forces and I am still committed to supporting and defending the liberties that my ancestors won from their ancestors. Thanks to the Daily Nebraskan for providing a forum for the exercise of the First Amendment, but we should remember that the Second Amendment is the true guarantor of the First.

Robert N. Gale
graduate student

Triplets

I'm a bit baffled why the DN chose to put the story of the three identical brothers on the front cover of Wednesday's issue (DN, Sept. 29). If they were all geniuses studying at UNL at the age of 15, I could understand. If they have some supernatural powers no one knows about, I could understand. But the reality of this is that they're just as human as I am. So what if they all look alike? It still doesn't change the fact that each one of them is unique in his own right.

Mahmoud Al-Alawy
senior
agronomy