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EDITORIAL

## All wet

Flood of plans waters down health reform

**R**eps. Fred Grandy, R-Iowa, and Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., have proposed an alternative to President Clinton's health care plan. The alternative plan is less costly, but would not mandate coverage for all Americans.

The proposal has drawn bipartisan support because it would save money. But the plan is flawed and would not solve the health care crisis in the United States.

The main flaw in the plan is that it expects free market forces to ensure that all people have health care. The United States' current health care system demonstrates clearly that this will not happen. Everyone will not be covered unless coverage is mandated.

Any health plan that would save money obviously would be preferred. But the Cooper and Grandy plan would not save money because the problem of uninsured Americans would persist. Currently, about 30 million people in the United States do not have health insurance. Cooper and Grandy's proposal would do little to change that.

Their alternative health care plan is positive because it will spur debate about the best and most economical way to provide health insurance to all Americans. But it is not the answer and should not be approved.

President Clinton's plan is not the only one and should be open to changes. But it would be a mistake to water down health care reform to the point that it did little to fix an ailing system.

## Terminal kindness

Kevorkian's actions humane, not criminal

**D**r. Jack Kevorkian assisted with his 19th suicide last week, helping a 72-year-old woman who suffered from Lou Gehrig's disease die of carbon monoxide poisoning. But the medical examiner of that county said the death should be considered a homicide, not an assisted suicide.

Kevorkian is not a criminal. He has already been accused of murder in three of the 19 suicides he has assisted and the charges have been dropped each time.

He has consistently helped only terminally ill people die humanely, which is a positive option to spending an indeterminate amount of time hooked to machines in hospitals.

The Michigan Legislature passed a law outlawing assisted suicides specifically to make Kevorkian's actions illegal. Any law made to affect specifically one person is unfair and wasteful. The Michigan Legislature should focus on more pressing issues instead of dealing with just one person.

Euthanasia, assisted suicides and Kevorkian have honorable intentions. Kevorkian has assisted with suicides of terminally ill people who have sought him out because they do not want to continue living in pain. His option to these people is humane and should not be restricted by this state law.

If the people looking for Kevorkian's help have made a rational decision to end their lives, have terminal illnesses and no hope of feeling better, they should have the option that Kevorkian provides. It is more inhumane to tell these people how to live their lives when they no longer enjoy life.

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.



PATRICK HAMBRECHT

## Fight at fountain provokes fear

**K**ok-Chuan Lim is scared to walk past Broyhill Fountain at night.

He's a typical UNL senior from Malaysia. The 23-year-old is majoring in industrial engineering and works part time at the Neihardt cafeteria. But since homecoming night, when his friend, Boon-Chung "Marco" Ong, was beaten outside the union, he's been afraid to walk on campus after dark.

Lim says, "Say you go to Malaysia, and you study at a Malaysian university, and 10 big Malaysians beat you up for no reason? You'd be scared!"

When Lim's father heard about the beating, he told his son to lay low.

"Don't go to school for a few days," his father instructed. Lim tried hard to convince his dad UNL was safe enough for him to attend class.

In the Neihardt cafeteria, Malaysian students still argue about the beating. They discuss whether Ong's beating was racially provoked and worry about how safe UNL is now. I sat down with my friends Lim and Yan-Ping Seng on Sunday afternoon and listened to them talk.

Seng said, "The vice chancellor said that Marco was in the wrong place at the wrong time. But this fight didn't happen in a bar, it happened on a university. UNL is alcohol-free; it's not the wrong place."

"I don't think it's a racial issue," Lim said. "The people were drunk, so they were looking for trouble."

Seng and Lim have heard different rumors about how the fight occurred. Marco was waiting for friends, they agree, when "10 black Africans walked up" and one pushed Marco into the fountain.

According to Seng, the fight happened immediately after Marco was pushed into the fountain. But Lim heard Marco chased the assailants to the union after he was shoved and confronted his attackers there. Either way, the story ends the same.

"It may take a while for Marco to heal," Lim said. "When I saw him his face was all swelled up and was kind



**Seng said, 'The vice chancellor said that Marco was in the wrong place at the wrong time. But this fight didn't happen in a bar, it happened on a university.'**

of big."

Seng said, "The school is not very concerned about this issue. They just say 'That's too bad, that's too bad.' The next time a violent person is looking for a fight, they'll find an Asian person. Because nothing happened this time, we are the target."

Lim said, "Asians have a very small presence on UNL campus. We have no voice."

"In the Rodney King case, the police said it was not a racial issue, but the people rioted. The black people wanted to riot for King. Why? To prevent another case from happening to a black person."

Lim and Seng criticize the Afrikan People's Union for not notifying the police of their rap festival on homecoming night.

Seng said, "Three hundred to 400 people attended the rap festival. You can't say nothing will happen with that many people. But the APU didn't fill out the police form in time."

"I don't feel safe," Lim said. "Yesterday I was at the union after my Bible study. I imagined what would happen if many guys came up to me. What could I do? Asians are the people who got hit, and nobody cared about it."

"My friend, Fook-Sin Lee, told me a joke," Lim said. "What do you do if a group of guys come up to you at the fountain? Say, 'No, it's OK, I'll throw myself in the water fountain. It's OK!'"

He laughed.

I asked Lim what the UNL administration should do to prevent violence.

"Maybe a safety program," Lim

said. "Not just for Asian students, but for all students."

"What would a safety program do?" I asked.

"What would you suggest?" Lim replied, and laughed again. "Maybe the university could introduce students and start a harmonious environment on campus. If you are my friend, I don't want to fight you."

I called Boon Lee Lim, the UNL president of international affairs, to ask him about the violence. He refused to make a comment, but called me back later with a written statement.

"Violence is something that cannot be tolerated," Lee read to me over the phone.

"Whoever is responsible for the incident should be brought to justice. This incident has been negative publicity for the university because the news has been spread across the world by The Associated Press."

Despite Lee Lim's formal tone, it would be hard to miss his implied threat.

Foreign students attend UNL partially because of its reputation as a "safe campus." Malaysian UNL students alone spend more than \$4 million in Lincoln, according to Lim. If the campus administration and University Police don't do something quickly to redeem UNL as a "safe, alcohol-free campus," the dollars and trust of international students could soon ebb away from our figurative Midwestern shores.

Hambrecht is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Assault

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen said there was no reason to believe the assault on the Malaysian student Boon-Chung Ong was racially motivated (DN, Oct. 19). However, that does not mean there was no reason to believe that it was not racially motivated. Could it be that Ong had been so carelessly stereotyped as yet another one of the Asian Americans who are so often, but wrongly and unjustifiably, accused by other minority groups of

being the ones who just come and steal the goodies away?

I would like to let those ignorant attackers know that not all Asian students here are Asian American, and most of us do not intend to become one. We are simply regular international or exchange students. As far as I know, American students, black or white, always are welcomed with great hospitality in my home country. Why do we have to experience such horrifying treatment here?

Despite the tragedy, I must admit I

have a wonderful time studying in America, and I have found the great majority of Americans to be extremely warm and friendly. I was all ready to share my "perfectly" wonderful experience with my friends back home in Malaysia when I graduate next May. Unfortunately, this incident just added an unnecessary, bad stroke that spoiled an otherwise perfectly drawn picture.

Francis Tan  
graduate student  
marketing