

OPINION

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EDITORIAL

Tragic implications

Proposition 187's victims indicate flaws

The first casualties of California's Proposition 187 have occurred.

Last week, a Hispanic man's son died when the father was so frightened of the proposition's implications that he failed to get his son medical help. Other illegal immigrants are staying away from medical centers in droves.

Unfortunately, Californians are finally seeing the real results of a quick fix idea.

California does have a legitimate problem of funding medical and school tabs for thousands of illegals in the state. They are also not out of line to insist on federal aid for their immigration situation. But denying medical assistance and schooling to illegal immigrants has proved inhumane and even fatal.

And although proponents of the proposition deny that it has racist implications, it is clear that Hispanics in California are being unfairly targeted by the proposition. Legal Hispanics are frequently being asked to produce their green cards on site — a demand to which one man promptly produced his American Express.

Yet, one of the largest groups of illegal immigrants in California other than Hispanics is Canadians. School teachers and doctors, however, are not pinpointing Canadian children as illegals and throwing them out of hospital emergency rooms and schools because they don't look 'foreign' — particularly Hispanic.

The proposition is on hold pending a decision by California's courts. Hopefully, they will rule the proposition null and void, and California, along with other states, will find better ways of handling immigration.

A bitter pill

Criticism is part of politician's job

Newt Gingrich can't get enough media coverage.

Or, at least, that was the appearance he gave until an editorial cartoon by The Atlanta Constitution's Mike Luckovich ran on Nov. 7.

The cartoon showed Gingrich with two racy dressed women, labeled "D.C. high rollers," at the hospital bed of a sick woman labeled "Georgia constituents." Gingrich says, "I want a divorce."

The cartoon ran the day before this year's general election and makes reference to an incident where Gingrich visited his first wife in the hospital to discuss details of their divorce.

Reacting to the cartoon, Gingrich banned The Constitution from covering him in the future, until it runs an apology and retraction.

While the cartoon is somewhat questionable with its take-no-prisoners selection of subject, it seems almost appropriate when Gingrich's similar attitude toward his foes is considered.

Gingrich's indignation over the cartoon has garnered him even more national press attention. But the barbs will get even sharper when Gingrich becomes Speaker of the House of Representatives in January.

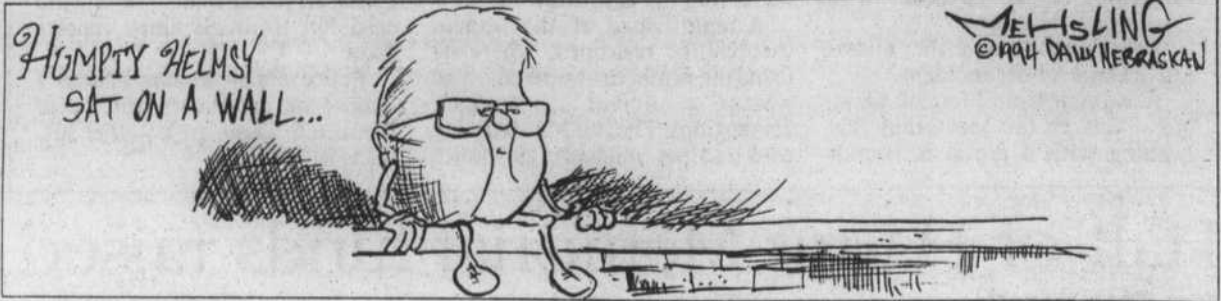
He should quit complaining and accept the fact that criticism is just part of the job.

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. Requests to withhold names will not be granted. Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



LORI LAN ARTHUR

Cars should hold owner's junk

In 18 days, I will receive my Bachelor of Journalism degree from the news-editorial department of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

That sounds good, but I need a job. I guess I shouldn't complain too much about not having a job because I have only sent out two resumes.

I just can't seem to find any good jobs to apply for.

I know the perfect career for me, however: A design specialist for one of the big three car makers.

Mind you, I know nothing about designing cars. I know more than most of my female friends about cars, but I know about the motors, not the designs.

But, as a friend recently brought to my attention, I spend more time in my car than is natural. It's true. I run a lot of errands, and I drive when I'm upset.

So who better to decide what amenities should be standard in a car?

American car makers do a better job with amenities than most foreign car makers. They at least remember the cup holders. I really like cup holders.

If I had cup holders (my car was made in Korea), I would use them for Pepsi cans — which brings me to the first piece of standard equipment I would design: A recycling center.

There are dozens of Pepsi cans on the floor of my car. I feel guilty throwing them away when I get to where I'm going, and I seldom remember them by the time I get home. So they live in harmony on the floor of my car with all of the Daily Nebraskans I also keep there.

Newspapers of all kinds habituate in my car. They could also use



I run a lot of errands, and I drive when I'm upset. So who better to decide what amenities should be standard in a car?

the recycling center.

Next, I would be sure to include under-the-seat drawers for all of the spare clothing loitering in my car.

Currently, there are two sweat-cats, three jackets, a pair of pants and a blue Jockey bra. I really don't remember how the bra got there, but I'm sure it's not what you're thinking. I once had a man's belt in the back seat that I really couldn't explain. But that's off the subject.

A cooler that doesn't need ice would be nice. I realize that a lot of naughty people would use this device for beer, but that's not my intent.

I was thinking about a place to put my lipsticks, so I don't keep melting the darn things.

I don't wear makeup very often. About the only time I think about putting on lipstick is just as I'm pulling up to wherever I'm going. I decided one day to just keep the tube in my car.

It seemed logical up to the time when I found it melted all over my little cubby hole. One would think I would have given up that idea, but I have successfully melted five tubes, one on my passenger seat. Will I ever learn?

The answer to that question is obviously no, since I'm 99.9 percent sure there is a tube in there now.

An optional item that I would pay extra for would be a craft storage center. It defies all logic, but I have three unfinished cross-stitch projects in the trunk of my car.

I feel compelled to explain why they are there, but I can't for the life of me dream anything up. It's more of a mystery than the bra.

Last, but of course not least, would be a telephone.

Pay phones are so hard to find and generally outside. Try having a conversation on a phone outside on Cornhusker Highway. It ain't easy.

Car phones or cellulators should be standard equipment. They are practical for students who travel home for weekends and holidays. What if you have an accident? Don't think a friendly trucker is going to stop and forget about the State Patrol.

I just want one so I can find out what time Target opens and if Taco Bell takes checks. But if you see my dad, tell him about the other stuff, OK?

The next time you're shopping for a car and you see some strange piece of standard equipment, you'll know that someone actually hired me. Cool.

Arthur is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

P.S. Write Back

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