

OPINION

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Daily
Nebraskan
Editorial Board
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Pricey highway

Internet hookup serves few, costs all

Improved access to the Internet — it's every student's wish and every administrator's dream.

As early as next year, residence hall students could be on-line from their rooms.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Housing officials have proposed to wire all of these students' rooms, as well as faculty offices, to access HuskerNet and the Internet.

Sounds like a great idea.

But there's one tiny drawback: the \$6.5 million price tag for the work. That's a considerable amount of money to have to be paid by anyone.

The most logical suggestions have been to increase rates for residence-hall living. But those rates are already increasing.

Perhaps we should look at the issue of need. Do we really need to have all residence-hall rooms hooked up to the Internet?

Sure, student interest in on-line services is constantly increasing, but it is unlikely that even a majority of residence-hall students even have HuskerNet accounts, let alone use them.

Maybe all residence hall students should be allowed to vote on the issue to see if they really want the service and are willing to pay for it.

If not, a smaller amount of money could be used to expand existing computer labs and build new ones. That would be a service that all UNL students, not just those living in residence halls, could utilize.

Last call

Lawmakers should extend alcohol sales

The perennial proposal in the Legislature that would extend alcohol sales in Nebraska an additional hour deserves more consideration this year.

Sen. Tim Hall of Omaha has continually argued that Nebraska's 1 a.m. cutoff for alcohol sales hurts the state economically. He has said residents of his Omaha district can easily cross the Missouri River and enter Iowa for an extra hour of drinking.

That might be true this year, but next year Nebraskans probably won't be driving into Iowa. They will already be there. The two casino riverboats that will be open by next year in Council Bluffs will attract many from the Cornhusker state.

Extending alcohol sales is one way that members of the Nebraska Legislature can help the state economically without crossing the controversial gambling line.

"There is a competition issue," Hall said during a Monday committee hearing.

Under the current law, after 1 a.m. many students drive to after-hours parties that are held in uncontrolled environments.

If drinking establishments were to stay open an additional hour, patrons would be supervised by bar employees, and the patrons' drinking would be controlled.

Extending the sale of alcohol by one hour will not save lives nor prevent drunken driving. The issue should be looked at as an economic one.

The Daily Nebraskan encourages the General Affairs Committee to send LB217 to the full Legislature.

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Cindy Lange-Kubick

I am writing in response to Cindy Lange-Kubick's column "Abortion can save lives, too" (Jan. 26). As I read her article, my mind continued to drift back to another story I read in the paper.

It was about another woman who was trying to find an end to her depression. Feeling she could not cope with her children or her life, she tried to commit suicide but changed her mind. Instead, Susan Smith chose to end the lives of her two children.

Lange-Kubick and Smith chose the same solution: murder. Each woman used her depression as an excuse to end the life of another person who was completely innocent. The only difference is that Lange-Kubick never gave her child a chance to be born.

The nation was shocked and horrified by the selfish choice Smith made, one that was not hers to make. Lange-Kubick made the same choice, yet we're supposed to support her.

Lange-Kubick made her choice because she felt it was best for herself. So did Smith. These women ignored the children's right to live, the fathers' right to his children and the siblings' right to know their brother or sister.

Lange-Kubick may believe abortion saved her life. We know abortion killed her child. Counseling could have saved her life and her child, but Lange-Kubick will never know, and neither will her child.

Kerry Hanigan
senior
English

Lange-Kubick's column stated her pro-abortion rights beliefs, and not whether she had an abortion. Lange-Kubick says she has not had an abortion. — Editor



Bret Gottshall/DN

Allen Fans

Jeff Zeleny's column "Allen fans defeat Spanier fans 5-3" (Jan. 27), about the callers who talked to Regent Robert Allen on KLIN's "Coffey Talk of Lincoln," typifies modern journalism's intellectual cowardice in its approach to covering both sides of a controversial issue — Step one: Identify the conservative. Step two: Belittle his intelligence. Step three: Justify step two by quoting him inaccurately and out of context.

I know this because I am Jerry, one of the Allen fans (conservatives) who Zeleny set up as a straw man to be consumed in the inferno of his own white-hot intellect.

In his opening sentence, Zeleny belittled the participants in the show by equating the conversation to sniper fire at a basketball game: "The shots rang out from the cheap seats," he lamented.

C'mon, Jeff! Words are not bullets, and my opinions are not the result of cheap, detached spectatorship. My degree in mathematics from this university represents an expensive victory in an arduous academic sport. And I've seen more playing time than Zeleny.

Nevertheless, having quickly accomplished Steps one and two,

Zeleny tried to make an example of me in Step three. He quoted me as saying: "Chancellor Spanier is one of those ex-campus radicals who once rallied for freedom. Regent Allen is right about Spanier. I applaud you, sir, keep up the good work."

This was not a direct quote of my words, but an insidious cut-and-paste paraphrase of them designed to portray me as some tyrannical Neanderthal.

UNL has mistaken indoctrination for education, and Chancellor Spanier has only deepened the confusion. Regent Allen IS right about Spanier.

Jerry Paul Kreps
Lincoln

NEA funding

Liberals are often quick to make a point sympathetic to their causes, but usually they are careful enough not to contradict themselves.

The editorial "Culture Shock" (Jan. 30), dealing with National Endowment for the Arts funding, does exactly this.

On one hand, the editorial says, "\$167 million is not a price tag the private sector can pick up." On the other hand, it says, "Americans spend \$64 per capita to preserve its heritage. That's about the price of a cup of coffee."

Sure, it's a small percentage of the federal budget as a whole, but we only need to cut 3 to 5 percent annually to have a balanced budget. Cutting these types of expenses can make a big difference in the budget deficit if you make enough of them.

So is \$167 million a lot of money or not? If NEA funding were cut and only one out of every 10 people chose to make up the difference and contribute more to the arts, that would be \$6.40 a person.

That's about 100 cups of coffee at an inexpensive place or only a few cups at a coffee shop.

Robert Nickeson
senior
physics and astronomy