

OPINION

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Daily
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Opening jitters

New Denver airport worth cost, wait

The Denver International Airport has been cleared for takeoff. And this time, it's no joke.

After 10 years of planning, a 16-month opening delay, chewed-up baggage, cracked concrete and even wisecracks by Dave Letterman, DIA will open Tuesday. Attached to it is a \$4.9 billion price tag.

Since its inception, the new airport has been surrounded by jokes and debate. Opponents say the new airport is too costly, poorly planned and unnecessary. DIA's location about 23 miles northeast of Denver is inconvenient, they say.

"People joked that we were building a new airport — in Kansas," said Norm Avery, a DIA spokesman.

But airport officials stand by the new facility, which they say is needed because Denver's old Stapleton Airport was too congested and technologically outdated to handle the city's growing air traffic.

Despite the glitches and delays, DIA should prove to be a worthwhile project. At a time when concern about air safety is high, eliminating the bottleneck of air traffic created at Stapleton is not only smart, it's necessary.

In that sense, a 23-mile drive to the airport is a small inconvenience.

DIA is following a trend of large airports building outside the city in an effort to protect the environment and alleviate noise pollution in residential areas.

We hope the new airport will have been worth the wait — and the cost.

Good deal

Trade agreement saves U.S. treasures

Just in time.

The United States and China averted a trade war Sunday as the two sides reached a compromise on stopping Chinese piracy of American movies, music and other goods.

Had the two sides not reach an agreement, the United States would have imposed \$1 billion in tariffs on Chinese imports. China had vowed to implement similar measures.

Rampant piracy on American creative exports had prompted the trade-relations breakdown earlier this month, and the possibility of a trade war became very real.

But as early as Wednesday the effects of this agreement could be felt as China begins a six-month special enforcement period. If the country does as it agreed to, all locations of suspected pirates, particularly those engaged in illegal production of compact discs, laser discs and CD-ROMs, will be severely punished.

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor called the agreement a "major step forward."

"This agreement will go a long way in improving the balance of the economic relationship between our two countries," Kantor said.

Not only will it ease the economic ill will between the two countries, but it will keep what is ours, ours.

Most importantly it will protect American treasures like "Jurassic Park" and "Lion King" from being pilfered.

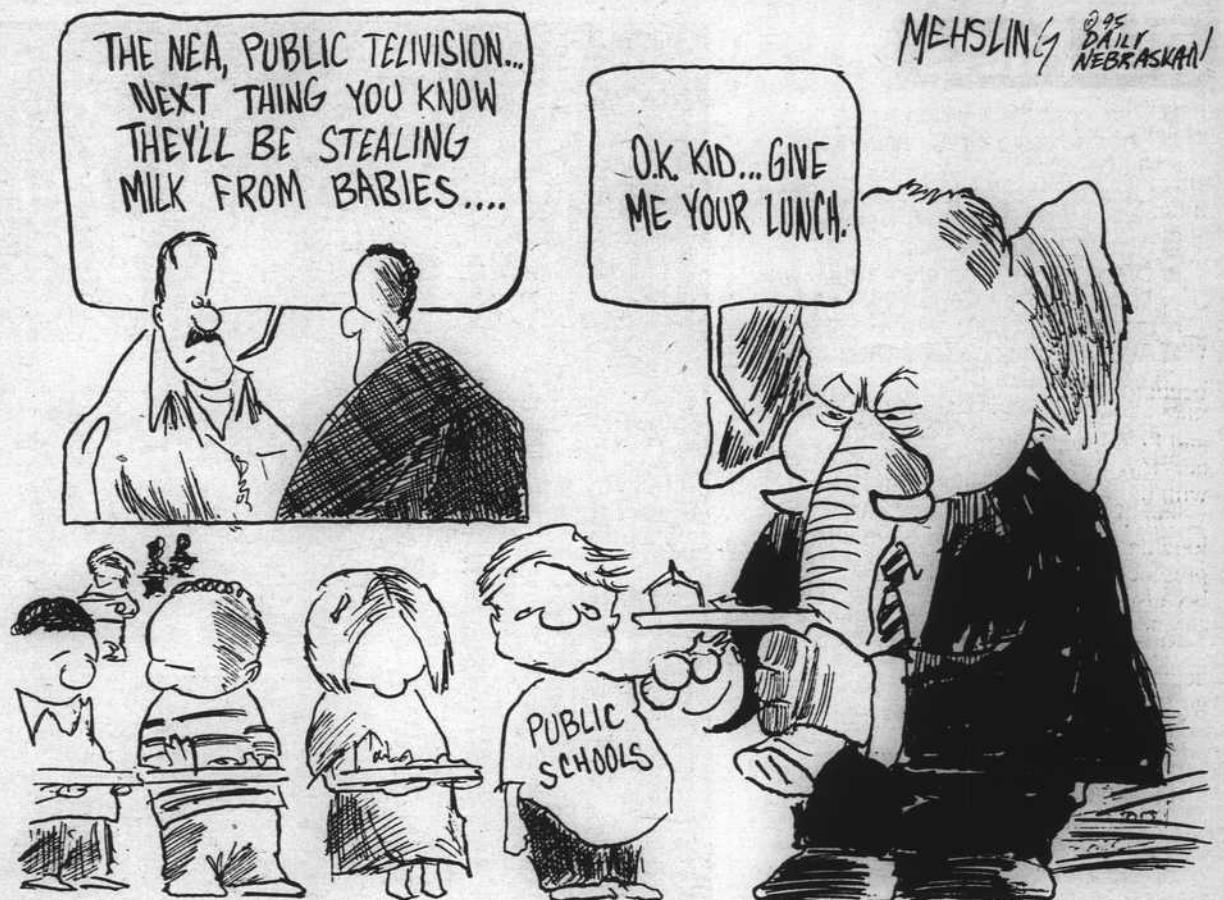
The U.S. should be commended for not backing down, while at the same time, working out an agreement.

Editorial policy

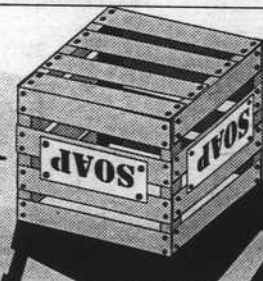
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Bookstore theft

I am writing in response to the article titled "T-shirt thieves keep UNL jobs" (Feb. 21). I am absolutely appalled at the punishment that Charles Griesen, the son of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen, and Seth Gardner received for what they did.

They were charged with a Class I misdemeanor, which is unlawful taking of \$100 to \$300, and the university revoked their driving privileges of university vehicles. In reality, the crime was theft of 118 T-shirts, valued at \$1,968. We spoke with the county attorney's office, and they said the two should



Amy Schmidt/DN

have been charged with theft by unlawful taking of over \$1,000, which is a Class III felony, punishable by one to 20 years in prison and/or a \$25,000 fine.

This punishment these two thieves received does not fit the crime. Not only did they break a state law, they violated five student codes of conduct: 2.12 Unlawful states "Violation of any ordinance of a municipality or in violation of any law or regulation of the U.S., the State of Nebraska or any other state ...;" 4.1g states "Unauthorized occupation or use of or entry into University building ...;" 4.11

"Theft" is self-explanatory; 4.22 is "Unauthorized use of any University property, facilities, equipment or materials;" 4.28 states, "Any act by a student which occurs on the campus ... which is in violation of any law of the State of Nebraska or the U.S., or in violation of any ordinance of the City of Lincoln, shall constitute misconduct."

Now, if I or any other student committed a crime like this, we would have been expelled from the university. Viann Schroeder said, "... are they going to be helped by being out of a job?"

In other words, the lesson to be learned is don't get caught and use your own vehicle.

then he needs to make a better argument than simply asserting as proof what we argue is the issue in contention.

Historically in law, the fetus has never been considered a person, i.e., a bearer of rights. Even Canon Law did not view abortion as murder, but as a sin against nature according to the same logic that made illicit all nonreproductive sexual acts.

In the United States, abortion laws were either for public safety or were eugenics legislation.

We are arguing that the only compelling reason for interfering with a woman's right to exercise sovereignty over her body is that it would violate a more fundamental right of another person. We have no objection to hearing an argument that fetuses should be considered persons, but we've heard nothing but the dogmatic assertion that it is the case.

The only evidence put forward was that a fertilized ovum is genetically complete. This, we argued, logically entailed that we include every cell in the human body in the definition of a person, which is absurd.

More centrally in our original letter, we argued that since fetuses, until into the third trimester, lack the spinal and neural development for sentience and awareness, that it is simply theological assertion to call them agents or persons or bearers of rights.

We are not arguing that abortion is either good, bad or as is most likely, on slippery terrain, both and neither. We are arguing that we see no compelling reasons to cause the state to usurp a woman's right to exercise control over her own body. Therefore, we are not judging the quality of life of another person; we are defending the quality of life for the female person whom the anti-choice crowd seeks to control.

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Human organisms

We would like to thank Matt Davis for his civil and relevant response (Feb. 22) to our letter. Part of the problem was that our letter was so ineptly edited that our actual argument was left out. Instead, our summary assertions stood alone, with the result that we sounded almost as dogmatic as the fanatics we were criticizing. Therefore as a rejoinder to Mr. Davis, we will make another attempt to actually make an argument.

Davis claims that it is illegitimate for us to make a distinction between a human organism and a person. We now think it was a mistake to use the term "human organism," since it suggests an independent life form, and it is this claim about the fetus, that it is a sentient independent human agent that we find untenable.

Still, it seems useful to distinguish the fact that a fetus is human tissue from the assertion that it is a rights-bearing human agent. It is certainly possible to be both; we are arguing that a fetus is one but not the other. If Davis thinks otherwise,

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English

Dennis McGucken
Lincoln