

OPINION

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Daily
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Game over

State should fold in slot-machine gamble

It seems that states across the country—including Nebraska—are jealous of Nevada these days.

Jealous of the bright lights of the Las Vegas strip.

Jealous of the plinking of the slot machines.

Jealous of the money.

When a state decides to allow one form of gambling, a neighboring state immediately tries to up the ante. Such is the case with Iowa and Nebraska, South Dakota and Nebraska and Missouri and Nebraska.

It all started in the Cornhusker state with horse racing. Then it was keno. Soon after, it was the state lottery.

What next?

Gambling supporters would like to see slot machines and video slots. But don't be fooled, it won't stop there. If some gambling proponents had their way, craps tables also would find homes in Nebraska.

Enough is enough.

The state does not need more gambling venues. The thrill of gambling is a novelty. When the pot gets too sweet and attractive, people go crazy and spend, spend, spend.

When spending abounds, problems abound. Sure, gamblers pump money into the state's economy, but at whose expense? Generally, it is at their own expense—or worse yet, their families'.

State lawmakers should listen to Gov. Ben Nelson and kill the legislation in committee.

This sort of financial jealousy can only lead to a losing bet for Nebraska.

Priorities

Balance budget before cutting taxes

With a Republican majority in Congress this session, it's no surprise that one piece of legislation being talked about is a tax cut.

Last week, House Republicans passed \$189 billion in tax cuts as the final part of their Contract With America.

Eventually, that package will go to the Senate, where it undoubtedly will have to clear a tougher hurdle. The amount of tax cuts likely will be trimmed in the Senate.

The Daily Nebraskan has no qualms with the idea of a tax cut for the middle class, or even for the wealthy.

But also crucial to the Republicans' Contract With America is the idea of balancing the budget. GOP congressmen have made it clear they are serious about doing just that.

There are two ways to balance the budget: increase taxes or cut spending. Since raising taxes is very close to political suicide, our representatives have been practically falling over themselves proposing spending cuts.

Cutting government spending is an admirable goal, especially when it is part of reducing the deficit.

But lowering taxes will not take us the rest of the way. In all likelihood, it will make that elusive goal just that much harder to reach.

Simple economics should dictate our course of action.

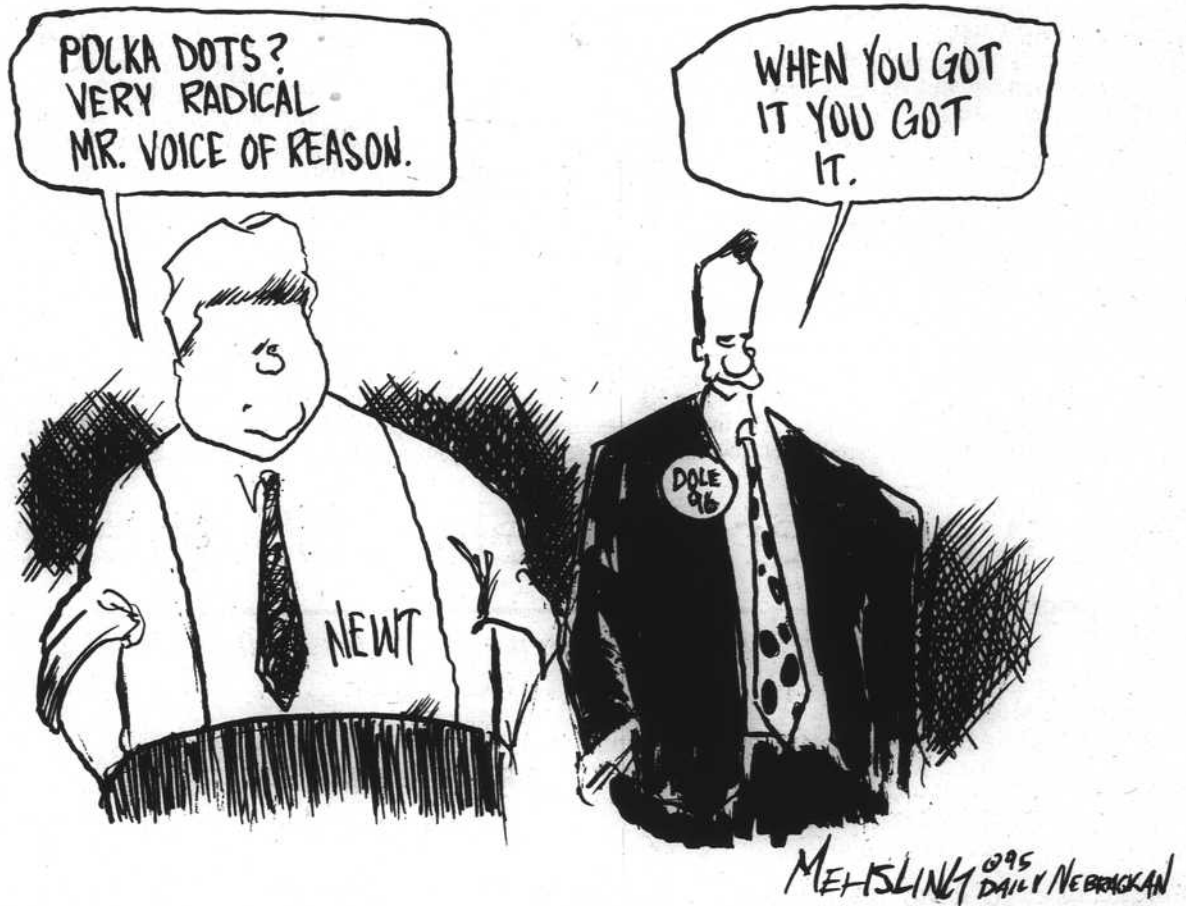
Let's balance the budget now and cut taxes later.

Editorial policy

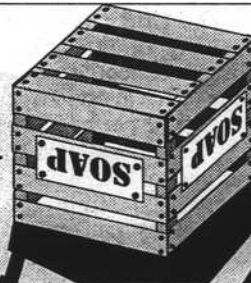
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Stolen sax

UNL has taken legal action against an upstanding citizen and one of its own graduates for a conscientious call to the School of Music.

I guess Brent Bartu, a small businessman struggling to make ends meet, is expected by UNL to simply "donate" the \$110 he paid for a stolen saxophone. According to the Lincoln Journal-Star and UNL's lawyer: "The university should not be required to pay for stolen property."

Former UNL student Gail Tvrdy was charged with felony theft and luckily had her charge dismissed through a pre-trial diversion program.

So tell me, why isn't the university legally pursuing Gail Tvrdy instead of Brent Bartu? After all, she's the one who spent the \$110!

Martha Miller
UNL graduate
Lincoln

The 1980s

I am writing in response to Ryan Garton's letter "Reagonomics" (April 7) about the House of Representatives passing a \$189 billion broad-based tax cut.

I tire of the rhetoric that liberals use to attempt to explain the phenomenon they like to call the "Decade of Greed" (the 1980s). Instead of waxing nostalgic for the 21 percent interest rates, 14 percent inflation and massive unemployment of the Carter years, I thought a few facts about the 1980s might be helpful in discerning the true impact of supply-side economics.

Let's see what the facts say really happened in the 1980s:

- The highest marginal tax bracket was at 70 percent when Reagan took office. When he left, it was at 28 percent. Actual tax revenues, far from dropping, nearly doubled from \$550 billion to \$991 billion.

- When the economic boom reached its full momentum in 1987-89, the deficit FELL in spite of



Bret Gottschall/DN

unchecked spending by the Democratic Congress.

- The top 1 percent paid more than 25 percent of all federal income taxes in 1990, a 40 percent increase over 1980, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

- Families earning between \$10,000 and \$50,000 a year experienced a higher percentage of net-worth growth than those in the top one-fifth income group, according to the Federal Reserve.

- Between 1983 and 1989, total population under the poverty line decreased by 3.8 million.

Garton is right. History is unforgiving to those who refuse to learn its lessons, and so is the American electorate.

John Frese
senior
history

Baseball

In response to Jamie Karl's column, "Glory of 'base' will never die" (April 6):

There is no doubt in my mind that Jamie Karl shares a great love for the game of baseball, just as I do. Its history, marked by triumph over war, depression, discrimina-

tion and even Bob Uecker, will supersede all of the faults of today's "baseball."

No player makes baseball; baseball makes the players.

I disagree, though, with Karl's statement that "baseball has overcome yet another obstacle." In fact, nothing has been overcome.

The return of the players marks the end of the current strike, a strike which consisted only of three absolutes: 1) stalemate; 2) mutual hate between owners and players; 3) blatant disregard for fans by both owners and players.

The fact that the last two can be forgotten is great, but stalemate still exists. There is no collective bargaining agreement in place right now. In fact, the players can walk out or the owners could lock out any time now.

Let us remember, though, major-league baseball is only part of the game. Its players are only part of major-league baseball.

The game itself will live forever. Its long legacy of great moments will stand the test of time. But legacy cannot be confused with reality.

Money dominates baseball today. Greed drives the Bonds, the Madduxes, the Seligs and the McMorrises. Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio? In case you never heard, he's gone to the QVC channel. He signs autographs only for it now.

Sure—war, depression and oppression could not stop major-league baseball. But that does not mean it cannot be killed. If major-league baseball does lose this great battle of greed, remember all you baseball lovers, the game will not die.

Its history, legacy, memory—and little league—will live forever.

"The game of ball is glorious." With that, I do agree. But the game of major-league baseball has a wretched stench about it.

Chris Sautter
sophomore
business administration