

OPINION

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Daily
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Closer commuters

UNL parking deserves pat on the back

Hats off to University of Nebraska-Lincoln Parking Services.

For the first six days of classes, commuter students faced a parking nightmare. But Tuesday, the barrier that made many off-campus students late to class was lifted.

After the parking folks paved lots this summer, and made a dust-free shelter for our cars, they turned one of the closest commuter lots to City Campus to faculty and staff parking.

About 9:10 a.m. Tuesday, the gateway to closer student parking was opened as university blue-collar workers installed a Lot 20 sign just west of 19th and R streets.

For the first week of school, commuters were forced to park in lots occupied by cars of residence hall students. A Daily Nebraskan investigation Friday morning discovered that only 17 percent of the more than 800 cars in the lot east of Cather and Pound Residence Halls belonged to commuters.

As morning class time approached, students frantically circled the lot to no avail.

The lot — in its glorious gravel days — once was shared by faculty, staff and students. The parking department should be patting on the back for acknowledging its error so early in the semester and reopening the lot to students.

But there is one pertinent question that remains: Will the parking tickets that were issued last week to students be dropped? We certainly hope so.

Poor thinking

Students to suffer if House cuts loans

From the Daily Illini, August 23.

Just when you thought it was hard enough to be a student, you've got one more factor working against you: the U.S. House of Representatives.

That's right. The Republican-controlled House has taken action to kill the direct-loan program, only in its second year of existence.

It's not that the program hasn't worked. In 1993, before creation of the direct-loan program, bank loans made up all of the \$19.2 billion in student loans. In the next fiscal year, which starts six weeks from now, the direct-loan program will provide \$13.8 billion in student loans, in addition to the \$15.3 billion in loans from banks.

That represents an increase of nearly \$10 billion.

And besides that increase, the direct-loan program also saves students the hassles of waiting longer periods of time for loans to come through.

So why in the world would the Republicans want to kill off the program? The answer is ironic: Because it has been too successful.

Banks have been complaining that the programs are just too darn competitive. And the Republicans, who generally seem to believe that competition is a good thing, have heard the bankers' cries and are moving to undermine the program.

But who will these cuts hurt the most?

The answer is those students who are just trying to break out of the cycle of poverty by getting a college education.

Loss of the additional loans represented by the direct-loan program either will cause low income students to take on a lot more debt, or drop out of college entirely.

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, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted. Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



Come home, Hillary

Women's conference damages U.S. image

Hillary Clinton should come home.

Not necessarily to the White House. Just anywhere not in China.

She's in Beijing, China, as chairwoman of the American delegation to the Fourth U.N. Conference on Women. The conference started today and will go until Sept. 15.

I'm sure she's wiping sweat from her forehead and breathing a sigh of relief, now that pesky Harry Wu isn't getting in the way anymore.

You remember Harry. He's the American citizen who was imprisoned in China on June 19 for the horrendous crime of trying to enter the country of his birth.

A little background on Mr. Wu. He is an internationally known and respected human rights campaigner.

In 1960, while still a Chinese citizen, he was arrested in China and spent 19 years in a labor camp for speaking out against the horrors brought upon the Chinese people by the Communist dictatorship.

He was recently nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

The first lady must have been sweating it while he was still imprisoned.

"It would look bad for me," she must have thought, "to lead an American delegation to a country that is holding, and probably torturing, an American citizen."

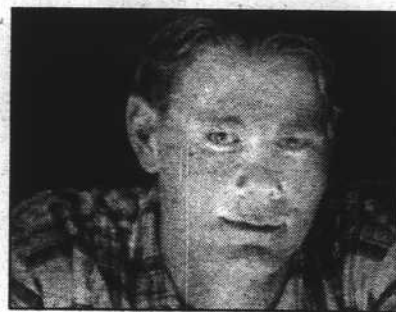
And not just an average American citizen, like those stupid blokes who got caught in Iraq and hung out to dry. This guy is famous.

Luckily for her, Wu was released Thursday. So she's free to participate in a conference that is already being hailed by Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family as the most dangerous attack on the traditional family (you know, mom, pop, 2.3 kids and a dog) in history.

If Mrs. Clinton had any respect whatsoever for the reputation of the United States, she would have boycotted the conference anyway to protest what China did to Wu.

But she is attending, along with a horde of American gender feminists such as Congresswoman Bella Abzug.

Back when Wu still was being



John Fulwider

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held, Abzug made her feelings clear about the matter: "This conference has a whole section dealing with human rights, and therefore to thwart it because of one case is simply a diversion."

A diversion would have been far preferable to what is going to go on at the conference. But before we get to that, we have to ask another question: Why is the conference being held in China in the first place?

The mere mention of China should send chills down the spine of every woman (primarily) and man on the planet.

China's human rights record is appalling. Forced abortions (and when I say "forced abortions," I don't mean required by law, and you'll get fined if you don't comply; I mean heavily armed soldiers beating down your door and dragging you to the nearest hospital or clinic or alley or whatever) and drownings of female babies are the

rule.

But back to the conference itself. My biggest quarrel is with the gender feminists, (not the "regular" feminists.)

I have no problem at all with the average feminist; I think women should have the right to vote and to advance as far as they want in the occupation of their choice. It's the men-haters who get under my skin.

The gender feminists believe that sexual identification as male or female is imposed on children by society (most likely male members).

As one gender feminist writer put it, "Although many people think that men and women are the natural expression of a genetic blueprint, gender is a product of human thought and culture, a social construction that creates the 'true nature' of all individuals."

These people are a few tacos short of a combination platter. At the core of the gender feminist platform is a concept they call "the devolution of gender." This means adding three new genders besides male and female to choose from: homosexual, lesbian, and bisexual (I fail to see how sexual orientation has anything to do with gender, but I digress.)

Now normally, no one with their head screwed on anywhere near straight even listens to these (mustn't resort to name-calling) women with alternative viewpoints.

The real danger here is that, with good reason, the rest of the world respects the United States. Seeing a delegation representing the most powerful nation on the planet promoting these radical viewpoints will tend to sway other countries' opinions.

So once again, Hillary should come home. Her absence from the conference would send a message to the other nations represented that the United States indeed does have all its oars in the water.

And, she would at the same time restore a bit of our country's honor.

It's a win-win situation. Roll out the red carpet.

Fulwider is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.