

OPINION

Monday, November 13, 1995

Page 4

Daily
Nebraskan
Editorial Board
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

J. Christopher Hain Editor, 472-1766
Rainbow Rowell Managing Editor
Mark Baldrige Opinion Page Editor
DeDra Janssen Associate News Editor
Doug Kouma Arts & Entertainment Editor
Jeff Zeleny Senior Reporter
Matt Woody Senior Reporter
James Mehlsing Cartoonist

Showdown

Compromise required to avoid collapse

By Tuesday 800,000 people may be temporarily out of a job because of the big showdown on Capitol Hill.

Unfortunately it's a showdown with little reason and with much on the line.

As Congress continues to work on its plan for balancing the budget by 2002, time will run out midnight Monday on the authority of most federal agencies to spend money, sending half the government work force home.

And Wednesday the government will lose ability to continue borrowing money, which could potentially send financial markets into an upheaval.

Neither President Clinton nor Congressional Republicans will compromise on a resolution to continue government funding until December.

Congress is tightly gripping the government purse strings (plus some sharp budget-cutting scissors). While the president is holding his veto pen up high (not to mention his golf bag).

Republicans want the president to agree, in principle, to the idea of a balanced



Jason Gildow/DN

budget in seven years. And the Republicans want the continuing resolution to include budget-cutting measures.

Clinton has said he will not accept new cuts as a condition to keeping the government open.

But the question is not who will blink from the brink of a government shutdown first, but why should this cavalier confrontation take place?

This is the kind of governmental gridlock that turns off so many Americans to Washington and its political games.

Balancing the budget is an admirable undertaking by Congress.

And President Clinton and many Americans have problems with Republicans' seven-year path of tax cuts, spending reductions and the overhaul of Medicare and other social programs on the way to a balanced budget.

But why toy with a federal shutdown and the financial crisis of a halt to government borrowing?

In the month ahead, Clinton and Congress can hammer out the budget specifics.

But right now somebody needs to give in for the short-term.

It doesn't matter which side.

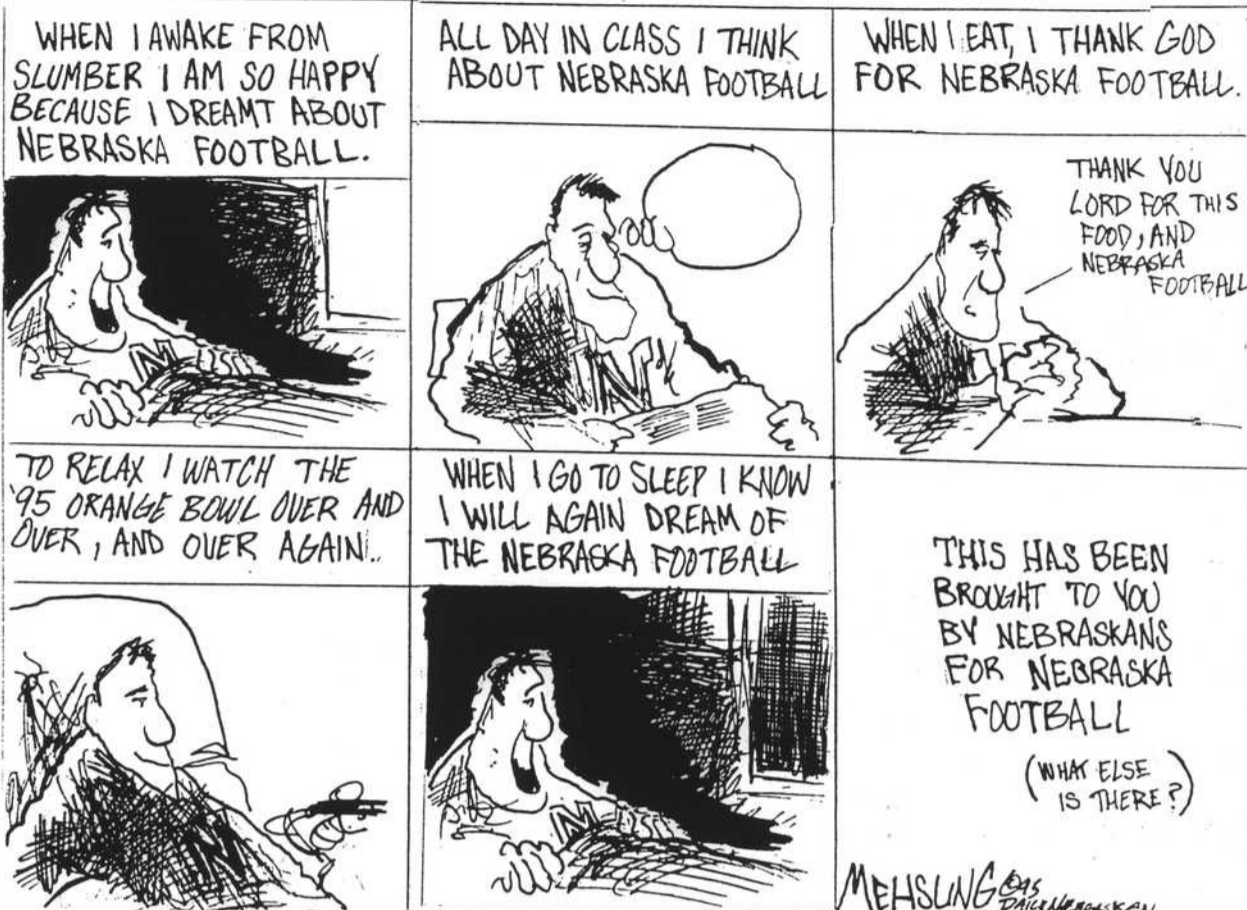
Or better yet — both.

Editorial policy

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1995 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents. Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.

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.



MEHSLING BY DAILY NEBRASKAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dimensions

I couldn't believe that on the day before a potential government shutdown, all you could print was a 2.5 inch by 3 inch, 4 paragraph article, when on the same day the plight of a bar's liquor license made front page news.

If the thought of not being able to get drunk in a certain bar is more important than the shutdown of our government, spurring the possible layoff of thousands of personnel, I suggest the DN get its priorities in order.

Neal Berggren
Freshman
Computer Engineering
via e-mail

Advice column

Dear Doug Peters,

Just about any kind of parent can beget a procrastinator ("Better late..." Nov. 7). It takes attention and an uncommon self-control not to fall into the habit of giving the reluctant child a small shove in some way. When that shoving lets up, who's to shove? Society.

My advice is procrastinate more: all the way. You can't like much what you drag your feet and squirm out of as much as possible. Quit all that stuff. Spend very little. Live with friends. Don't be embarrassed to mooch; you'll be pioneering a much needed new culture. I'll help you out.

Keep the column for our sake; you'll still have plenty of spare time for searching for what you really want to do.

Mike Chilcote
Lincoln

Bundy jumping

I hope Scott Knutson's grasp of English is better than his "Al Bundy"-like view of Political



Jason Gildow/DN

Science. Otherwise he can expect to spend his days flipping burgers rather than researching or teaching.

His assertion that America should revert to an isolationist agenda is as absurd as it is bold. I'm going to "spell it out" for Mr. Knutson:

1. America WOULD NOT be "just fine" if it returned to its pre-WWII isolationist ways.
2. The U.S. would experience catastrophic economic ruin. Foreign trade is one of the pillars of our economic infrastructure. Without it, we wouldn't be a viable country, much less a world power.
3. In case Mr. Knutson has forgotten, Kuwait (one of his so-called "little countries") and other Middle Eastern countries supply the majority of our oil.

Perhaps he has invented a substitute which will run our cars, planes and power stations.

But what is most frightening about his views is not his ham-handed attempt to justify isolationism, but his view that Yitzhak Rabin was "a fool fighting for a lost cause", and that the only way to achieve peace is through genocide.

If the desire for peace is foolish, I say: let the "wise" step down and

the fools lead.

Brent Hawkins
Sophomore
International Business
via e-mail

Cyberiad

As a DN alum, who now makes his living in "cyberia," I congratulate you on the DN's home page. It looks great. I live in the D.C. area, and I'm thoroughly enjoying being able to read the DN on a daily basis....for the first time in a decade!

Mike Frost
via e-mail

Death penalty advocate

As far as I'm concerned, Scott Barney won't even come close to getting what he deserves. And what he deserves sure isn't a "death with dignity" ("All deserve death with dignity," Nov. 10).

I don't know who worries me more; people like Scott Barney, or people like you, Ms. Schwarting, who actually feel "sympathy" for scum of the earth such as Barney.

Gordon Strom
Freshman
Special Ed.



...to the

**Daily
Nebraskan**

Send your brief letters to:
Daily Nebraskan, 34
Nebraska Union, 1400 R St.,
Lincoln, Neb. 68588, or Fax
to (402) 472-1761, or email
<letters@unlinfo.unl.edu.>
Letters must be signed and
include a phone number for
verification.