

OPINION

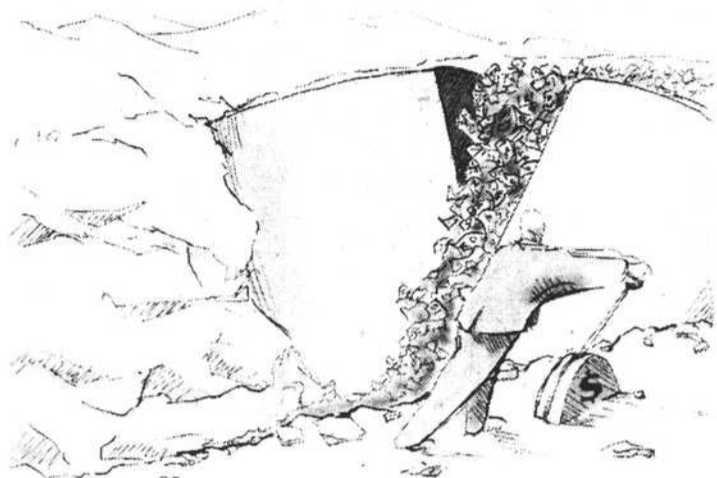
Monday, November 20, 1995

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Daily Nebraskan

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Aaron Steckelberg/DN

Who blinked?

Both sides win in budget compromise

The flip of light switches that have been off for six days will be heard today in federal buildings across the country.

Nearly 800,000 federal workers will return to work.

And while both Congress and the President breathe a collective sigh of relief, the question is not who blinked?, but was this impasse necessary?

Maybe so.

The U.S. government was paralyzed by gridlock for a week, but the result was a victory for the long-term prognosis of the country.

"This is not a win for Republicans or Democrats, it is a win for the American people," said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M.

Yet both sides are claiming victory.

But if each side has won, the people of this country may be getting the best of both worlds.

The Republicans have nailed down President Clinton to a seven-year timetable for balancing the budget.

But Clinton is only committed to seven years if he can protect his priorities of Medicare, Medicaid, education, environmental programs and the earned income tax credit for the working poor.

Is this too good to be true?

Maybe so.

Only a preliminary budget has been signed. The real debate lies ahead.

But the conditions under which this deal was cut portends well for negotiations over the entire budget.

A balanced budget is desirable for the future fiscal health of the country, but as it stood, the Republican plan was harsh and unfair.

But a balanced budget that protects Clinton's priorities will potentially boost economic growth while keeping valuable government services intact.

Both Congressional Republicans and President Clinton have seen their priorities upheld.

Such a scenario is good for everyone.

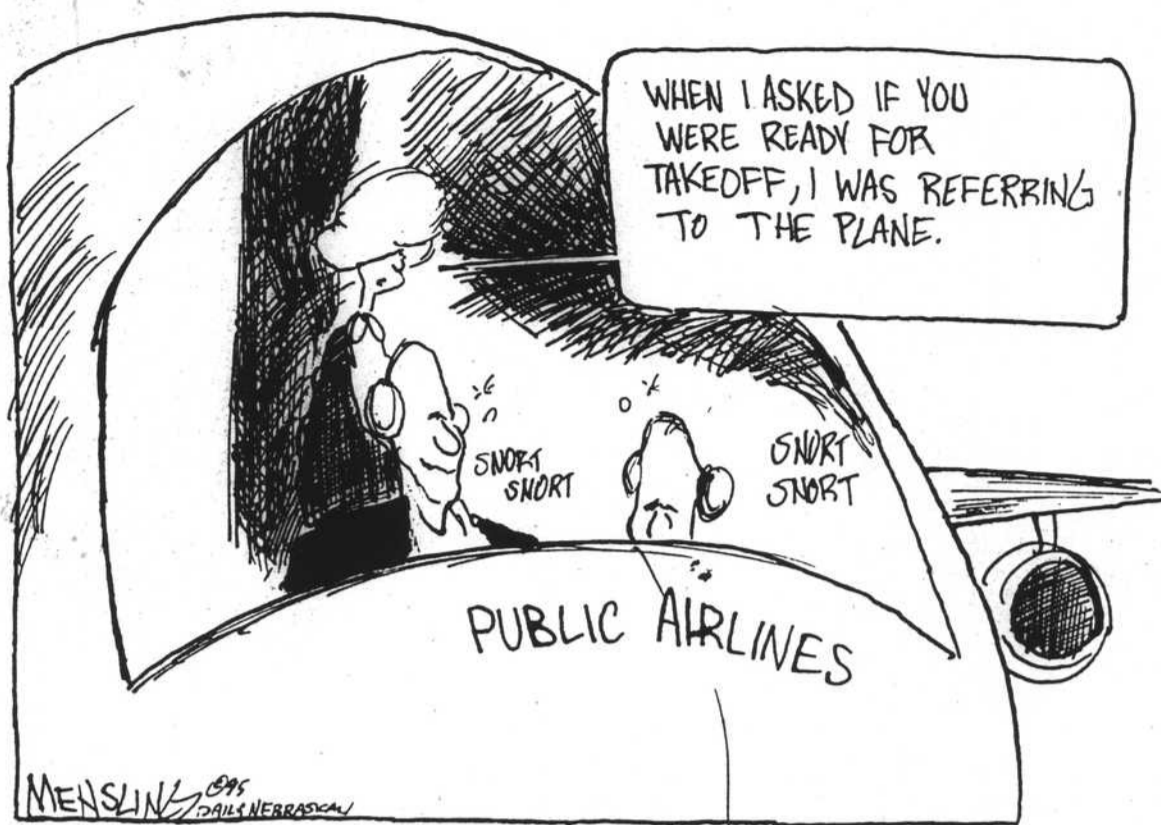
No one blinked.

Editorial policy

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MENSLING 1995 DAILY NEBRASKAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sing a pore

The article, "Seow unveils Singapore's evils," (Nov. 16) regarding Francis Seow on Singapore was a total dismay to me.

As a Singaporean, I would like to clarify a couple of issues:

1. Many, many Singaporeans love the former PM, Lee Kuan Yew. He has been a blessing to this small country of ours, and I feel so angry with Francis Seow for citing Lee's style of government as "authoritarian."

Because of Lee, Singapore is still a safe, clean, and fun place to live and work.

Singapore is far from a "Stalinist Russia."

2. Singapore is an island paradise.

Maybe, as according to Francis Seow, "3,000 to 4,000 Singaporeans emigrate from the country each year."

Did Francis Seow leave out the countless thousands that would not mind being a Singaporean?

The figure Seow gave could be due to people who move for work-related reasons, or for something else. Does he truly know these few thousands of people emigrate because they cannot tolerate the government?

Readers, be forewarned: Francis Seow was not an appropriate speaker for the Forum On The World Issues lecture series.

Kirti S. Doshi
Sophomore
Business Mgt.
via e-mail

Thank You For Pot Smoking!

In the article "Campus pot arrests increase" (Nov. 8) is stated that 13 teen-agers have been arrested this semester for smoking marijuana or for possession of marijuana or



Aaron Steckelberg/DN

drug paraphernalia.

In the seven most recent cases police were contacted after the smell of burning marijuana was noticed by passers-by — not because the residents were disturbing the peace or presenting a threat to the other residents.

I find it disturbing that the police were notified because of something someone was doing in the privacy of their own room — something that presented no danger to their neighbors or anyone else.

Are the actions of the arrestees such that they require police intervention?

Consider that America's favorite legal drugs, alcohol and nicotine, are solely responsible for thousands of deaths every year, yet marijuana has never been proven the sole cause of a death due to usage.

Proof of brain damage and other popular myths of marijuana use does

not exist.

Whether one understands the effects of marijuana use is not as important as the principal that one should have respect for another's personal freedom and privacy.

Matt Chmielewski
Junior
Mechanical Engineering

No ruth

Regarding your Nov. 6 editorial "Time to heal," it contained strange phraseology.

"Ruthlessness" in dealing with enemies is not exactly innovative, especially when the enemies' avowed purpose is to utterly destroy you — and especially when those enemies have terrorized your civilians for 47 years!

Israel has tried to "put down the sword" since 1049, to little avail.

Norman Harris
San Diego



...to the

Daily Nebraskan

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