

OPINION

Thursday, April 4, 1996

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Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Wrong turn

Legislature steers clear of education

As Nebraska state senators have wandered down the path toward property tax reform, they have encountered many forks in the road.

Wednesday they took a wrong turn.

"It seems as though state senators are losing sight of the far-reaching importance of education in the face of an overblown push for property tax reform."

Legislators moved one step closer to final approval of two bills, LB1114 and LB299, that would limit local government spending for two years and then limit the ability of local governments to tax property.

When the senators were faced with another decision, however, they stepped away from an important amendment.

The amendment, sponsored by Sen. Chris Beutler of

Lincoln, would have increased state sales tax by a half-cent and designated an estimated \$77 million in revenue for schools. It was defeated 10-27.

It seems state senators are losing sight of the far-reaching importance of education in the face of an overblown push for property tax reform.

Penny for penny, perhaps no dollars in the state are better spent than those that go to schools. The power of a quality education is incredible, and education funds are dollars that reach across the entire socioeconomic spectrum. Nebraska should be heading in the direction of increased spending on education. Preventive medicine, you might call it.

Instead, legislators are cutting school districts' budgets and taking a step backward. The Nebraska State Education Association, a teachers' union, estimates that LB1114 would cost school districts \$200 million.

State senators want school districts to cut down on their spending — reducing the size of government. But should school districts be viewed the same as other government entities?

Probably not. And that's why the NSEA has offered a petition intended to limit property taxes but guarantee state financing of schools.

Ask yourself what's more important: saving money for Nebraskans who own property now, or giving Nebraska a better future?

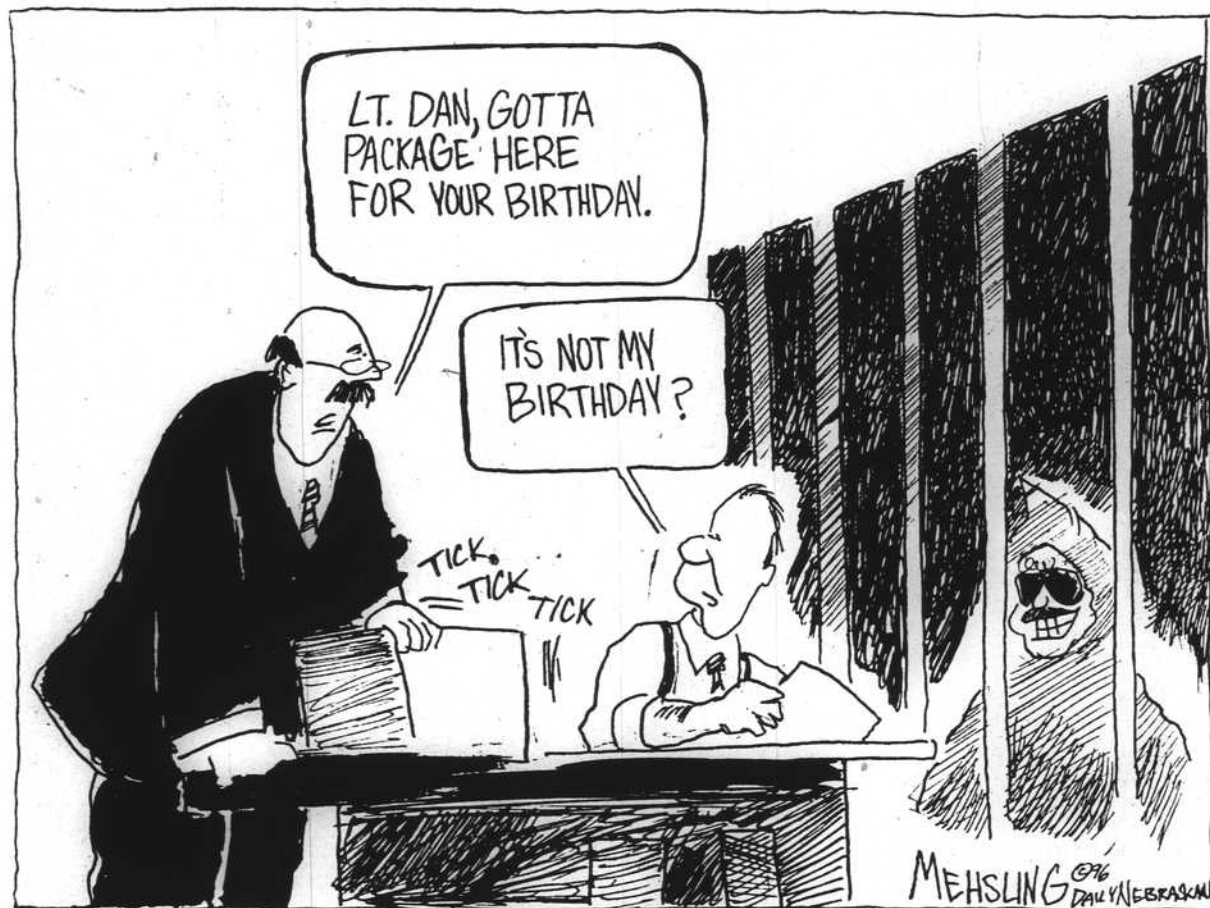
When state senators continue making the wrong choice, maybe it's time to put teachers in charge of not only our classrooms but our legislature as well.

Editorial policy

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gun ban

A member of the Kennedy clan takes to the House Floor in hysterics about the pain he and his family suffered at the hands of a gunman.

A Daily Nebraskan columnist points out the horrific nature of a shooting crime in Scotland (March 28).

What do both of these events have in common? They are both attempts at obfuscating the truth.

Precipitated by the recent attempted repeal of the Bill Clinton "assault" weapons ban, it is interesting that in each case, assault weapons were not used and had nothing to do with what they were talking about.

Of course, you wouldn't have known that unless you listened carefully to what these folks were saying. Kelly Johnson, for example, attempted to make an argument for an assault rifle ban in the United States based upon the actions of a handgun-armed psycho on the other side of the world.

The Kennedy tirade was an equally nice showing of displaced emotion. It is the height of idiocy, however, to fix responsibility for his family's misfortunes with assault weapons.

It is the liberal mantra to approach gun control issues emotionally and without intellect. Still I am left with consistent amazement at how rapidly they surrender other people's freedoms.

All I can say to rebut such illogical thinking is the following. Let there be a Birkenstock ban and you can bet there would be hell to pay!

Tom Eads
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Playboy

Well it's about time! I was expecting the "exploitation of women" argument to come forward much sooner. This of course is in reference to the impending visit from Playboy and the article in the April 2 Daily Nebraskan.

When are women like Berens and Kriss going to realize that their arguments only help to further the view that women are meek and mindless? Playboy does not knock women over the head and drag them off kicking and screaming to a photo shoot. Thousands of women



Aaron Sieckelberg/DN

approach Playboy in the hopes of being among the few to be in the magazine.

I found a number of quotes by Berens and Kriss to be demeaning and patronizing. Kriss' statement that she "believe(s) a woman has the right to do this if she sees it as some sort of honor or achievement," makes it sound as if a woman would be addle-minded to consider being chosen out of innumerable hopefuls and then getting paid to be photographed "some sort of honor or achievement."

Berens talks herself in circles by saying Playboy "appeals to men's sexual instinct. Not to their minds. Not to their sensitivity. There's a lot more to men than that." If that is so, why doesn't she think that men are capable of putting the sexual nature of Playboy and the like into perspective? Playboy is certainly the most innocuous magazine showing nude women, and it is certainly not what I would define as pornography (erotica, maybe). Also, why is sex and sexuality such a bad thing to appeal to, in men or women? (Oh I forgot, it's that dirty thing you do quietly in the dark once a week.) Sex is part of the human condition and no amount of moralizing or outright contempt will change that.

Everyone makes choices in life, some right, some wrong. Either way, the only person responsible is that individual. If I want to be respected for who I am, that includes all of me — my mind and my physical being. What I choose to do with either or both is really no one else's business.

If I want to be an ignorant, fat slob living under a rock, I can. Or I can be an intelligent exhibitionist. I believe the latter largely exempts me from being exploited by those "sexually driven, oppressive male consumers of men's magazines."

Emi K. Nyman
graduate
economics

Lukewarm

I have watched the debate that has followed the announcement of Bishop Bruskewitz of Lincoln regarding the anti-Catholic nature of certain organizations, and I have enjoyed the point — counterpoint of both sides. I feel that the latest repudiation of the truth, however, by Ms. Charity H. Dredge on Tuesday, must be answered. First I would address the "medieval sentiments" that Ms. Dredge seems to feel are rampant in the diocese of Lincoln. I would remind her that the teachings of the Church have remained constant for almost 2,000 years. These "medieval sentiments" are no different from what always has been taught by the Church and Christ himself. These "medieval sentiments" are still the teachings of the Church, through Pope John Paul II and Bishop Bruskewitz.

The teachings of Christ are the Catholic Church and cannot be discarded or changed whenever it is convenient. Ms. Dredge seems to feel that her convenience is more important than Christ's teachings. Revelation 3:15 sums up what Bishop Bruskewitz wants us to realize. "I know all about you, how you are neither hot nor cold. I wish you were one or the other, but since you are neither, but only lukewarm, I will spit you out of my mouth." As Catholics, each of us is given a choice. We can be cold and reject Christ and the Church, or we can be hot. But to be a Catholic in more than name, one must accept every teaching of the Church. I beg Ms. Dredge, and all who question this latest ruling to re-evaluate your beliefs so that you truly know where you stand. I beg you to be "hot," not "lukewarm," lest you be "spit out" of the Church forever.

Scott Rieker
freshman