

OPINION

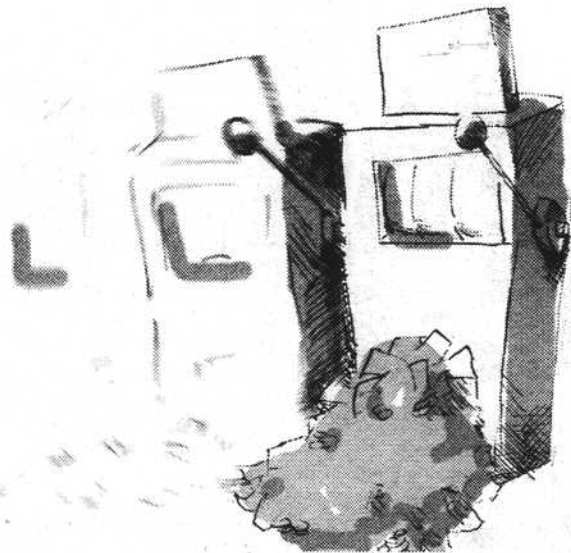
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Daily Nebraskan

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Aaron Steckelberg/DN

Hands off

Santees deserve economic freedom

A casino in a cafe is causing a lot of conflict.

The 68 slot machines in a small building on the Santee Indian Reservation in Northeast Nebraska have initiated debate. A debate about not only gambling in the state but about the relationship between Native Americans and the government.

The Ohiya casino opened Feb. 2 and both state and local government officials have since been trying to shut it down.

Santee Sioux tribal officials maintain they are permitted to operate the casino under the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. But Nebraska officials contend that the casino is illegal because the state doesn't allow gambling.

Until now, this dispute has taken on the flavor of stubbornness. Last week, U.S. marshals confiscated \$87,194 in casino assets from a South Dakota bank. And tribal officials have frequently parked heavy equipment in front of the casino to deter a raid.

Tribal chairman Butch Denny said: "If they come down and physically try to stop us, we are going to get physical," Denny said.

The Nebraska Legislature rejected expanded gambling in the state this year. The Daily Nebraskan supports that decision but not the reluctance of state officials to negotiate with Santee leaders. There is no dispute that gambling is illegal in Nebraska. Nebraskans are gambling there. But the reservation is not really a part of Nebraska.

Legally it is considered "a domestic dependent sovereign nation." Tribal officials operate their own police force and government. And they have to provide for their own economic well-being.

This casino may be a road to economic independence for a group of people who are already, in many ways, politically independent.

But Gov. Ben Nelson, Nebraska Attorney General Don Stenberg and U.S. Attorney Tom Monaghan are all trying to stop the Santee people's progress.

The Santee casino conflict should be resolved through some old-fashioned negotiation. The Santee Sioux tribe should temporarily close the casino, but the state of Nebraska should put together an agreement with the tribe that allows them to keep their casino open. And their future alive.

Editorial policy

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1996 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/DN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Release valve

I was highly gratified to see the lack of support for the "Plaboy" protest (their misspelling, not mine) on Monday. It consisted of five or six people presuming to speak for the entire UNL campus in saying that Playboy is not welcome. UNL does not necessarily advocate the opinions of the all-too-frequent religious speakers that dominate outside the Union, and those preachers are far more intrusive and annoying than Playboy has been. And they have as much of a right to their opinion as I do.

Playboy did not precede the sexual desires that motivated its creation.

Getting rid of erotic material would not eliminate these desires; it would simply redirect them towards flesh and blood women. I, personally, am glad that Playboy and magazines like it exist to provide a safe, healthy, and private outlet for people's (yes, women enjoy Playboy too, and not just the articles) impulses. Can you imagine walking into your favorite meat-market bar (or anywhere, for that matter) if there were no other outlet for that energy?

Let's face it, every sperm is not sacred. The more sperm that are splashed on a glossy page the less there are around for unwanted pregnancies.

So, splash away, guys, and let me act as the spokeswoman for my five or six friends that want to welcome Playboy to UNL.

Laurel Rankin
sophomore
news-editorial

Cartoon tact

This is in response to Jason Tselentis' letter (April 19). If James Mehsling had been as tactless about Berringer's or the Columbus kids' deaths as he was about Jessica Dubroff's, would you still be laughing? I mean charred wreckage and a tragic death was funny when it was a little girl and two adults, right?

Just imagine the humor in dental records and floating cars. And, as a



Bret Gottschall/DN

friend pointed out, her age doesn't matter if it was mechanical failure—does it?

Emily Elowsky
sophomore
English

A word from the top

I am writing to provide a brief explanation of how the University's budget is affected by actions of the Legislature and the Governor this year.

The university submitted a deficit budget request last fall that sought \$7 million to fully fund faculty and staff salaries. Since that time, the Revenue Forecast Board twice lowered its expectations for state revenues. In light of these projections, the Legislature's budget bill provided \$5 million worth of the \$7 million the university requested.

Last month, actual revenues received were some \$20 million below last year's numbers. This fact, taken together with other high funding priorities for the Legislature and the Governor, imposed additional significant budget constraints. Earlier this week, the Governor announced the veto of \$2 million, leaving \$3 million added this year by the Legislature for salaries.

This year's appropriation clearly does not meet all of our legitimate

needs. We are faced with difficult decisions about how to support faculty and staff salaries that are not fully funded by the state. Nonetheless, given the circumstances this year, we are satisfied that the Legislature and the Governor gave full consideration to the University's needs and treated the University responsibly.

We appreciate the support provided by students, faculty, staff and friends of the university during this legislative session. All of the calls and letters make a difference. Thank you for your active support.

L. Dennis Smith
president
University of Nebraska
Play ball

I love Russ Barger's baseball analogy in his April 18 letter to the editor. He's right on target. Being Catholic is a lot like being a baseball player, and the priests and bishops are a lot like coaches. Let's take Barger's image a bit further. Imagine that you are a baseball player, a well-trained baseball player, one who has been through 12 years of formal baseball school. After baseball school, you become very active on your team, and you even help the coach with some of the coaching responsibilities. After many years you are traded to another team. When you go to your first baseball practice, you notice that the team uses wooden bats and practices many outdated methods and has different rules than those you have ever seen. When you ask the coach if you can help him out like you did on the other team, he says no. So, being hurt and confused, you ask for an explanation, and you don't get one. So you ask other players and they don't know why either. Finally, you and some of the other players get together to discuss the problem. Then the group decides it should invite the coach to discuss its questions. And the coach replies "turn in your uniform, you are outta here." Gosh, coach, my feelings are really hurt; I just had a few questions about playing the same game the rest of the league plays.

Barbara Tracy
Lincoln

Please
Write Back!

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