

OPINION PACKETS

Quotes of the WEEK

"It just came up. ... I tried to walk and then I was like, 'Oh man, I'm throwing up in front of 70,000 people.'"

— Akron outside linebacker George Cameron, who threw up on the Memorial Stadium turf last week

"The low profile of women in administrative positions and in the advanced ranks continues to be a serious gender equity issue at UNL."

— NU Gender Equity Task Force

"Technology is our salvation and the cross we bear."

— Joan Laughlin, associate dean and adviser of the distance education program, on technology

"Upon very careful reflection, with the seniority I have now developed, the additional leadership opportunities said to await me in Congress, and my ability to work well with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the U.S. House seems the best place for me to continue elective service to Nebraskans."

— U.S. Rep. Doug Bereuter on deciding not to run for governor

"What they (the Athletic Department) are telling us to do is just stupid. We pay our money; if we want to stand on the seats, we should be able to."

— Joe Mueller, UNL sophomore civil engineering major

"Money is not a substitute for safety. ... I will fight all the way to the end to see that money and safety are never substituted."

— Charles Zidko, a Spencer dentist, on the Boyd County low-level nuclear waste sight

"There's a fascination with championships. ... And just because we didn't get one, that doesn't mean we're in the sewer. It would be nice to win those things, but don't think we missed a step."

— Big 12 Commissioner Steve Hatchell

"We are going after their flagship sandwich with something better that is broiled and not fried and that people can have your way."

— Thomas Willcox, Burger King franchisee

"When Coke said it wasn't given a fair deal ... that's as erroneous as can be."

— James Main, assistant vice chancellor for business and finance, on the beverage contract

"Wherever there is an opportunity, there will be scam artists there to take advantage of the situation."

— Dana Lesemann, FTC attorney, on scholarship scams

"Teams are going to gun for first, but third place will be what everybody is shooting for."

— Oklahoma soccer coach Bettina Fletcher on the Big 12 Conference race

Haney's VIEW



Tobacco trials

Ads for new cigarette blow smoke



MARYANN MUGGY is a junior news-editorial and English major and the Daily Nebraskan Online editor.

"Next to me sits an unused pack of Eclipse and no one in sight willing to take these awful things off my hands."

I am a smoker. Yes, I know, it is a bad habit, but I happen to enjoy it. I lead a very stressful life and when I feel the last strands of my sanity slipping away, I head out for a smoke.

Usually, if I have time, I will head over to The Coffee House on 13th and P — one of my favorite places in Lincoln. There I sit, chugging down my Java, conversing with my friends and smoking. This is where I first heard of the new Eclipse cigarette.

For those nonsmokers — this concerns you. Please don't stuff the paper under your chair in history class. Read on. This is valuable information for you too.

A friend told me about these new Eclipse smokeless cigarettes. Now, although I am a confirmed Camel girl, I am still willing to try something new at least once. So, like a video junkie hungry for a new release, I headed out for a pack of Eclipse.

And it wasn't that easy to find. I went to countless stores on my quest for this new "toy." I finally found it at Tobacco Hut on 63rd and Havelock.

As I approached the display, I was intrigued by the shiny packaging and colors. I grabbed the provided brochure and read through it. It claims that the Eclipse, made by the R.J. Reynolds Co., is a new smokeless (smokeless in the sense that there is no smoke released by the thing) cigarette that has 80 percent less second-hand smoke, but the same taste as a normal cigarette.

Deciding to question the smiling people portrayed in the brochure, I conducted my own test. So I bought a few packs, both regular and menthol,

and headed to The Coffee House.

My first question was to determine whether or not the Eclipse was truly as enjoyable as the packaging says.

I started handing them out to unsuspecting friends and sat back to watch their reactions. The first problem was lighting the damn things. It takes a good flame and three to four long drags. This was quite a disappointment to me. While sitting inside you can do this with no problem; as soon as you go outside with the wind, it takes forever to light. When I took the trial on the road, I became angered that I couldn't light it with my car lighter. I actually had to pull over and search for a match.

The second and largest complaint was the taste.

"It tastes like ass," Fred (names have been changed) claimed.

Others had even stronger opinions. Pebbles (just to keep with the Flintstone name thing) first tried a menthol Eclipse. Apparently the minty flavor masked the true taste, because when she took a drag off a regular Eclipse, her face screwed up into a horrible distortion. After regaining her composure, she simply said, "I find it completely repulsive."

It was also disheartening that an Eclipse couldn't take care of a nic fit. You have to smoke a lot more of them to get anything resembling a nicotine high.

So it was a no-go on the taste aspect. In fact, once word got out that I was doing this test, people started avoiding me when they saw the pack out. While it was cool that nobody wanted to bum a smoke off me, it got to the point that I couldn't even give the things away.

But how does it work for nonsmokers?

Although there is hardly any smoke coming off of the end of the cigarette you, the smoker, actually exhale more than a regular cig. This smoke is denser, but the package

assures that the smoke exhaled is 80 percent water, allowing it to dissipate quickly. This is supposed to make the smoke less annoying for nonsmokers. Not true, from what I found. It hung around just as long as regular smoke.

It's not looking good for little Eclipse. But wait, it gets worse. (sigh)

The Eclipse works on the principle of a burning carbon core that "heats" the tobacco rather than burning it. The core gets smaller, but the cigarette does not. Because of this, the cigarette doesn't ash. It is not news to people that some of the addictions of smoking are the little habits that go with it. Beyond the whole Freudian oral-fixation thing is the need to ash. It seems a simple and unimportant task, but when you take this away, smokers get frustrated. Everyone who tried the Eclipse desperately tried to ash, and it is just not possible. This was a big turnoff to a lot of people.

Nor can you snub it out. After you finish the Eclipse, you are still left with an entire cigarette. This brought up environmental concerns. Granted, there is going to be waste left over from a regular cigarette butt, but it is a lot smaller than what you have with the Eclipse. One Eclipse leaves the same waste as three regular cigarettes.

So I finished my test and here I am writing this while sitting at The Coffee House. Next to me sits an unused pack of Eclipse and no one in sight willing to take these awful things off my hands.

My final conclusion of the whole thing? Or would I switch to Eclipse as a regular brand? Not on your life. However, I might, and that is a big might, consider keeping a pack in my bag in case I go out to a bar with friends who don't smoke.

So if you stop by The Coffee House, look for me there. I'm the one sitting in the corner, frowning at a pack of Eclipse and wondering how the heck to get rid of them.

Anyone willing to take them if I gave you five bucks?

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