

OPINION PACKETS

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Our
VIEW

Enough already

Replace Clinton's trial with important matters

Knock it off. Today, the impeachment trial begins for William Jefferson Clinton, despite the protests of the American people. The debates between the Republicans and Democrats have yet to cease, but the American public has, at least, made its point abundantly clear.

While most voters claimed that the Monica Lewinsky scandal had no impact on their vote, the fact still remains — in the partisan issue that the impeachment trial has become, the public said "Nay, Republican way" on Nov. 3.

The politicians tried to ignore it. Then, not much farther down the road, Speaker Newt Gingrich removed himself from the running to return as speaker of the House, and, in fact, Congress entirely. Some reports stated that the Republican Party no longer agreed Gingrich was the best choice for the party's leadership. As many as 30 Republicans were said to be planning not to support his return to the speaker position.

They still don't get it. Many people on Capitol Hill are theorizing that Ken Starr will attempt to move into things beyond the Lewinsky affair in his planned two-hour presentation. As of last night, Starr had not even submitted his testimony to the Judiciary Committee, though House rules state that it has to be in the committee's possession 48 hours before it is given.

That leads us to believe someone up there thinks the game isn't over yet, but we feel it is. Even though the voice hasn't been unanimous, the American people, as they have been in polls for many months now, have spoken. Decisively.

Like many politicians in Washington, they just want the scandal to go away and our politicians to get back to business. They want the budget to be an issue. They want Iraq to be an issue. They want issues to be the important thing again.

The way out is easy — close up shop and take the ball home.

Not much energy is left in the hearings, and the fact that they're still continuing is more formality than actual process. Regardless of what the politicians think, the majority of America has given its opinion.

No matter how short the hearings, no matter how little the time before someone turns off the cameras, it's still been far too long for the American people.

“Regardless of what the politicians think, the majority of America has given its opinion on the scandal.”

Mook's
VIEW



DN
LETTERS

Let me waste not

I read Mr. Johnson's column ("Wasting away: Consumptive habits call for appropriate remedies") in Wednesday's paper and I couldn't help but notice a recurring theme in the paper: the government must regulate, demand, require, "cooperate" and otherwise be heavily involved if we are to solve the environmental problems of global warming, ozone depletion, filled landfills, wasteful energy expenditures, etc. This reasoning strikes me as invalid. Why should government tell us what the best environmental policies to pursue are? Aren't we the people the ones who tell government what we want it to do? It seems to me that if we are to truly make a difference in solving these environmental problems, it is we, the individual citizens, who must take the initiative and do what we believe to be environmentally sound. It doesn't take an environmental engineer to figure out simple things we can do, some of which Mr. Johnson mentioned. And if the people are determined to act in a wasteful manner, nothing short of banning Styrofoam will cause them to act differently. Sure, it doesn't hurt if government recommends that everybody do environmentally sound things, but I really question the need for a government to demand and require them. After all, outside of the realm of illegal behavior, a government telling its citizens what to do contrary to the citizens' wishes is anathema to the spirit of democracy.

Jeff Woodford
graduate student
chemistry

Diversify yourself

Your editorial on recruiting minorities ("Moral minority: Improving recruiting means search for ideas") struck me as very short-sighted, completely missing the point that you appeared to be trying to prove. Proposing a center for a single demographic group may help increase enrollment for that group, but does nothing for other groups such as Hispanic or Asian groups. Furthermore, this serves to isolate that group from the rest of the community rather than to bring it in as a welcome part of the community. Look for ways to encourage DIVERSITY!

Instead of focusing on demographics, you should be focusing on EDUCATION! Give students a wide range of electives to supplement their core courses. Choose ones that are valuable to their future in industry, not just fun courses that have no application in the real world. Have ALL students graded

by the same scale in a given course, regardless of demographics. Coddling special-interest groups only sets them up for failure when they graduate and have to compete in a work environment.

As a St. Louis-area resident, I am involved in programs that are designed to generate interest in technical classes. These programs strive to show WHY the tough classes are worth taking, and are conducted in classes from fourth through eighth grade. If you want to increase enrollment of a demographic group, generate the interest in college-level courses early so they can be prepared for the task that lies ahead of them. If you don't, you are setting those students up to fail.

Don't create an unrealistic cocoon to make college easy for a special group! Prepare that group (and ALL groups) for life's challenges by giving them the tools to succeed.

Paul Heumphreus
UNL alumnus, 1981

Iraq: another perspective

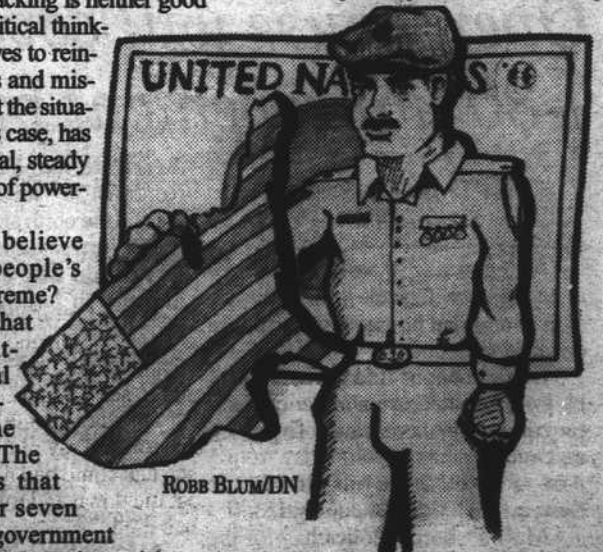
A critical analysis of the situation with Iraq has been long overdue. Unfortunately, we have yet to see one from the mass media, or our own DN in Monday's paper ("Time for action: America must take a stand against Iraq"). Supporting popular views that have no logical backing is neither good journalism nor critical thinking, and only serves to reinforce stereotypes and misconceptions about the situation, which in this case, has led to the perpetual, steady death of millions of powerless Iraqis.

Why do we believe that the Iraqi people's request is so extreme? Do we believe that Muslims are extreme and radical by their very nature? (I guess the recent movie "The Siege" answers that question.) After seven years, the Iraqi government has canceled cooperation with UNSCOM for a very good, legitimate reason. The truth is that the Iraqi government is fully aware that UNSCOM is a puppet operation of the U.S., whose purpose is to legitimize the imperial interest of the United States (as in securing a cheap price for oil). This is precisely why, in seven years, the economic sanctions on Iraq have not been lifted, allowing only very little food and med-

ical equipment to be imported, which has slowly but surely killed hundreds of thousands of powerless peasants and not affected Saddam in the slightest. Therefore, it is a completely rational position to rebel against UNSCOM, as no amount of cooperation will ever lift these devastating sanctions.

Secondly, on Friday, when the Iraqi government released its report allowing UNSCOM to return, they had only one condition. This condition was that the sanctions be fully reviewed by the U.N. in seven days. This seems to be, again, a reasonable request. In seven years, all they wanted was a fair review of the sanctions that have devastated millions of lives and have been reported by a U.S.-biased "research" team of what appeared to be lazy bureaucrats wearing T-shirts and drinking beer at the inspections (as seen on "Dateline"). Are we truly this pig-headed and dogmatic, that we cannot even grant a single, honest review of the sanctions within seven days? Again, not a lifting, but only a review.

I'm fully aware that all of this is outside of unthinkable for most of the country. However, I'm convinced that the things I've said here are quite true and reasonable. I'm not pro-Saddam, or anti-United States — I'm simply trying to involve thought in a major event that is killing thousands of people half a world away, but yet we continually



ROBB BLUM/DN

ignore our apathy. Can we finally do the right thing by first accepting that our country is responsible for these atrocities, and then go about correcting it by criticizing it as much as possible, until it reaches the top and a change is made for the better?

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