

OPINION PAGES

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Our
VIEW

Let it ride

Fines for casino punishment enough

OK, the government has made its point.

The State of Nebraska has said it will continue to fine the Santee Sioux Tribe \$6,000 a day for operating the Ohiya Casino on its reservation.

The tribe's crime? Refusing to shut down a business that adds a \$400,000 payroll to a reservation struggling to become self-sufficient.

Too bad that business happens to be a casino. Federal law dictates that unless state law allows the gaming activities, tribes cannot practice those activities on their reservations.

Last Friday a federal judge surprised many by dismissing a civil contempt lawsuit against Santee Sioux leaders, who were sued for refusing to close the casino. The judge ruled the leaders no longer had the power to shut the business down and should not be held accountable for it because of a recent tribal vote.

On Aug. 3, Santee members voted 66-11 that the tribal council could not, under any circumstances, close the casino without permission of the tribe's members.

Even though the judge agreed to release tribal leaders from liability, state and federal officials will continue to penalize the tribe with the daily fine.

The tribe is breaking the law, and whether a law is enforced cannot be dependent on who is breaking it.

But no further action should be taken. Let it ride for a couple of years.

The government must remember why the casino is so important to the reservation. When the people voted to gain control over the casino, they voted to help sustain their livelihood.

The tribe runs the casino out of an old cafe, a small blue building that looks like a shack compared to the big-time casinos in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The casino's less than \$1 million in profits may seem like pocket change to major casinos, but Ohiya provides 23 reservation jobs and attracts tourism dollars into the community.

The casino is a clear asset on a reservation with about 77 percent unemployment.

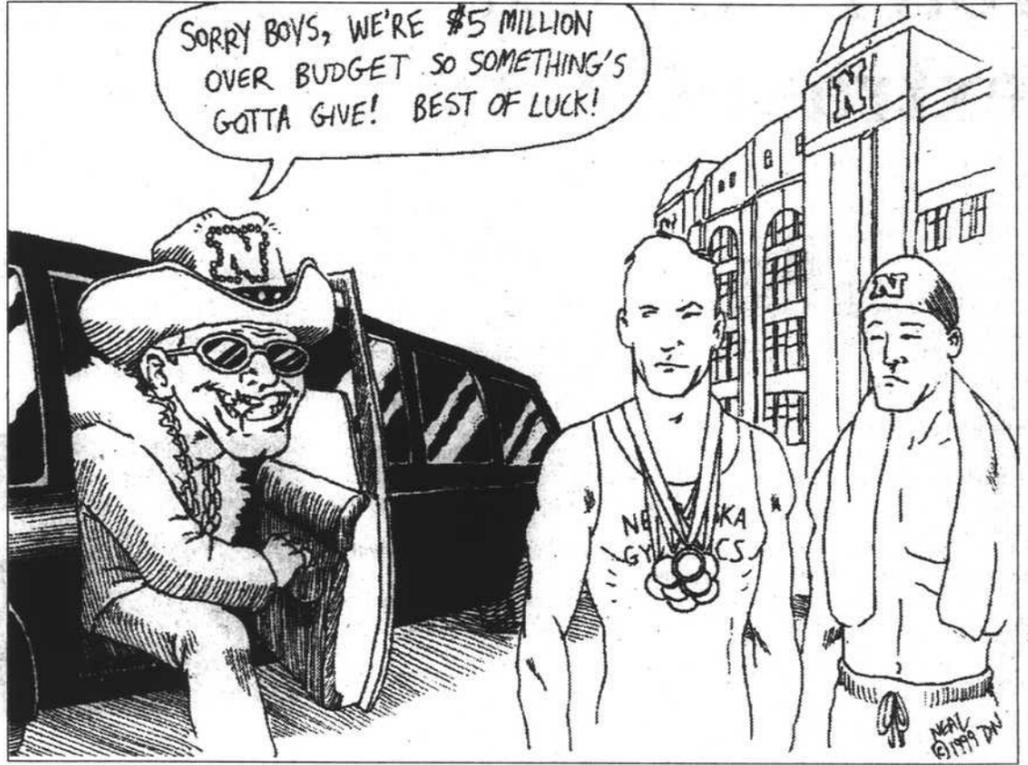
The reservation cannot make much improvement without aid. It needs some way of creating revenue.

Unless the government gives the 750 tribal members who live on the reservation a boost, they will have to rely on their casino.

The word ohiya in the casino's name means "to win."

Right now, nobody is winning.

Obermeyer's
VIEW



DN
LETTERS

Kiss Your \$ Goodbye

The Stadium parking garage has some serious problems with the way it is run.

I, along with many others, had to wait in line on the fourth floor for at least 35 minutes, and then I was not given a refund for that time period when I asked, after finally reaching the window.

"I can't give refunds," said the gentleman at the ticket office. "And I'm gonna need another dollar," he smirked.

I informed him, because of the half-hour wait, that it wasn't my problem and that I would not pay it!

I escaped from the garage only after forking over the extra dollar that I would not have owed except their incompetence. Suffice it to say I'm not going to give the parking garage a penny more of my money!

I will gladly go to a competitor, or seek alternative parking. The more people who defect from this daily 'proctology visit,' the less money they will get!

Park elsewhere, and let 'em know how you feel!

Nancy Berg
senior
history



You Can Pick Your Friends, and You Can Pick Your Nits

In Wednesday's editorial, the DN stated that unless a person (Shevin Wiggins) "is found guilty, he is innocent, period."

Of course, that's not correct.

If it were true, then all of the murderers, rapists and thieves who haven't been caught yet would all be innocent.

And if they're all innocent, then clearly no crime was committed, and obviously the police are wasting their time looking for these "innocent" people.

I think what you meant to say was that in this country a jury must consider a defendant innocent until a prosecutor establishes guilt.

A guilty person is always guilty whether or not he's caught and convicted.

I realize this sounds like nit-picking, but I think journalists (especially opinion writers) need to be held to a higher standard, and slipshod writing has no place in any newspaper.

Curtis Bright
UNL class of 1990

Mind-hive Your Own Beeswax

I am one of the J.D. Edwards scholars — the people who will be living in the Kauffman Center once it opens.

The concerns expressed in your Thursday editorial, though well founded, are nothing that I or the program's directors haven't considered.

A common living area does not a "mind hive" make. Despite the program's computer science and management focus, there are almost as many different majors as there are students.

And as we all realize, computers are important only as they relate to people.

Despite what your editorial (and the previous day's cartoon) might suggest, we're as different from each other and involved in the university as any other students.

Matthew Beermann
freshman
computer science

Three Cheers!

Lazy and slow, not to mention unenthusiastic, is how I would describe the mentality of the current Cornhusker fans.

Instead of cheering and yelling for that great team we all love (you know who you are), they have become complacent and happy with another victory.

You have been handed a precious gift, please take good care of it. I wish you could feel my depression when the television is louder than the fans.

Get loud, get obnoxious, stand in the wells all game, but show me you are glad to be there.

What are they going to do? Make you leave for cheering your team on to victory?

In the Texas game last season, the time outs at crucial possessions for the Longhorns were dead silent as Cornhusker fans felt sorry for themselves, watching highlights of team members, and other assorted spotlighted happy things that flashed in front of zombie faces.

It is damn depressing. Do not let this happen to you! It is a disease that is catching.

You have much to be proud of this year and much to look forward to. Win or lose, your classmates will give it their all. Will you?

Luke Finken
Glenwood, IA
UNL class of 1998

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