

# OPINION PAGES

## Our VIEW

### Hands off

*Internet taxes could kill fledgling market*

For the next year, the World Trade Organization will have all the time it needs to make its obvious decision to ban extra taxes for goods sold on the Internet.

Last week, a one-year moratorium on Internet taxes was passed by the WTO in an effort to keep Internet trade a thriving business.

Good old-fashioned capitalism teaches that any time you think you can squeeze a few more dollars out of anyone, do it. The problem is that it's an easy way to kill a fledgling market.

Five years ago, people scoffed at the idea of buying things through the World Wide Web.

Now, a thousand transactions occur every minute. Where will we be five years from now?

Many countries already have special taxes in mind for Internet sales. The idea is that governments want to take a bigger chunk of the change from that money.

France already has a 20.6 percent value-added tax on online goods; Pakistan and Egypt both want to "keep their options open."

The problem is that when you tax online businesses, you discourage companies from doing business on the Internet.

In the future, the world gets smaller. Fiber optic cables and broadband connections speed up the Internet.

With the rise of Internet speed, use of the Internet as a free market place is only going to be on the rise.

People will buy and sell across the globe more than they already do now. Within 10 minutes, something can be bought, paid for and ready to ship from halfway across the world.

We're going to a global economy so fast. It's just beyond the horizon.

Internet taxes would only slow that racing progress down and hamper businesses that want to get that competitive edge.

Mail order businesses have mostly been exempt from taxes for a long time — the Internet just takes it one step further, one step faster.

And taxing the Internet is as impractical as it is foolish. With millions on the Internet already and that number steadily on the rise, trying to catch people evading these taxes would be similar to looking for one minnow in the Pacific Ocean.

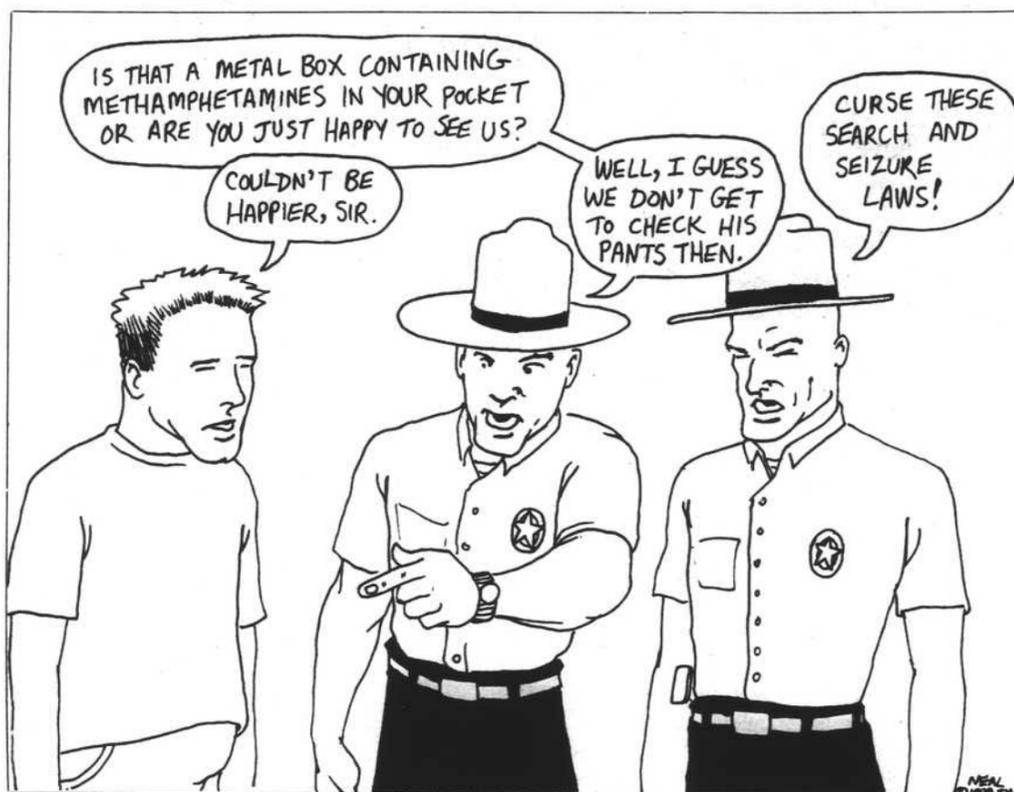
The Internet is the wild West of the modern age and is rapidly evolving into the town square of tomorrow. Anything slowing that progress down needs to get out of the way.

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## Obermeyer's VIEW



## DN LETTERS

Editor's Note: We've received rather a lot of letters on TailgateGate since Monday. Here's a bunch, including one from your chancellor and mine, James Moeser. See [dailyneb.com](http://dailyneb.com) for more.

Is our society so caught up in being politically correct that we can't laugh at a joke?

**Crystal Nelson**

All that the people organizing this event had to do was watch one episode of Tom Green's show, and they probably would have changed their minds or at least discouraged taking small children to the show.

**Sam Mortensen**

Come on now, what did you expect? I'm serious, anyone who has tuned into Tom Green's show on MTV knows exactly what Tom is all about. And so did the administration that brought him here, whether they admit it or not.

**Dalen Rosiere**

Rumor is that the comedian Gallagher has expressed interest in performing at next year's "Tailgate on the Turf." I can't wait for the university-wide apology when administrators in attendance become upset after being bombarded by exploding watermelons.

**Ryan Anderson**

First off, I did not attend the event because from what little I've seen of Green in the past, I was already of the opinion that he is not very funny.

**Akim D. Reinhardt**

To have someone write in and whine about something that they weren't even a spectator at is hilarious to me, first of all. Second of all, grow up.

**Eric Oberembt**

What the hell? Have you ever seen his show? Did anybody really research Tom before having him come here and perform? I did not

know what he was going to do exactly, but I knew it would be "tainting."

Personally I think it was a waste of time for the apologetic e-mails about Tom. They should be sorry for the rest of the show.

**Scott Phillips**

I am so tired of getting these long-ass "apologies" over e-mail from Bill Byrne, the ASUN homecoming committee and the Academic Senate.

You cannot tell me that none of these people had any idea what Tom Green was capable of. Hello, that's what the man does. His fame is based on his ability to embarrass people and do unthinkable and rude acts for a laugh.

**Kolleen Quinn**

Why a parent would bring a child to an event directed to college students makes no sense to me. Would these same parents take their children to see Howard Stern live or perhaps George Carlin — comedians known for their language and sexual references?

**James S. Vance**

Tom Green humiliates his own parents on a weekly basis 10 times more offensively than what he ever did here.

As for those people who were offended and brought their children with them, well, let me just say, that it is your fault.

You are the kind of people who take your small children to the "South Park" movie, with out knowing about "South Park," just because it is a cartoon.

**Heather Ditsch**

The university should have known what to expect when it brought Tom Green here, not apologize after the fact when it was not as politically correct as they wanted it to

be. It would be like asking Eddie Murphy to do his show or Chris Rock and not use all of their techniques and material.

I could go to 100 Tom Green shows before I have to live to see another GEEK, I mean greek skit.

**Brian Fuchs**

Last Thursday, I joined 8,000 others at the Tailgate on the Turf, an event intended to reinvigorate homecoming's pep rally.

As Tom Green's act proceeded, my enjoyment of the evening quickly turned to embarrassment and shame.

For one of the very few times since I have served as chancellor of this wonderful university, I was ashamed of an event on our campus. Ashamed that we invited this "entertainer" who proceeded to violate the very values for which this university should stand.

How ironic it was that this occurred after a morning in which the university community came together to celebrate the life of Melvin Jones in a moment of remembrance and love in which we celebrated everything that is beautiful and wonderful about an academic community where we truly care for one another as individuals.

We have struggled to create a culture that values and respects the integrity of the individual, where sexual assault and harassment have no place, where everyone is safe from racial and gender stereotyping.

Almost as appalling as the performance itself has been the reaction of some (at least as reported in last Friday's DN) that would indicate that many found Mr. Green's act not only OK, but really entertaining. That tells me we have a long way to go to be the kind of university I think we should be.

**James Moeser**  
chancellor

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