

OPINION PAGES

Our VIEW

Party poopers Partisanship affects budget outcome

Budget shenanigans continue on Capitol Hill.

Twenty-one days into fiscal year 2000, President Clinton and a Republican Congress still haven't come to a definitive answer on the budget. Clinton vows a veto of everything that comes across his desk. He'll probably have to sign a stopgap extension tonight to keep the government running.

Make no mistake, Clinton is making a power play here. And after last week's knock-down of the nuclear test-ban treaty, the first in U.S. Senate history, it's not surprising he would do so; it was his baby.

Clinton got burned once; he won't get burned again. Hence, these newly stalled budget talks are linked to the test-ban treaty, no matter how different the issues might be on the surface.

Nine months ago, Republican leaders (including Trent Lott) started courting their own party for votes on the treaty. Nine months ago, Clinton was in the midst of an impeachment trial. The seeds were laid then.

As the voting approached, it became clear that it would split down party lines, regardless of the ramifications to other nations. It had little to do with the treaty and more to do with partisanship — the Republicans breaking out against Clinton.

Democrats tried to get the vote delayed so more time could be spent on debate. By a 55-45 vote, the delay was turned down.

Hence, in a 48-51-1 vote last week, the treaty, which would have banned all nuclear weapon testing, including underground testing, was shot down by Congress.

An angry president retaliated with the veto, and here we are, stalled in traffic, again.

The day the test-ban treaty was shot down was a dark day for partisanship, one of the darkest. It's one thing to screw your own country, but it is entirely another when other nations are a part of the mix.

The United States is viewed, fairly or unfairly, as a world leader in foreign affairs. When it doesn't ratify a treaty that has been easily ratified by some of the same people in the past, what message does that send? That, maybe, it might be OK for Pakistan to test nuclear weapons. India, too.

Is that the real truth? Of course not. But not every nation understands the niceties of our two-party system — that this is more of a game than it is foreign policy.

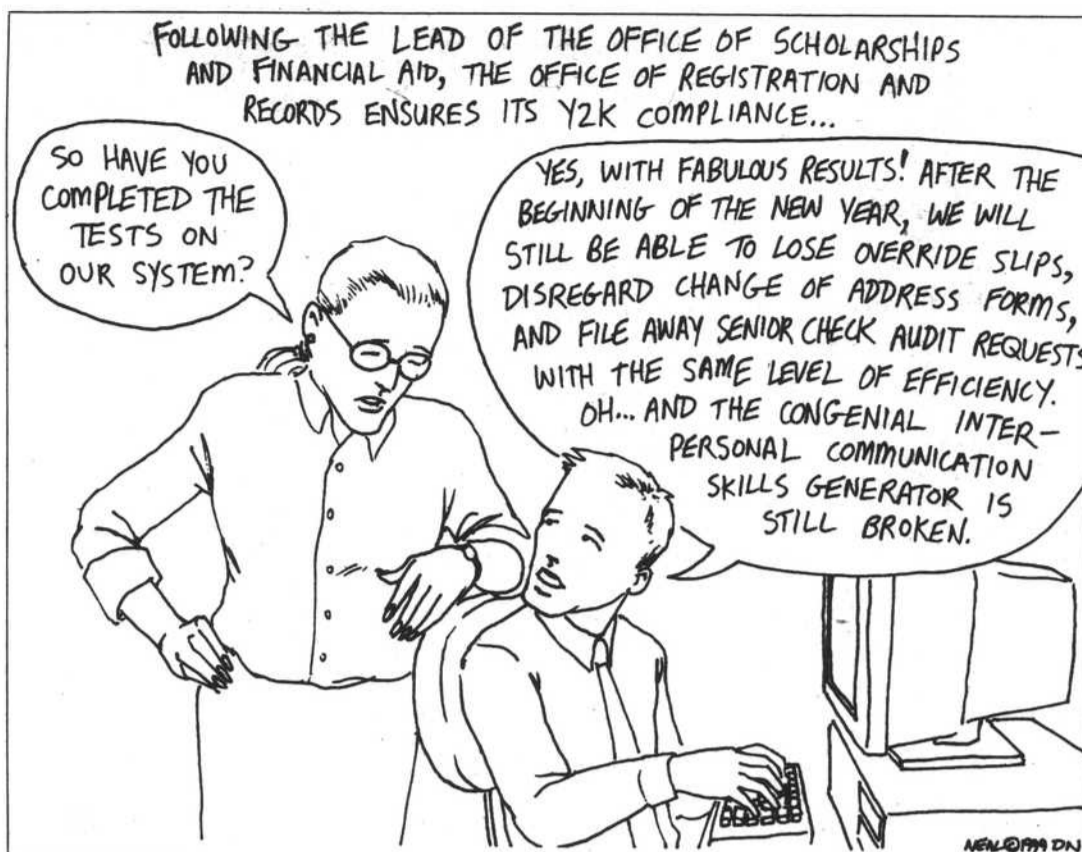
The United States needs to understand the responsibility it has to the rest of the world. Clinton can re-submit the treaty next year. For now he can only be stubborn about the budget.

It's a sorry state of affairs and one that reflects poorly on our country.

The issue will come up again, and we encourage voters to express their interest in the test-ban treaty.

Until then, we can at least wipe the egg from our faces.

Obermeyer's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Royal pain

I find it pretty sad that Angie Klein and Matt Meyer did not receive any acknowledgment for their crowning as Homecoming queen and king.

Matt and Angie are two outstanding students. The time they give to their respective houses is immeasurable. They are constantly involved in community service or doing something for the betterment of the university.

I find it very upsetting that when our fraternity had 70 cases of beer confiscated it made front page, but two people receive one of the most prestigious awards decided by students, and they are not recognized.

Aaron Gilson
senior
finance

Testifyin'

In response to Jeremy Patrick's (DN Oct. 14) "Incident sparks concern about children's exposure to religion:"

AMEN, BROTHER!!!!

Todd Hill
senior
biological systems engineering

Brother Patrick

Jeremy Patrick's assertion that "logic and reason mean nothing...to 95 percent of Christians" misses the point. For most people of faith, logic and reason are not irrelevant but sim-

ply not of primary importance: Our belief is rooted more deeply in experience than abstraction.

And while I'm the first to admit that my faith certainly is "a crutch... (to) rely on when life gets difficult," I trust this is a testament to my relationship with a caring creator, not simply a testament to my own weak character.

Finally, I understand and encourage Mr. Patrick's desire to present "the seeds of doubt" to his young nephews. Doing this may in time lead them to drop their simple beliefs and embrace atheism — or perhaps it will help them arrive at a deeper, more adult faith.

Jon Ritz
graduate student
English

Being a Christian

Mr. Patrick, being a Christian is not about hating anyone. It is not about being afraid to question. It is not even about going to church or quoting Bible verses every day.

Being a Christian is about recognizing our own deficiency before God, asking for forgiveness from Jesus and living our lives in a way that would please him.

God is the judge, not me. We all choose how we want to live, but not believing in God does not make him any less real.

Mike Wittmann
junior
communication studies

Homosexual agenda

Jessica Flanagan (DN Oct. 14) has once again proven that ignorance has a very loose tongue.

I must confess, it gets rather tiresome feeling the need to defend the so-called "homosexual agenda."

I resent the implication that societal acceptance of homosexuality will eventually lead to a societal acceptance of more deviant sexual preferences.

I believe she made liberal mention of pedophilia as an example.

How dare you imply that pedophilia is a mere few steps beyond homosexuality?

The day our society, as a whole, is permissive towards sexual abuse, is the day our society no longer deserves to exist. But according to

Miss Flanagan, we homosexuals are paving the way. I truly fail to see the connection.

Roxane Gay
graduate student
English

This train

This letter is in rebuttal to the story in Friday's DN ("Train path troubles students").

Wah! Give me a break. The trains have been traveling along these tracks for years; now because a bunch of whiny students don't like to have to wait for them, BNSF is just suppose to re-route all trains away from campus. Please.

If you don't like waiting for the trains, use the 10th Street bridge.

Trains are re-routed around this area on football Saturdays because there are 70,000+ people attending the game.

BNSF does this because it wants to, not because it has to. So quit your bitching and leave the house a few minutes early or take a different route.

Jana Bartels
senior
business education

Gun totin' wackos

Responsible journalism applies to photography as well as the written content of a newspaper. However, in Friday's DN, Lane Hickenbottom seems to have lost his mind in the pursuit of a cool photograph.

I can't believe today, that with the media constantly necessitating safe gun ownership, a photographer would be stupid enough to place himself at the business end of a rifle.

Before you try to justify the photo by telling yourself that the gun was unloaded with the action open, realize that it is not only your personal safety that is at risk but the safety of others who are influenced by your lax attitude toward a firearm.

And shame on Nicole Allaire for allowing such a stupid idea to progress to fruition. It is the responsibility of people who know better to protect the fools from themselves.

Kyle Long
senior
psychology/economics

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Yackety Yack
You Talk Back

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Send all queries to:
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