

Feeling the pinch at the gas pump

*Raising prices won't lead to
another 1970s fuel crisis*

Gas prices do rise, but this too shall pass.

In the 1970s, a time period most of us cannot remember, there was a gas crisis. Lines formed and people waited for hours to get fuel, often only to be shut out. Prices rose so high they broke the ceiling and kept on going.

For a time, very few of the motors in America ran.

Now, as the price of gas in America rises and continues to rise, panic is afoot once more. Gas prices are currently around \$1.60 per gallon and are predicted to get as high as \$2.00 per gallon this summer. Some people already are hoarding extra gas, just in case the price goes any higher.

People old enough to remember the 1970s are the most nervous, because they remember the crisis most current students did not experience.

But President Clinton assured Americans the problem is being dealt with and, while the prices may go up, the gas shortage of the '70s will stay there – in the past.

All fears of the problems that came with the gas shortage – long lines, high prices and constant "SOLD OUT!" signs – are things of a day long gone. If it boiled down to it, the government even has reserves it could tap into to help alleviate the problem.

But we don't have to fear that everything will go haywire, because the government is doing a better job of addressing the problem. It'll be taken care of.

Consider this: The price we have to pay now is retribution for the months where gas prices ran less than a dollar a gallon.

We Americans love our cars, clinging to them no matter what problems arise.

But you don't have to drive. You know we could use the parking space here on campus.

There are other alternatives to driving, if you don't like the high rates. Public transportation is always an option (StarTran, baby). Also, hybrid electric-gas cars are hitting the markets now, if you're in line for a new automobile.

Or, you can always walk.

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Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448 or e-mail to: letters@unl.edu

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Obermeyer's VIEW



Letters to the EDITOR

Donley-approved

Mr. Donley, your argument that the NRA is corrupt (DN, Monday) seems to be backed only by the fact that they lobby against your views.

What about organizations such as PETA, labor unions and children's rights and environmental groups? Are these organizations also corrupt because they use a democratic tool in their favor?

I guess if it's not Donley-approved, they are.

You bring up a good point in your article, though. This country's independence from England was won by privately-owned guns. The "well-regulated militia" at that time was a bunch of normal guys who were pulled out of bed by neighbors who had heard the British were on their way. These men did not need a piece of paper or a politician's bull to assure their rights. They had all the power they needed right above their fireplaces.

The Second Amendment is the most important because it guarantees the rest of them. Switzerland has been actively giving its people guns for a while – can you remember the last war it was in?

Maybe it would be good for you to remember that most gun crimes are committed with illegal guns. The gun that the six-year-old used was illegal and left out in the open by the child's junkie housemate.

I'm sure that gun-control legislation would be able to stop that, don't

you think?

Joe Fraas
sophomore
English

More than flintlocks

Mike Donley's logic is somewhat suspect. He seems to be calling for "average people" to be unable to purchase or own handguns, or anything more technologically advanced than black powder flintlocks, yet he says nothing about what the criminals should have.

It would be nice to live in a world where we could depend on the police to respond to an emergency call within a couple of minutes. Unfortunately, the police are human beings who cannot be everywhere at once.

The Genie of Firearms was let out of the bottle long ago. Does Mr. Donley really think that when someone has his house broken into in the middle of the night, and the police are 15 minutes away, that all he should have to protect himself and his family is good intentions? Oh, I'm sorry, I forgot about the flintlocks.

Mark Buhrdorf
senior
classics

Excuses, excuses

I completely agree that NU on Wheels should be provided, and it was completely absurd that it wasn't

provided on spring break. But Vickie Zulkoski (DN, Monday) thinks that because it wasn't provided, many students drove home drunk. Just because it wasn't available doesn't mean it is responsible for people who actually drive home drunk.

Do you realize that this program only has been available for a short time? What did people do before that? Hopefully they took a cab or had a designated driver.

While the service should be provided to students, the lack of it should not be an excuse for driving home drunk.

Sarah Hosek
junior
family science

Stay sober

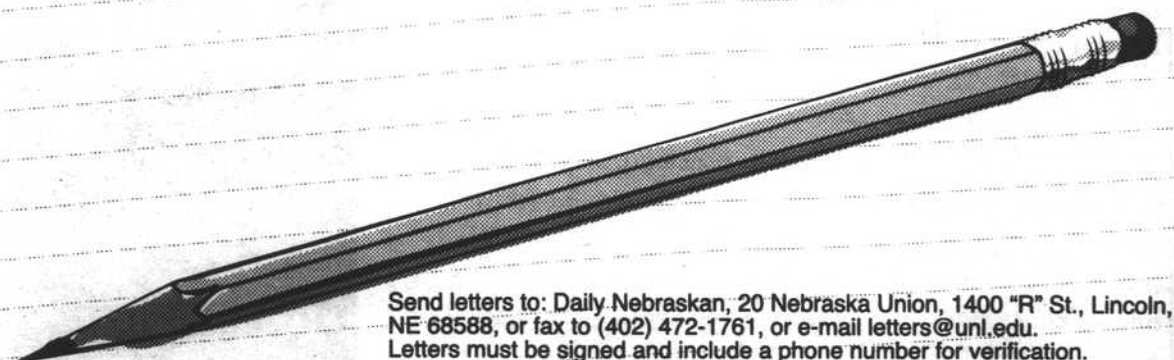
I have two suggestions for the Zulkoskis and Weavers (DN, Monday) of the world:

1) Try to drink responsibly. It's a bizarre concept, I know, but eventually the world will stop baby-sitting you, and you'll have to take responsibility for yourselves.

2) If No. 1 proves too difficult, take a cab or call a friend. NU on Wheels does not exist (I hope) to make it easier for you to get drunk. Should you choose to do this, you also must accept the consequences that come with it.

H.L. Knight
junior
English

P.S. Write Back



Send letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 "R" St., Lincoln, NE 68588, or fax to (402) 472-1761, or e-mail letters@unl.edu. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification.