

Letters to the Editor

Seniors shouldn't get another multitrillion-dollar handout

I read Donald Backofen's guest column with utter disgust.

Why am I disgusted with Don's premise that Americans are not doing enough to help seniors with health care? The Congressional Budget Office released its report stating that the 10-year period following the proposed \$400 billion prescription drug plan would cost up to \$2 trillion!

Has anyone thought about the economic ruin this will bring upon future workers? Who is going to pay for this?

Workers are taxed to the point at which they cannot save for their retirement or pay for their own health care. This country has provided for today's seniors better than any in history, and still he wants more. Each worker on average already forks over \$5,000 to each retiree yearly!

Don thinks this country owes seniors something. What is it we owe you? You have created and supported a Social Security program with \$11.5 trillion in unfunded liabilities. You have created and supported a Medicare program with over \$5 trillion in unfunded liabilities. Now you want more than the proposed \$400 billion prescription drug plan. Should we not fix the two largest problems first before adding a third unfunded program?

In Scouting, we leave a campsite in the same condition, if not better than, we found it. Are you helping to leave this country in as good a condition as when you inherited it?

What you propose will increase the burden on the workers by attempting to get something from nothing.

You want to saddle my five children and others with staggering debt. You are correct, "If you do not express your thoughts, do not complain."

This is why I will be seeking Indiana's 3rd District Congressional seat in 2004. It is time to just say no to government drugs.

William R. Larsen