

Democratization of socialism is inevitable

It is often alleged that the present dictatorial Soviet regime is proof that socialism has failed or is unworkable.

The argument made is that rather than withering away — as Marx envisioned — the Soviet state has grown into an oppressive bureaucracy that maintains its own privileges while oppressing both Soviet workers and the nations of Eastern Europe.

While the above is true, this still does not invalidate Marx's basic analysis of



Krishna Madan

history and the eventual emergence of a democratic, humanist socialism.

In order to see why the latter is possible, it is necessary to look at the emergence of capitalism and parliamentary democracy.

Capitalism originated in the 14th century in western Europe. The growth of trade after the Crusades resulted in the emergence of a merchant class which was more committed to individual self-interest than to old feudal values.

This new bourgeois class was especially interested in expanding trade which was, after all, its source of livelihood. However, trade could not be expanded while the nations of Europe were fragmented into different feudal fiefs, each of which had its own laws, taxes, coinage, etc.

The bourgeoisie thus allied itself to

national monarchs who defeated the various nobles and unified their countries, establishing uniform laws, taxes, coinage, etc.

Most of Europe was governed by this form of absolute monarchy until the 19th century. Thus, for the first 500 years of its existence, capitalism produced a political system that was in essence a dictatorship.

However, the seeds of democracy existed from the very beginning.

The absolute monarchs depended on the rich bourgeoisie to fund their various projects. In return for allocating this money, the bourgeoisie demanded the right to form parliaments and to have a say in the nations' political affairs.

We thus see the beginnings of parliamentary democracy as early as the 14th century. However, it wasn't until the late 19th century that parliaments began to be elected by all citizens and to fully assume the power of the absolute monarchs.

Thus, capitalism has only been democratic for the last 100 years of its 600-year existence.

Socialism has only been in existence for 67 years. With the exception of Nicaragua, it has yet to produce a democracy that survives.

The reason for this is that socialist revolutions have occurred in underdeveloped countries. Russia in 1917 and China in 1949.

In these countries, the Communist dictatorships have played the same role the absolute monarchies played in Europe. They have helped to unify and develop their nations.

Nevertheless, we have also seen the temporary emergence of council democracy in these socialist nations during revolutionary times.

Like the early forms of bourgeois parliamentary democracy, these forms of socialist democracy are merely seeds which can only sprout when the historical conditions are right — when the Communist dictatorships — like

the absolute monarchies — cease fulfilling their historical purpose.

We can be optimistic because just as parliaments defeated the absolute monarchs, so will socialist council democracy defeat the present Communist dictatorships.

With the rate of historical change constantly accelerating, this may very well take place in our lifetimes.

Letters Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names from publication will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

Daily Nebraskan

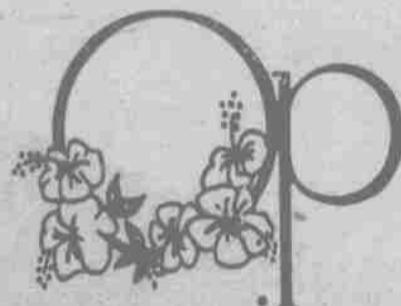
EDITOR Larry Sparks, 472-1786
 GENERAL MANAGER Daniel Shull
 PRODUCTION MANAGER Khy Policy
 ADVERTISING MANAGER Tracy L. Beavers
 ASSISTANT Kelly Grossoshme
 CIRCULATION MANAGER Steve Meyer
 NEWS EDITOR Ward W. Trickett III
 ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITORS Lauri Hoppie
 Jason Byfield
 Wade Bluhge
 Jeff Browne
 SPORTS EDITOR
 ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Mike Frost

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday in the fall and spring semesters and Tuesdays and Fridays in the summer sessions, except during vacations. Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-2588 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, call Carla Johnson, 472-5703. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1984 DAILY NEBRASKAN

OCEANS OF FUN AT THE BUCKLE!

FREE!

O.P. FRISBEE OR KEYCHAIN WITH PURCHASE OF:



BEACHWEAR



brass buckle for guys and gals

OPEN SUNDAY 12-5

EAST PARK PLAZA

NEED A JOB THAT FITS AROUND YOUR CLASS SCHEDULE?

Application are being taken for the position of Keystone Insurance

Representative at the University Health Center. The job requires a minimum of 20 hours per week.

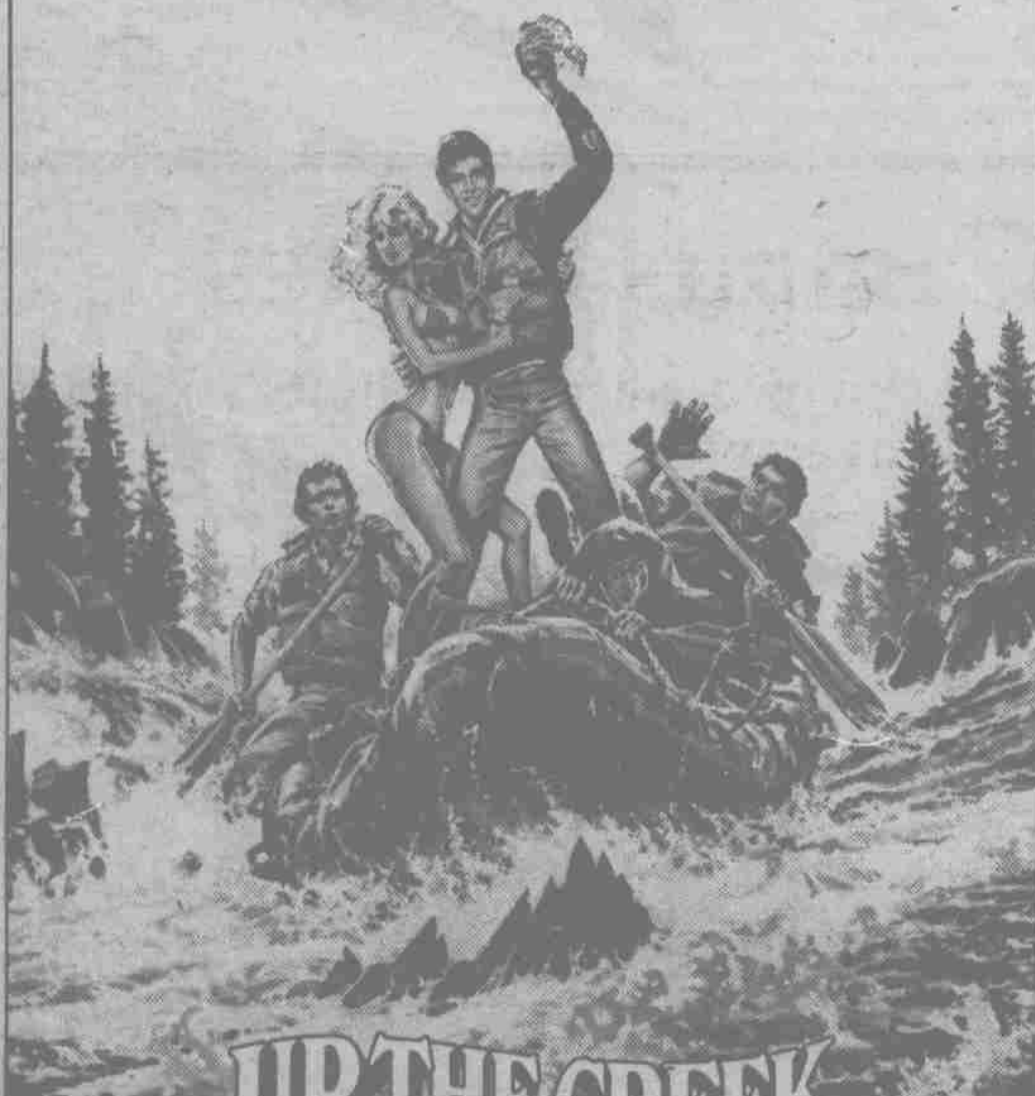
If you feel you:

- * Are organized
- * Possess excellent communication skills
- * Are self-motivated
- * Have a flexible schedule
- * Enjoy working with people
- * Have the ability to think creatively

Please send a letter of application and/or a resume listing work experience to the University Health Center, Room 227. Applications are due Friday, April 13. If you have any questions please contact Diane Langhorst, the current student representative, at 472-6000 or Room 103 at the University Health Center.

UNL does not discriminate in its academic, admissions or employment programs and abides by all federal regulations pertaining to the same.

Get set to get wet... at the funniest, raciest, wildest white-water raft race ever!



UP THE CREEK

A SAMUEL Z. ARKOFF/LOUIS S. ARKOFF Production "UP THE CREEK" TIM MATHESON · DAN MONAHAN · STEPHEN FURST · JEFF EAST · SANDY HELBERG · BLAINE NOWAK · JAMES B. SIKKING Introducing JENNIFER RUNYON
 Special Appearance by JOHN HILLERMAN Music Score by WILLIAM GOLDSTEIN Screenplay by JIM KOUF
 Story by JIM KOUF and JEFF SHERMAN & DOUGLAS GROSSMAN Executive Producers LOUIS S. ARKOFF · SAMUEL Z. ARKOFF
 Produced by MICHAEL L. MELTZER Directed by ROBERT BUTLER
 Soundtrack available on Pasha/CBS Records. Produced by SPEAKER PROFFER Color by DeLuxe

OPENS FRIDAY, APRIL 6 AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU.