

Editorial

U.S. ready to be friends with new Soviet leader

The announcement of the death of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev Thursday coincided with the celebration of Veterans Day, when thoughts on war and peace are traditionally resurrected.

Brezhnev, while taking pride in being an "architect of detente," led the Soviet Union to become a global military power. During his 18 years in the Kremlin, he built up a five-million-man army, one of the world's largest military operations.

Despite this military buildup, Brezhnev did play an active role in the final negotiations of SALT I and SALT II. Analysts say that his death will hinder advancement of current arms control discussions as the Soviets will lack "strong, creative leadership" during the expected lengthy transition period.

Brezhnev, who was 75, was criticized for failing to

prepare younger men to replace him. As president and Communist Party chief, he will likely be succeeded by a group of leaders rather than a single one.

The critical question is who will take charge of the Communist Party. There are no clear-cut successors, although government sources cited Brezhnev's aide Konstantin Chernenko and former KGB Chief Yuri Andropov as probable contenders.

The two factions most likely to emerge would emphasize either military strength or economic improvement. The tone now adopted by the United States could affect their emphasis and our resulting relationship.

Former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, Walter Stoessel, has stressed that this is an important time to improve East-West relations. He said our nation should maintain a united, firm position, "not a provocative

one," to indicate that we are prepared to accomplish this goal. He said the situation presents some opportunities that we should take advantage of.

President Reagan, in a Veterans Day address, seemed determined to do just that. He extended his hope to expand relations with the new Soviet leadership so both nations "can cooperate to mutual advantage."

The greatest mutual advantage both nations could share is a sense of security rather than conflict. In approaching the transition period and new leadership in the Soviet Union, let's hope both administrations keep this in mind.

And let's hope President Reagan was correct in saying, "I believe our peoples, for all their differences, share a desire and dedication to peace."

Margie Honz

Collectibles: We save them just because we like them

In the third drawer in my kitchen, I have assembled one of the largest collections of blue plastic coffee scoops in the Northern Hemisphere. I don't know precisely how I came to be curator of coffee scoops, but it happened gradually, coffee can by coffee can. I just didn't throw them away.

Coffee scoops are not the only accumulated works in my possession. I also have a year's supply of disposable plastic shower

on the use of ripped pantyhose.

But I am like a lot of people who find the one prize in the Cracker Jack box of the disposable society and can't ever throw it away.

There are people to this day who have cartons of empty plastic L'eggs containers in their possession. They are not trying to incubate new knee-hi's. They just like them.

There's a neighbor in my life whose entire misbegotten plant collection comes from avocado pits and the babies of a grown-up spider plant that is as fertile as it is ugly. Her kitchen looks like a Plant Rescue League, but she can no more throw out a cutting than a kitten.

A lot of us are saving "for a rainy day." The waste-not-want-not psychology has gripped my aunt, who also has shirt buttons cataloged since 1942. Her plastic containers are security against the day when the capitalists have strip-mined all the plastic.

But they also include a friend who has never been able to thin out the mess of wire coat hangers she gets at the cleaner, because someday she will need all 200 of them. Her husband, a wine lover, has one of the best-equipped cork cellars in the East. Should we ever break off diplomatic relations with Portugal, the land of the cork trees, he will be able to single-handedly supply the entire valley of Sonoma.

As for my blue coffee scoops, unlike all these other people, I actually have a few sane reasons for enlarging my third drawer display area.

The scoops are great for playing in the sandbox, and in 20 years I might have grandchildren.

I can string them together and make a neat necklace.

Sooner or later the coffee people will stop putting them in the can, but I will have a lifetime supply.

Then, wasters of the world, you can all eat your hearts out.

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Ellen Goodman

caps, the kind that you get in expensive hotels where they charge you \$6.50 for a continental breakfast and you steal the extra jam as reparation. I also have the jam jars.

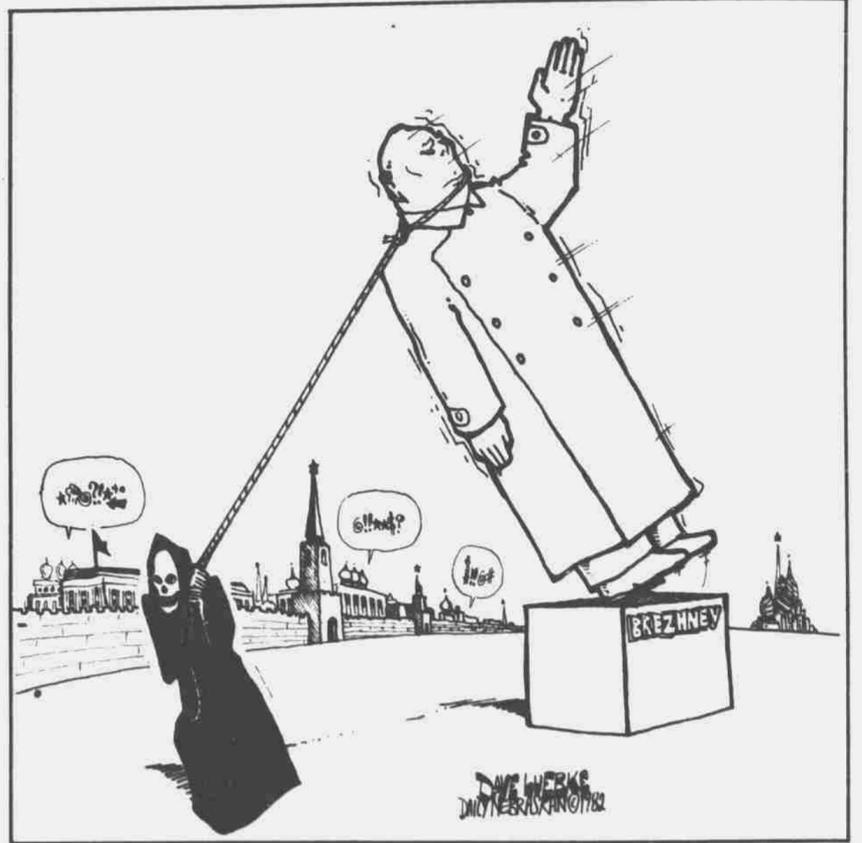
These collections seem perfectly reasonable to me - certainly when compared to other such museum-quality items. My aunt, a nice woman although short for her height, has four-dozen empty plastic ice-cream containers stacked neatly under her sink.

My mother has covered more door-knobs with rubber bands during her lifetime than she has had doors. A friend has washed and stored enough of the small wooden skewers from supermarket shish kebabs to reconstruct the original tree.

Now I suppose you want to know what we plan to do with these things. But the truth is that if we were planners, we wouldn't have collected coffee scoops and rubber bands. We would have collected diamonds or DeLoreans.

What we are is savers and we will do with the skewers and shower caps what every compulsive does. We will save them.

I don't want to overstate my membership among the saved, or savers. I am not the sort of person who saves used Pop-sicle sticks for the Christmas gingerbread house. Nor do I see a lamp shade in every milk carton or search for helpful hints



DeCamp forced to recognize the law applies to him, too

"Take physic pomp; Expose thyself to feel what wretches feel; That thou mayst shake the superflux to them; And show the heavens more just." - King Lear

State Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh (or rather Oakdale) has been forced once again to recognize that, before the law, he's just another one of us wretches. DeCamp made the mistake of forgetting to reregister to



Matthew Millea

vote when he moved from Neligh to nearby Oakdale. Since under the Nebraska Constitution a candidate for Legislature is ineligible to take office unless properly registered on Election Day, the Unicameral might have to get along without Mr. DeCamp this coming term.

DeCamp has locked horns with the law before. Most recently, he failed to pay several thousand dollars in back taxes on rental property he owns in his district. Then, as now, DeCamp protested that those acting to enforce the law were out to get him. ("I don't know what kind of game is being played," DeCamp said. "It's pretty desperate tactics.") Once he'd calmed down a little, he also explained that he had temporarily overextended himself because of the bad economy. I can't be certain of this, but something tells me that if one of the senator's tenants was a little late with the rent and pleaded the poor state of the economy...

DeCamp probably is overextended financially since he can't seem to keep track of just what it is he owes, according to the Lincoln Star. Although he moved

from the trailer he used as his Neligh address, DeCamp said, "I think I still own the trailer."

Well, whatever. The point is that the lawmaker does "have a lot of property around there." That's why DeCamp thought it would be a good idea to extend the sales tax to services. The sales tax is the state's most regressive tax because it hits the unemployed, the poor, the aged, students and so on, the hardest. Still, DeCamp greatly prefers a new sales tax as opposed to increasing the income or (gasp!) property taxes.

To make a long story short, the rest of the wretches in the Legislature wouldn't even consider DeCamp's sales tax proposal. It seems it was slightly beyond the body's powers during a special session. You might even say it was illegal.

It might be fun to speculate on what DeCamp's next move might be, presuming they let him keep his seat in the Unicameral. Having exhausted his tax approach, he'll probably get back to some earnest budget slashing.

Hey, do ya 'spose he'll call the university a "sacred cow" again? Psychologists refer to this phenomenon as projection.

Editorial policy

Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the fall 1982 Daily Nebraskan. They are written by this semester's editor in chief, Patti Gallagher.

Other staff editors write one editorial in her place each week. Those will carry the author's name after the final sentence.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees or the NU Board of Regents.



Letters

Understanding needed

I must object to the implication made in the (Daily Nebraskan, Nov. 10) article "Trainees to assist mentally ill patients" that all chronically mentally ill people spend their time in and out of hospitals, and if they're not there they "spend their time in boarding homes or are just left out on the streets."

The "treatment" of the chronically mentally ill starts with the writing of articles such as this one. It's time our society treats this matter with sensitivity and most of all, understanding. The understanding begins now. I am not putting down the trainee program. It is an excellent idea and there definitely are people who need this kind of help but, please, let's not make the "plight" of the chronically mentally ill even more desperate by

portraying all of us as incompetents or unable to handle day-to-day living.

I have a major mental illness medically termed bipolar disease. Most people know it as manic-depressive illness. As a manic-depressive I have spent time in the hospital twice this year (for a total of 11 days) but upon dismissal have been able to lead a very useful and productive life. This distinction must be made. Not all chronically mentally ill people are always and totally incapacitated by their illness.

I will never be cured and my treatment consists of daily medication - not that much different than the diabetic who has to have an insulin injection daily. I always will be a manic-depressive and I am not going to remain passive for I am not ashamed of the truth. It is this sort of ignorance which I will not tolerate any longer.

Nancy Skelton
secretary, Teachers College
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