

# Editorial

## Pointless name-calling cloud issues, halts answers

For anyone who likes to curl up with a good mystery novel full of national intrigue, the real world is offering several real whoppers lately. All you folks out there who love to get all wound up in yarns of embezzlement and espionage would be surprised by the plots to be found outside the realm of the printed page these days.

First, we have the tale of the "Butcher of Lyon," in which former Nazi Klaus Barbie has been expelled from Bolivia, where he was living a successful life under an assumed name.

He was carted back to France where he will stand trial for his actions as head of the Gestapo in Lyon, France, during the German occupation of World War II. It is said that Barbie personally ordered the execution of 4,000 people and the deportation of 7,000 French Jews to concentration camps.

Coming down several notches on the excitement scale, we have the current chaos in the Environmental Protection Agency here in the United States. The EPA is being investigated because of accusations that it has botched up efforts to clean up hazardous waste dumping sites throughout the country.

There are allegations that top EPA administrators made deals with companies responsible for the pollution, and that EPA deliberately slowed cleanup of the sites for political reasons. According to Time magazine, only five have been cleaned up.

EPA head Anne Gorsuch (now Anne McGill Burford after her wedding last weekend), has not inspired our confidence by refusing to yield to congressional subpoenas asking for EPA documents contain-

ing information about its negotiations with companies. There is also investigation into the possibility that these documents were destroyed by EPA employees.

There are also those who claim that the Socialist government of France worked extra hard at getting Barbie back to France because their efforts at punishing the war criminal would win them support in the municipal elections, which happen to be next month.

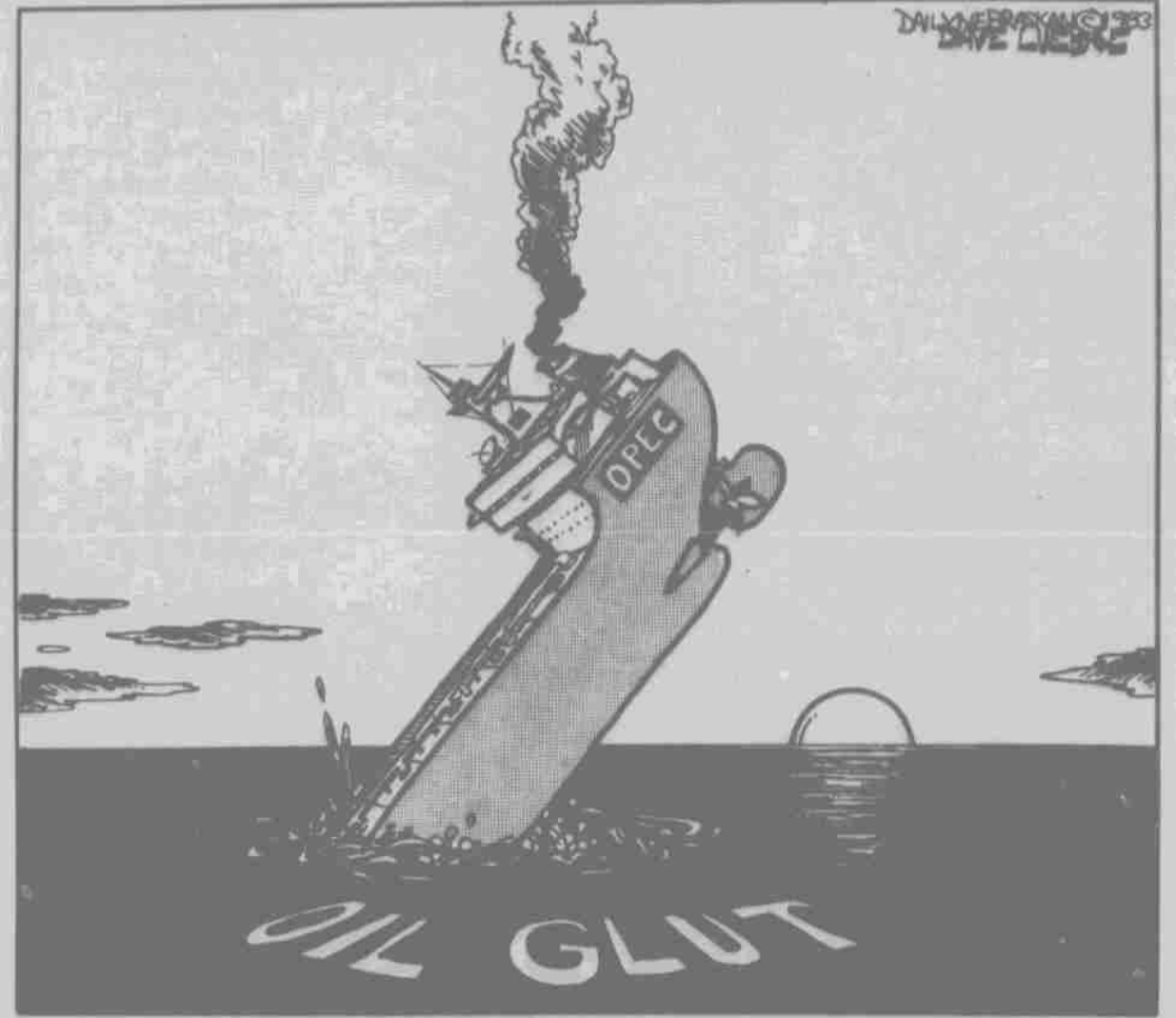
Barbie himself claims he is being used as a pawn, and that if Germany had won the war, nobody would care what he did. In a recent interview he even said that Hitler's actions were justified because he "did away with 6.5 million unemployed," according to United Press International.

Furthermore, Barbie claims that he was merely doing his job and that his treatment of prisoners was no worse than the actions of the French in Vietnam and Algeria or of the Americans in Indochina.

In any case, journalists are sure to fan the situation into a bright flame, and the papers are sure to be full of stories about Barbie's brutality and his involvement with American intelligence members and disloyal Frenchmen. There will also be plenty of stories about EPA's under-the-table dealings with companies and its deliberate slowness about cleaning up the country's pollution.

In the meantime, the victims of the Nazis are still dead, the dump sites remain polluted, and the American political system remains relatively unchanged.

Prosecution of Barbie is an important symbolic move for France, which still considers the time period during which Barbie



did his butchering to be what Los Angeles Times columnist William Pfaff calls "a shameful episode in French history."

The situation with Burford and EPA is also an important symbol for the American public and its press, which gets a kick out of tunneling into the political undergrowth to expose its dirty side. Echoes of Watergate resound along with criticism of the EPA.

But the attacks of what Reagan calls the "save the whales gang" on the EPA may further cripple the agency's effectiveness rather than purify its administration. One of the flaws of our government today is that political rivals are too quick to jump up and point at every problem yelling "They did it!" This game playing draws a lot of unnecessary and harmful attention

that distorts public opinion and only impedes the search for solutions to problems.

The same could be said for the Barbie trial, which will expose evidence of French and American collaboration with Barbie, thus damaging the already sagging morale of those countries. Both the French and the environmentalists probably will end up paying a price for their symbolic crucifixions. But it is only by unearthing facts that favorable change can take place.

So pay close attention, those of you who love adventure stories, and those of you who are interested in how such intriguing situations are handled by non-fictional characters. For it is in their hands, and ours, that the future lies.

David Thompson

## Letters

### Selleck residents have right to have own study hall

In response to the letter titled "Selleck's study policies discriminate," (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 21) I would like to say that some of the statements made by Michael Robinson were not exactly correct.

In the first statement he implied that university residence halls are "supported in part by university funds and tuition." That statement is incorrect. The residence halls are totally self-sufficient and are solely supported by room and board fees paid by the students who live in them. This room and board supplies funds for general maintenance, food service, electricity, etc. Each student of the residence hall also contributes money (taken from fees paid by that student) to the student government which is in charge of activities, policies and the study hall of that particular residence hall.

Next, Robinson stated that our policy (Selleck Quadrangle residents and their guests only) "sections off the area (cafeteria) to students who, during the day, are admitted for free." This statement is also incorrect. At no time during the day is there free entrance into the cafeteria, not even during meal hours when students must pay to be admitted. Anyone who does not pay or does not have a Vali-dine (pre-paid meal ticket) will not be admitted by the cafeteria checker.

Robinson then went on to question why he was given a pass. The reason was because a Selleck resident agreed to be responsible for Robinson's actions while he was in Selleck. Therefore, he was a guest of a Selleck resident.

Robinson then stated that we put the policy into effect because of the noise level. That was only part of the problem. The reason for the policy was because of the messes being left by non-Selleck residents. It appeared that they just didn't care how messy they left the tables. It looks like people would have enough sense to pick up after themselves, but I guess some people don't. Since our study hall monitors do not get paid, and are not majoring in baby-sitting, something had to be done. Signs were put up at the beginning of last semester warning non-Selleck residents to pick up their messes or lose their privilege to study in Selleck. When the messes continued, we formed a policy stating that only Selleck residents and

their guests would be allowed access to the study hall. We no longer have problems with noise or messes at Selleck and, if one of our residents does leave a mess, we know who it is and can readily contact that person.

Therefore, since the residence halls are supported by the students who live in them, and since there is no free access to the cafeteria anytime during the day, the residents of Selleck have the right to exclude others from using our study hall. After all, there are other quiet places to study, for example, the library and Nebraska Hall. Thus, non-Selleck residents do have alternatives. If non-Selleck residents are having problems with noise in their own study areas, that is their problem and they should deal with it and try to eliminate it.

I would like to add that residence hall students do not insist on studying in the Greek houses or some stranger's apartment every night. I wonder what the Greek houses and off-campus residents would think if that were the case?

Dick R. Haskin  
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### Unity Day to stress the unity of diversity

Motivated by the belief that racial prejudice is the most challenging issue facing our nation each year Baha'is of the United States sponsor Race Unity Day in June.

America can only achieve its high destiny through the unification of its rich and diverse racial elements. The sacred writings of the Baha'i faith state, "When the racial elements of the American nation unite in actual fellowship and accord, the lights of the oneness of humanity will shine, the day of eternal glory and bliss will dawn, the spirit of God encompass, and the divine favors descend."

The Race Unity program will emphasize the principle of unity in diversity, which Baha'is believe is necessary for the establishment of peace. This principle ensures that no race or culture group will ever be considered superior to any other. Rather, each will develop its unique and distinctive qualities and contribute to the diversity of the whole. For this principle to work, however, the Baha'i writings emphasize, "The diversity in the human family should be the cause of love and harmony, as it is in music where many different notes blend together in the making of a perfect chord."

Baha'is believe that racial unity is a divine commandment, a law for this new age which will, inevitably be realized in America. The Baha'i writings state, "Close your eyes to racial differences and welcome all with the light of oneness." The source of this commandment is the prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, Baha'u'llah, whose name means, "The Glory of God." At the center of his message is the oneness of God, the oneness of religion, and the oneness of humankind. His teachings promulgate the equality of men and women, the essential harmony of science and religion, the independent investigation of truth, economic justice based upon spiritual principles, and the urgent need for the elimination of all forms of prejudice. The future world order outlined by Baha'u'llah will include a world government for the maintenance of a lasting peace, an international, auxiliary language and universal, compulsory education. Baha'u'llah revealed that mankind's achievement of unity represents the highest goal of human social evolution.

The Baha'i Faith is an independent, world religion with thousands of racially diverse, but unified, Baha'i communities established in more than 330 countries and territories around the globe. These communities are founded upon and operate according to the principle of the oneness of humanity. Baha'u'llah has written, "Ye are the leaves of one tree, and the fruits of one branch." The Baha'is of UNL College Club urge you to join them in their annual observance of Race Unity Day.

UNL Baha'i College Club