

to the editor



Dear editor:

For the past two semesters I have been "teaching" biology 101 labs (plant labs). I am sure that over half the people on campus can relate to this mess. Through my experiences with the labs I have come to the conclusion that this system needs some revision.

(1) The lab assistant is in no position to advise students on a course of action because the students take the lab home. It is like teaching an anatomy class and having the student dissect the body at home. Also, the assistant has no way of knowing if the student is copying, making up or actually planting seeds and experimenting.

(2) Discussion is difficult or impossible to initiate during lab. Interest is low. Trying to recreate the student's problem (with his or her plants) is like recreating an accident without having been there.

For these two problems to be resolved, I would think at least one thing would be imminently obvious to the most casual observer. The university should provide lab rooms just like any other lab course where students, in groups of five, could grow plants, set up controlled experiments and, most importantly, meet with the lab assistant who could help students develop scientific method first hand.

If this kind of set-up cannot be provided, I feel the university should either not waste its money on lab assistants or should use them more effectively.

Mark Pinkerton

Sadly misinformed

Dear editor:

In response in part to Bruce Nelson's editorial published on Monday, April 7 and Mr. Pelto's letter which appeared on Thursday, April 12, I must conclude that the people of the United States are sadly misinformed on the subject of Vietnam. Both gentlemen seem to have the strange misconception that just because the NLF is taking South Vietnam they are murdering, raping and plundering. Nothing can be farther from the truth. In Mao Tse-Tung's book on guerrilla warfare, which the NLF follows, he

sets out a clear method of dealing with villagers that is, to treat them with total respect in hopes of gaining their support which the invading force can use for a base of operations. Then this base is strengthened and invasion into another area occurs, repeating the process until a stable area of influence has been established for the guerrilla force. Honestly, do you really believe an army that murders, rapes and plunders can take three-fourths of South Vietnam in little more than two weeks?

The previous argument disputes the idea that the NLF is mistreating the people. However, every night on television we can watch hundreds of thousands of refugees "fleeing" the NLF advances. Everyone takes this for face value (that is, that they fear the NLF) when, in fact, there the South Vietnamese people have learned that whenever the NLF moves into an area, the Americans bombed the living hell out of it (this practice is known as saturation bombing and was used extensively during the war.) True, America is not bombing South Vietnam now, but if you lived there, would you take the chance that they might start again? I think not. Mr. Pelto, in his letter, brought out the "massacres" at Hue in which 1,500 civilians were killed by "North Vietnamese terrorists." The Hue truth is that these 1,500 people were killed by errant American bombs (from the same practice of saturation bombing), and that the reason you hear "North Vietnamese terrorists" being blamed is that the Saigon government used this excuse on the death notifications to these 1,500 victims' nearest relatives (a shrewd propaganda move on their part). The second reason people are "fleeing" the NLF can best be described in a classic picture of a frightened South Vietnamese woman with a child in her arms that appeared in the newspaper a week and a half ago. Her comment was "I've never even seen a communist before." One has to wonder what kind of propaganda is being fed to these people. On the *Tomorrow* show, one guest (an American-educated Vietnamese girl) even went as far as to say that she thought Thieu was trying to get as many people in Saigon as possible to thwart NLF efforts at bombing or shelling the city. This may not be as far from the truth as you think.

Having lived in Bangkok, Thailand, and having had the opportunity to converse with GI's on leave, I feel that I have a truer picture of Vietnam than what people get out of newspapers here in the States. If blame (for the outbreak of violence in Vietnam) must

be laid, it should be laid on President Thieu. According to the Paris Accord, Thieu was to institute a new government (including factions of the NLF, the neutral party and Thieu's own party) when the Americans pulled out. Thieu has chosen to ignore this part of the treaty and he is not facing the consequences. The only fear I have is that America will send more military aid and continue to propagate this farce in South Vietnam.

Don Sturek

Sprinkler spritz

Dear editor:

For many years, there have been discussions about the ugly buildings at the UNL campus. These buildings are rampant upon our once beautiful grounds that had at one time been a pit stop for the buffalo on their westward migration to Seattle. What many people do not understand is the non-logic behind the financing of our buildings.

First of all, it takes money to build one of these monsters and what people have been thinking is that it is tax money. Wrong - no tax money has ever been involved. The regents aren't as dumb as they think they are.

There is no second.

An example of these two points is Hamilton Hall, known by a variety of names such as the great white radiator grill in the sky or the blunder of the plains. It is an interesting building as it looks like another Sheldon gallery though slightly larger since someone forgot to shut off one of the gas jets one night and the structure expanded accordingly. Really, how can one describe it after looking at its high vertical fluting that looks like upside-down test tubes with unmarked graduate lines?

So there the issue stands. Unfortunately, so does Hamilton. I think it should become the scene of one of the current disaster films, such as *Sprinkler*, the epic where a fire starts in a trashcan and the sprinklers cut in, quenching the fire but continuing to spritz, forcing the inhabitants to swim out the upper floors for their lives. The climax would be when the Saudi Arabian Air Force's non-Arabic speaking pilots would drop Molotov cocktails of the 55-gallon variety into the humid depths to inflame the raging torrents to oblivion. Johnny Weismuller would love it.

Michael Whye

UNL Recreation Dept - Daily Nebraskan

BIKE RACE

open five mile

open to any UNL student
sponsored by

Freewheelin' Bike Shop

427 South 13th. Featuring fine imports and top line accessories to fit your bicycle needs. Complete service shop.

Prize - \$20 in merchandise

open 4000 meter

open to any UNL Student
sponsored by

Mr Bike

11th. & Cornhusker hwy.
We repair all makes of bikes.

Prize - \$20 in merchandise

co-rec one lap sprint

one girl and one guy on tandem bicycle
(furnished by rec. dept.)
sponsored by

Lincoln Schwinn

3321 Pioneer
Lincoln's Bicycle Sales and Service Center

Prize - \$20 in merchandise

women's 1000 meter

open to all female UNL students.

sponsored by

MAURICES 13th & Q

Prize - \$25 gift certificate

men's 1000 meter

open to all male UNL students.
sponsored by

PUTT PUTT

11th. & Cornhusker Hwy. Open 4 to midnight - open all night during finals week & tournaments during finals week.

Prize - \$20 in merchandise

co-rec one lap relay

four girls and four guys per team on tandem bicycles (furnished by rec. dept.)
sponsored by

Valentino's

Prize - one large pizza to each member of winning team

Sunday April 27

First event starts at 1 p.m. Registration is from 12:30 to 1. You must be a UNL student to enter. Race to be held at the tractor test track on East Campus. For more information, call the UNL recreation department 472-3467.