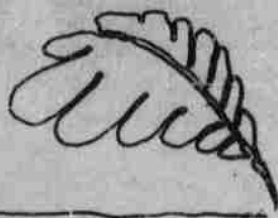


editorial / opinion

to the editor



Dear editor,

In regard to your editorial entitled "Mute, Barbie Doll characters plague TV," I can only say that it was completely and totally inane. If you are the concerned feminist you say you are, why do you not address yourself to problems of substance?

Why have you not come out in support of the appointment of a qualified woman to the post of chancellor for UNL? Why did you not comment on the list of UNL and NU administrators and their respective salaries that your newspaper published two weeks ago? Does it not bother you that of the 53 people listed only seven were women?

Does it not bother you that the men's salaries peaked at \$49,403 while the highest paid woman receives only \$28,031? Do issues such as these not concern you, or is it that your sharp, alert, feminist mind is not able to perceive issues of this nature?

Or could it be that you find sitting around and complaining about old movies easier than addressing yourself to inequalities within the university system?

I would also like to comment on your opinion of the depiction of women by the television industry. While there are certainly many inadequacies, the industry has in the last few years made great improvements in its portrayal of women.

Shows such as "Mary Tyler Moore," "Maude," "Kate McShane," "Fay" and "Policewoman" are proof of this.

In addition, PBS is currently broadcasting a seven-part biography of Lady Randolph Churchill and a six-part series dealing with the suffrage movement in England at the turn of the century. I suggest you see a few of these shows

Melinda Palmtag

Editor's note: The "editorial" Palmtag refers to is the Oct. 2 "Long Hard Climb," a column written by Marsha Jark. (Jark's byline was inadvertently left off the column.) "Long Hard Climb," like all Daily Nebraskan columns, reflects opinions of its writer, not necessarily the editorial stance of the paper.

For the record, we would very much favor the selection of a woman as the new UNL chancellor. Assuming that a woman would be chosen for her abilities, not her gender, such a selection could greatly benefit the university.

Pray for freedom

Dear editor,

In the late '50s or early '60s, Zambian President Dr. Kauanda wrote his famous book "Not Yet Uhuru." Uhuru is a Swahili word meaning "freedom."

It has been quite a while since that book came out. Most of us African youngsters then had high hopes that the days of colonialism were over and independence and "uhuru" for all mankind were finally here, that the thought and practice of racial prejudice had been buried with the last traces of colonialism.

But here we are in the mid-70s with university students asking us whether we are blacks or Africans.

This is the greatest place ever inhabited by any living creature. But I must hasten to add that its greatness would have bloomed far beyond this land if racial and ethnic problems had occupied low places on their priority list.

I see this happening in the not too distant future, when people will start to appreciate or reject one another because of what they are and not because of their skin color.

I read of people coming up with solutions to the race problem. One even suggested interracial marriages, so that in the generation of our great-grandchildren, mankind would not be faced with the problem that is keeping us (races) so close yet so far apart. It would really be a wonderful time, a heaven on earth.

But when one thinks back a little and realizes that we still have people who think "I am superior to Joe Blow because he is not of my skin color" or of the notorious professor who said people not of his skin color are genetically inferior, one's hopes are replaced by skepticism, pessimism and despair.

The UNL Foreign Student Office is doing a beautiful job by putting up signs that read "Help Stamp Out Racism."

I guess you all out there can do something about this crippling problem, too. Not more signs, but something—anything.

Let's all help Dr. Martin Luther King's dream come true: that there will come a time when people will start to look at people because of what they are. Let's pray for "uhuru."
Njoragi Njugi

Gullibility appalling

Dear editor,

Your article on Doug Durham, former narc turned professional informant, appalled me for its gullibility and lack of investigation. AIM was formed to give Indian People a way to fight Bureau of Indian Affairs bureaucracy and a chance to gain racial equality.

Durham claims AIM is part of a conspiracy with the government to "create dissension among the races so the big shots can force more of their bureaucracy down our throats," to "create such a strain on the BIA and State Police that federal intervention would be the only alternative..." and that this "conspiracy exists nationally to usurp individual freedoms... by taking control from local police."

Why didn't AIM members welcome federal intervention (in the form of the FBI's mini-army) instead of shooting at them? While I cannot discount the probability of a

conspiracy involving Kissinger, the Rockefeller Foundation and other government officials to stifle our liberty, accusing AIM of being part of this is a little like accusing the Ku Klux Klan and the Black Panthers of conspiring to force busing for racial balance.

As a man paid to gather information on arms caches, violent plans or anything else to discredit the American Indian Movement's fight for freedom to determine their own destiny, why didn't Durham remove those "sophisticated copper and sulfuric acid bombs" he knew so much about? It would have been great for TV and might even put his wages up to \$1,000 a month.

The thing that surprises me most (next to this obvious propaganda being published on the front page of any paper) is that Durham actually expects people to believe this. My only conclusion is the man apparently credits the American public with intelligence only slightly above that of a retarded cow.

Only within the framework of a racist, right-wing extremist group like the John Birch Society could a police department that guns down a man and his dogs for an alleged \$23 drug deal be praised for its "efficiency and progressiveness."

I think it's about time people started worrying about the rights and freedoms guaranteed us in 1776, instead of our Big Red, White and Blue Plastic Birthday Party in 1976.
Neil Terhune

Students distort priorities

As we sat down to write today's editorial (it was to be a pithy commentary on the Yell Squad brouhaha), a feeling of *de ja vu* swept over us. Hadn't this all been done before?

A quick check of the Daily Nebraskan's bound volumes revealed no previous editorials on the Yell Squad, but did uncover a spate of letters on the subject in the fall of 1974.

Jane Owens, the editor that semester, had ignored the issue. Since our respect for her was great, we were inclined at first to follow her example.

But a look into the Yell Squad controversy provides a somewhat frightening view of students' priorities this semester. Something is greatly awry when ASUN feels it must appoint a committee to investigate such a matter in a time when school spirit at football games should be the least of our worries.

We're all Big Red fans on this bus. But we can't help wondering what would be the impact on our state if the energy-hours expended on one home

football game were to be used on, say community projects.

And we can't help wondering if the energy that will be spent by ASUN's Yell Squad Committee could not be turned instead to lobbying for students' rights to alcohol on campus, or raising UNL's academic quality, or examining legislative spending priorities, or...

Rebecca Brite

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes letters to the editor and guest opinions. Choices of material published will be based on timeliness and originality. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, but may be published under a pen name if requested. Guest opinions should be typed, triple-spaced, on nonerasable paper. They should be accompanied by the author's name, class standing and major, or occupation. All material submitted to these pages is subject to editing and condensation, and cannot be returned to the writer.

the word **unheard**



Nader violates Golden Rule

By Del Gustafson

Several years ago, Ralph "unsafe at any speed" Nader launched an attack on a practice of the Book of the Month Club known as negative option selling. Every month the club sent each member a notice of the current book offering. If the member did not return the notice, he was automatically sent the book and billed.

This practice was based on the principle that to do something requires more effort than to do nothing; consequently, the Book of the Month Club prospered.

However, Nader's opposition to negative option selling doesn't extend to his own brainchild, Public Interest Research Groups. PIRGs have been funded on campus after campus by a \$2 fee that the student can get refunded upon request.

Now it is rumored that the UNL PIRG, like its fellows, also will request the \$2 refundable fee as it will capitalize upon student lethargy. While this method of financing is certainly more just than UNL's conscriptive student fee system, it is not consistent with consumer principles and should be rejected by NUPIRG.

It is an ironic tribute to American technology that the

Soviet Union's newest, most comprehensive instrument for surveillance of foreign tourists and domestic dissidents may be designed and installed by an American firm, International Business Machines (IBM).

A multi-million dollar deal has been negotiated between Intourist, the Soviet travel agency, and IBM for installation of an elaborate, nationwide hotel reservation computer system with terminals in all Russian hotels, tied to a central reservation outlet. The sale awaits only U.S. Commerce Dept. approval.

While IBM officials maintain that safeguards exist to prevent improper use of their system, it is sheer naivete to believe that such a system, with its massive potential for spying, will not be used by the Soviet police state and specifically by the Intourist agency, a KGB front, for detailed plotting of the movements of Soviet Jews, writers, intellectuals, etc.

It is saddening that on the 200th anniversary of America's revolt from tyranny, we are prepared to sell the very technological rope which will be used to strangle the muted, yet piercing, cry of freedom rising from Russia.

