

editorial / opinion

innocent bystander

Iranians fear spies; who is next?

The land of the free and home of the brave offers little protection to Iranian nationals living here, if the fears of Iranian students (see p.1) have substance.

The Daily Nebraskan's interviews with Iranian students at UNL were prompted by a United Press International story about a secret police network, financed by the Shah of Iran, which Iranians here say is monitoring their movements and threatening their lives.

Neither a U.S. State Dept. official nor an Iranian embassy spokesman would deny the existence of the spy network, UPI reported. According to UNL students, the intelligence system reports on students' anti-Iranian activities, for which the students may be imprisoned on their return to Iran.

If this harrassment and spying exists, there may be little that Iranians in this country or the American government can do about it. Perhaps U.S. officials would even be reluctant to change the situation, considering our government's own fondness for intelligence activities in other countries.

Ponder this, though. Iranians say their rights of expression are being repressed, in this country, by agents of their government. The same kind of repression of Americans' freedoms would be made possible by Senate Bill 1, on which we have already commented.

A trend appears to be developing. If we cannot prevent visitors to America being spied on, what hope would we have in protecting our own privacy if S 1 were passed?

Rebecca Brite

Weak hooks bring uncle's retirement

By Arthur Hoppe

My Uncle Rock figured he was doing a great job as assistant sales manager down at Jerry's Hook & Eye Company. Jerry, himself, told everybody so.

Uncle Rock's been in the business all his life and he's very energetic. Ever since Jerry made him assistant sales manager, he's been rushing all over the country, shaking customers' hands and taking orders.

They really liked him in New York. When the branch there couldn't pay its bill and Jerry wanted to take them to court, Uncle Rock came right out and said Jerry didn't know what he was talking about. You can bet Jerry appreciated honest advice like that.

Now, Uncle Rock is a pretty snappy dresser. (All the young ladies in accounting thought he was "dreamy.")—Maybe that's why he didn't go over too well with customers in the South and Midwest. Or maybe it was because every time he shipped them an order of hooks and eyes he forgot to include the hooks.

Jerry called him in the other day. "Look here, Rock," he says. "If we don't take over the New Hampshire territory from the R. R. Eye & Hook Company in our spring sales campaign, we'll go bust. Now while you may be big on eyes, you're weak on hooks and therefore, you're..."

"Sorry, Jerry," says Rock, holding up his hand. "I'm afraid you can't persuade me to renew my contract. I have decided to retire from the business in order to spend more time with my beloved wife, whose name escapes me."

"Well, if that's the independent decision you've arrived at with no pressure whatsoever from me..."

"And to show there's no hard feelings, I've written this dandy letter to all our customers telling them what a nice guy you are."

"And what a great job I'm doing?" "Gosh darn, I forgot to include the hook again."

"Well, Rock, we all have our little failings. But I assume that until you retire at your ripe old age you'll support my policies and decisions."

"Every single one of them," says Rock, "that isn't idiotic."

"Then I can tell our customers that you're backing me?" "To the hilt!"

"Hilt? Could you kind of rephrase that, Rock?"

"Sure. I can confidently promise to back you all the way."

"That's really swell of you, Rock."

"All the way to New Hampshire."

Now that Uncle Rock has made his independent decision to retire, he sure is happy. He just sits around all day staring dreamily into the fire and fondling this piece of paper.

It's an option on Jerry's building. (Copyright Chronicle Publishing Co. 1975)



the word unheard



Students deserve part of profits

By Del Gustafson

While the word profit is an obscenity on most college campuses, it is comforting to a capitalist such as myself to discover that at least one UNL organization has enjoyed a robust profit. This was revealed in a Fees Allocation Board (FAB) report on the Daily Nebraskan.

From 1972 to 1975, the Daily Nebraskan raised its profits from \$9,000 to \$15,000, an increase of more than 60 per cent. This increase was realized with the blessed union of a nearly 300 per cent advertising revenue increase and a miniscule decrease in student fee revenue from \$49,000 to \$48,000 (all figures are rounded).

Finally, this year, the Daily Nebraskan took a substantial cut in its fee allotment to about \$32,000; a cut heralded as the most severe the Nebraskan could endure because last year's (fiscal 1975) operating loss—i.e., expenses minus advertising revenue—was \$32,000.

This student fee cut was paltry compared to what it should have been.

At the end of last fiscal year, the Daily Nebraskan had about \$17,000 in a savings account. This represented their profit—that is, student fees minus operation losses—that had not been spent on improvements such as new equipment.

If the Nebraskan incurs another \$32,000 operating loss this year, it will have \$17,000 of interest-increasing cash with which to fund the loss, and therefore would and should require only \$15,000 in student fees.

Rather than giving the Daily Nebraskan a small sum of

money which would have enabled the continued operation of the paper and encouraged it to spend frugally, FAB instead granted the Nebraskan a sum which certainly does nothing to incite the paper to greater efficiency and economic independence.

The ultimate question is this: does the Daily Nebraskan have a right to exclusively determine the use of its profits (which are actually student fees not needed to cover the operating loss)? I think not.

As long as the Daily Nebraskan receives one dime of student fees it is a public organization, rather than a private business, and as such, its profits belong to all the students. The accumulated profits of the Nebraskan should either be refunded to the students or decreased from the total fee bill.

This is not intended as an indictment of the Daily Nebraskan or an implication that something scandalous has been done with the Nebraskan's fee money. The problem lies with a system in which a small group of students, FAB, and the administration control the collective student purse.

No such board can insure that all the money allocated to the plethora of student organizations will be used for "necessary" operations. It is inevitable that some groups will receive more than they need and then, if not permitted to invest the money in the bank, they will certainly find some way to dispose of it.

It is axiomatic that when a business becomes accountable to all, it will be accountable to none.

This is why Food Service should use more imagination in food preparation. Students need a more comfortable atmosphere in which to eat and the food should be prepared on a more consistent basis.

I think that one who lives in the dorm should not be forced to purchase meals. If this were the case, people like me would not have to complain—they could eat somewhere else. So, to Ms. Barr, I am glad you like your work, but I cannot convince myself to appreciate the result.

Steve Scheffel

Editor's note: Our experience as a waitress at one of Lincoln's finest restaurants convinces us that, no matter how good the food, people who are eating out routinely waste shameful amounts of it.

Dark day for America

Dear editor,

Wednesday was a dark and terrible day for America, and disturbingly enough, too few people know it.

With the passing of Justice William O. Douglas from the Supreme Court, the balance of power most certainly will sway to the right.

History may record that Douglas was the main hinge that personal freedom in America hung upon. He held a key power position and now that he is gone, we should all fear for the future of our country and ourselves.

In the last 10 years, the Supreme Court seemed to be the only thing protecting our precious Bill of Rights from being trampled to death. It was also a key force in making the White House show its hand in the Watergate scandal.

to the editor



Dear editor,

In regard to Amy Barr's letter (Daily Nebraskan, Nov. 12), it is encouraging to know that somebody does in fact have pride in her work. It discourages me, however, that she can imply that the food is as good as possible under the circumstances at hand (mass production of food), because when she talks about the amount of food wasted (as seen by dishwashers), it seems to me that many people have the same opinion as D.R. Kirshenbaum.

It also seems that if the food were of higher quality, more would be consumed and therefore protein would be ingested without the use of TVP. One gets more protein with TVP, but because the taste is so bad, an entire meal usually is not eaten.

Just because food is not like one obtains at home does not mean it is bad. What upsets me is waiting in line for food that is often cold, overcooked or undercooked or undercooked, fresh fruit that is warm and bread that is always just a little hard.

I do not have to be reminded of home to enjoy a meal, but I wish I did not have to be constantly reminded that I am at an institution.

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.

I think that now we will see anti-abortion laws and captial punishment laws again. But most important, Douglas's retirement removes what was an unsurmountable block to Senate Bill One, a bill that would effectively erase the Bill of Rights.

I have worked in the Nebraska Union HEMP (Help End Marijuana Prohibition) booth, and what I saw while I was there disturbs me even more now. I see people who smoke dope themselves—potential criminals—walking past a chance to help ease this immoral burden that the government places upon them.

I am now wondering if these same people will sit and watch their precious personal rights slip away with the same apathy. This seems to be a strong possibility in the next few years.

The last time I thought of the beautiful land of Australia was Sunday after the "Saturday night massacre." I'm thinking about it again, but let me tell you, they aren't going to take all of us.

Jeremy Bill

'Rot' is not

Dear editor,

"Then moulder them..." (Daily Nebraskan editorial, Nov. 7).

Why not: "Then rot them...?"

P.S. You got the smell part right!

V.L.

Editor's note: Why not "rot"? Because peasants to autumn give poetically minded editors the chance to wax romantic, and "rot" is not.