

d.n. soapbox

guest opinion | Felling world's 'great walls' takes respect, understanding

By W. K. Yeung

This is in response to "Exploding the China Myth—a society of hollow men?" by Del Gustafson (Daily Nebraskan, March 3).

The article written by Gustafson typifies the feelings of Americans who do not understand China and generally are afraid of Communist countries without knowing exactly what they are. Despite the opening of the Bamboo Curtain in recent years, Americans have yet to realize that the Mainland Chinese choose to live a life style which they are happy with and which is totally different from that of America's.

China is a one-party country. The government has been supported by the majority of the people, mainly peasants, since coming to rule in 1949. The Chinese government,

since then, has not changed and still rules for the benefit of its people.

The policy of the government is that everything that involves the livelihood of its people must have something to do with its political line of thinking. Thus, it is not surprising that art, too, works for the people and helps to spread the political theory to them. That is the only reason ballet, paintings, wood cuts, songs, fiction, etc., are so deeply involved with political theory, governmental policies, and peasant life.

This approach is clearly different from that of America's, which advocates diversity. However, to call the Chinese society one of "hollow men" is certainly a most uneducated remark that shows the ignorance of the author. This is the life that the Chinese people chose to live: they have a different view of freedom than does America. They feel art should be a political tool to educate themselves on the route to socialism. The Chinese are very rich in revolutionized art just as America is very rich in its own. Resentment toward living and thinking styles different from one's own means no respect for the "freedom" of other people.

China became a myth (maybe it still is) in the 50s and early 60s simply because there were so many McCarthys and Del Gustafsons who are blindly hostile to things different from what they are used to. Progressive Americans, such as some journalists and politicians and actress Shirley McLaine gave reasonable reports on China after their visits, because they saw, with an open mind, what the Chinese government is trying to do for its people and is doing so well. They see huge cultural gaps between the United States and China and advocate improved relationships and mutual understanding. America needs more Shirley McLaines to make itself a better country, one that has respect for other countries and tries to bridge the indifference of policies between governments.

Referring to the corpses in Gustafson's article floating down the Yangtze River, those are the people who are disillusioned with the "Good Life of Freedom" in Hong Kong, grow a strong dissatisfaction with the puritanic ideals of their government, try to escape the Mainland via the river and drown in the process.

As far as I know, the Chinese government has not "mass murdered... a few thousand ancestor worshippers, black marketeers, and various other social misfits." Its efforts toward such people are re-education, not extinction, as Gustafson reported so ignorantly.

I guess the anti-Chinese feeling in Gustafson's article is at least partially spurred by Nixon's visit to China. The Chinese invited and treated with high honors, a former American President, who currently is downgraded by the American public. Seemingly, China places no concern for the reaction of the American government.

America is, of course, not used to being left out. Its pride definitely is hurt because the U.S. government is used to having a hand in almost anything that happens in world politics.

The conservative American public has grown increasingly bitter, and it is not sure exactly how to react. There are people in the country calling Nixon a communist, or telling him to immigrate to China and never come back. Such ignorance and naivete only tells us that Americans have a long way to go in understanding the other countries of this world.

W.K. Yeung is a graduate student in Chemistry.

ralph by ron wheeler



UNL loses a vibrant leader

The death of psychology professor David Levine could not have been more untimely.

At a time when the university faces demanding questions of educational quality, the loss of an exceptionally vibrant and devoted faculty leader is tragic.

Levine's contribution to the university is immeasurable, both in his leadership of the Psychology Dept. and in his duties outside of the classroom.

His support of students, remembered by many from his classes and from the spring 1970 campus turmoil, was unequalled.

Not content to work only for the betterment of the university, he gave freely of his time to the community as well. Levine's support, along with that of his wife June, associate professor of English, long will be remembered by many causes in the Lincoln community.

Levine lived a relatively short life, yet it was an existence marked by his fairness and exceptional intelligence in dealing with the university.

While the loss of Professor Levine is irrevocable, it is his presence that is irreplaceable.

Vince Boucher



rarefied air | Monty Hall would approve of budgetary shenanigans

By Dick Piersol

Students probably are tired of the dispute among the governor, university administrators and state senators concerning the NU budget—assuming they have paid attention to it at all.

But let us just think of it in terms of a game. No, a football game won't do. We had enough of that jargon in the late, great Nixon administration and besides, there are three teams playing simultaneously in this game. A continuing daytime television format suits much better, and the rules can be arbitrary enough to fit any situation.

First, the administrators ask for a \$100 million stake. They only got \$77 million last year, but, well, that was last year.

"Impossible!" cries the governor, custodian of the public bankroll, and adds that he is not really even a contestant.

"Next to impossible," say the state senators, who have to play for the audience at home and the administrators.

The three camps huddle for a time, plotting strategy. "\$84.5 million, and I'll freeze," says the governor.

The senators offer \$87.9 million, a nice compromise, and fall back to test the applause meter.

Wait a minute, a maverick senator or two is backstage plotting with the administrators, and here it is, a new bid of \$94.5 million. The audience oohs and ahhs.

"Foul!" howls the governor, "and vote trading, too."

The governor has the home team advantage and everybody listens. The senators vigorously deny the charge, although one could tune in on other shows and witness it first-hand. The game would be reduced to utter chaos if the senators couldn't trade votes occasionally. It might even be replaced by Flying Nun reruns.

But lurking within is yet another new ground rule. The students, off in a corner and absorbed in a less real

game, discover that they're going to be paying not only \$2 a credit hour more, to which the principal contestants had tacitly agreed, but yet another \$2 a credit hour.

This awakens them somewhat. The senator from Utica, who introduced the new rule at the administrators' request, says he's not really in favor of it and will ask the NU Board of Regents not to use it no matter how the budget turns out. He says it's really just a device to get the students in the game.

"Hey, kids, tell Mom the next time she's on the phone to tell her senator to support us. Otherwise it's gonna cost ya."

The senator reconsiders—he says he's thinking of abandoning that particular ship. That's a penalty for equivocation, senator, and it isn't a ship, it's an amendment. You want Treasure Hunt, go call Geoff Edwards—he's on another network.

The students' telethon to mom and dad on the university WATS lines goes on, with the administrators urging them to play the game, too.

Which brings us to the coming week's episode. No one knows for sure when, but soon all 49 senators get a crack at the budget. There are spies and potrooms among them who will brazenly try to carve the vitals out of "parity for the University of Nebraska at Omaha," and brigands who will deny that the "quality of undergraduate education at UNL is declining."

The Chief highwayman may be Sen. Richard Marvel of Hastings, who is not only a willing participant, but also a professor of the game he smilingly calls "democracy" at a local private institution. Students there do not depend so much on the game for their education.

Unfortunately, we at NU do depend upon the game. Stay tuned.