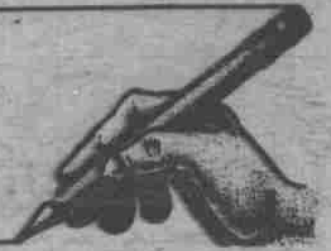


opinion



letters

Anti-Jimmy Carter organization doesn't know Democrat platform

By L. Kent Wolgamott

Knee-jerk conservatism is alive and thriving at UNL. We are privileged to have on this very campus an organization which by its own definition is reactionary and dedicated to resisting the changes planned by President-elect Jimmy Carter's administration. This illustrious group is pledged to oppose socialism and to educate the populus about the horrors of the Democratic platform.

It becomes very evident when reading it's charges that this group has not listened to what Carter has been saying nor has it studied the Democratic platform. They state they are against the proposed increase in the welfare system in the platform. What they fail to realize is that if taken in total the proposed changes in the system will in

grownups game



fact cut the welfare rolls and increase the tax base. This will be realized through full employment, the objective of the "socialistic" Humphrey-Hawkins bill. Again, in criticizing this bill people fail to realize that the bill provides for incentives for business as the primary incentive for employment and provides government jobs only as a last resort.

Perhaps this example illustrates the blind attitude of many conservatives—reactions based not on fact but on an emotional reaction to a concept which challenges the status quo, something intolerable to a conservative. The conservative philosophy is fine if you are satisfied with things as they are and in most cases are benefiting from them.

Hurting voted for Carter

Statistics from the election show that the people who voted for Carter were those people who are being hurt by the current situation, the blacks, the lower income persons, the less educated. These are the people who need help and who the government will help, which has not happened in the last eight years. The people who needed to benefit from the services of the government were being virtually ignored and vetoed to death while the champions of conservatism, big business, basked in their glory. This is going to change.

Conservatives tout the U.S. as the world's greatest nation, a statement which we all would like to agree with, but cannot. A nation cannot be great when may of its people cannot afford proper health care, when 5 to 10 per cent of its people are without jobs and when its children are not given an equal opportunity for an education. This can and will be changed.

National health insurance terrorizes the conservative element as it reduces profiteering in the medical profession, but it will allow our people to get proper health care. The Humphrey-Hawkins bill has been called the first step toward Communism, but it is not. It will hand put Americans back to work and help to clean up the squalor of our cities. There will be no more vetoes of school lunch bills, no more conscious effort by the executive to impede desegregation under Carter's administration. The conservative outcry against this action is predictable.

Fine in McCarthy era

Anti-communism was fine for Joe McCarthy in his time but resistance to any social change based on that dubious premise today is ridiculous. A government program which assists people to again become effective citizens again cannot be discarded just because it resembles something in the "socialist" nations. The basic tenets of our society will not be destroyed by social welfare programs, they will be strengthened; Abstract principles such as freedom, individual liberties and equality cannot mean much to people who cannot get jobs, cannot afford medical care or are not educated. It is not the goal of these social programs to bring all aspects of American life under government control. Rather, they are intended allow all Americans to participate in what this country has to offer.

To my conservative friends, I say examine the basis for your conservatism. I ask you to honestly look at the situation in the U.S. today. If your politics is based on fear of the infiltration of communism and its evil cousin socialism, I ask you to consider the basic tenants of our government and their strength before you condemn social programs as beginning of the end. If you still blindly oppose social change that is fine, I only ask that you give these programs a chance before you condemn them.

It is my opinion that these programs are necessary and needed in America today, but I am a progressive by my own choosing. I do feel that some opposition is necessary to evaluate the worth of programs, but I hope it is positive resistance and not just resistance to change itself.

Fans get carried away

I have always been extremely proud of the way Nebraska football fans conduct themselves. As a Missouri football player put it, "Nebraska fans would be great to play for. They cheer for their team when things are going well, and know enough to keep quiet when they aren't."

I am thankful that I'm not a Colorado fan whose peers throw snowballs at opposing teams. I would hate to be one of those rude Missouri fans who swipes Big-Red hats and shouts obscenities at opponents.

However, I have become increasingly concerned about just what kind of fan I am considered to be as a Big Red Booster. The biggest reason to doubt our superiority as fans is the orange throwing. This is no longer a signal of victory or of the Orange Bowl. It has become a contest to see who can delay a game the longest or who can hit an opposing player. Last week, the Oklahoma State players were bombarded not only with oranges, but with full cans of pop!

I, for one, am not about to see this continue and have the good name of Nebraska football fans ruined by a few people who happen to be wearing red.

To start things off, I would like everyone in section 12 and 13 to know that the members of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity are going to be on patrol during the Oklahoma University game. We will make sure that if things are thrown, a fairly accurate report will be given to the men in blue when we haul you out of your seat.

I hope that every other group or individual will take it upon himself to follow suit and restore the good name of Nebraska football fans.

Dave Pederson

Member, Delta Tau Delta Fraternity

Zone the lots

It is indeed disheartening to find that if there is one common demoninator among the students of this university, it is apathy. I too was stricken by the same disease until I found myself the victim of exploitation by the parking ticket racket.

It is really quite simple: if I take money from you and sell you the Statue of Liberty in return, I probably be guilty of a felony, but if the university sells me something which does not exist — a parking space is the fanciful tag attached to a nothing that costs \$25 — everything is fine and dandy. Further, I have been told (and my parking ticket and negative appeal were my sources) that it is illegal for me to try to get what is my fair share in that I have paid good money for it.

It is, of course, extremely amusing that the privileged parking lots — the red sticker ones which are sold to the faculty and the administration, and which are not over-sold in that one can *always* find a space — sell for the same \$25 that the students pay for permission to hunt a parking space during the season.

Here is one solution to the parking problem: zone the lots. The more desirable lots can either be sold to the highest bidders (or some such) or else merely sold for more money. When those responsible for getting things moving in this place go through the same hardships (or pay more!), they will get things moving; the problem is that students need to get this done.

Sincerely

Kasi S. Bhaskar
(Graduate Student)



Commercial parent-training courses great for kids

By Arthur Hoppe

Good news! The magazine Psychology Today reports that commercial parent-training courses are "growing by leaps and bounds" these days.

It's about time. For millions of years untrained parents have been raising their children without knowing how to do it. All they knew how to do was yell and scream and belt them one occasionally. No wonder things are in such a mess.

But now, says the magazine, hundreds of thousands of untrained parents have already learned how to raise their children. The article, entitled "It Changed My Life," examines four new programs in this burgeoning field. And

innocent bystander

they sure changed the life of Milton Haberdash.

"I'm setting fire to the school," said Irwin. "I can't ask you why because that would invite you to blame others, offer excuses and dwell on feelings, rather than behavior," said Haberdash. "Instead, I will merely be prepared to extend my aid if needed."

"Okay," said Irwin. "Got a match?"

"But in a friendly, nonjudgmental way, let me suggest that you evaluate your behavior yourself," said Haberdash. "Is what you are doing helpful to you?"

"Yeah," said Irwin. "It'll help keep me from flunking today's quiz in Interpersonal Relationships."

"Let me assist you in constructing more responsible behavior," said Haberdash. "Without my experienced counsel, your plan will be too ambitious. You need smaller, more realistic goals so you can make progress and enjoy success."

"Okay," said Irwin. "I won't set fire to the school. I'll just burn down the Interpersonal Relationships classroom."

Haberdash used to be one of your ordinary, run-of-the-mill, yelling, shouting, belting parents until he underwent Parent Effectiveness Training, the Parent Improvement Program, the Responsive Parent Training Program and a study group in Children: The Challenge.

Like any well-trained parent, the all-new Haberdash exhibited delight on bumping into his ten-year-old son, Irwin, outside Irwin's school.

"Good morning, Irwin," he said, extending his hand and tipping his hat. "I say this as all my instructors inform me I must stop treating you like a wappy being housebroken and start treating you with the respect and courtesy I accord other adults."

"Oh," said Irwin. "It's you."

"Let us talk about topics of mutual interest in order to establish and maintain a helping relationship," said Haberdash. "What are you doing?"

"Allow me to reward your good thinking with high praise," said Haberdash. "And should your plan fail, rest assured I won't punish you as punishment causes loneliness, isolation and hostility."

"Swell," said Irwin. "Where's the match?"

"First, in order to strengthen your motivation and increase your involvement with me as your parent, I'd like you to make a solemn commitment to your plan," said Haberdash. "Which would you prefer, a handshake, a verbal agreement or this written contract?"

"Where do I sign?" said Irwin. "Now, do I get the match?"

"No, in treating you as I would any other mature adult," said Haberdash, examining the document, "I'll see you get one-to-ten for attempted arson. Officers, do your duty!"

"You rotten fink," yelled Irwin, talking a wild swing at his father as he was dragged away kicking and shouting. Haberdash watched him go with some apprehension.

"I'm delighted they've trained us parents to treat our children with the respect and courtesy we accord other adults," he said with a frown. "But now who's going to train our children not to treat us like puppies being housebroken?"