

letters

Attitudes of 'healthy'

What the Society for Deportation of Nigerians wrote in the *Daily Nebraskan*, Feb. 17, presumably attempting to appeal to the distorted humor of the "sick," is in essence, and at times, atypical of the common attitudes of the "healthy."

A nation where, upon its 200th birthday, still treats its own minorities (the American Indians, Chicanos, and blacks) with social injustice and counterproductive social misunderstandings is not expected to treat foreigners any differently. The problems here are only compounded by the cultural barriers to effective communication as was discussed by Mr. Levitov (Guest Opinion, Feb. 18).

The typical foreign student comes to the United States with high expectations, hopes, and ideals. Aside from pursuing his own academic interests, he is also enthusiastic about the United States. He wants to learn about the American culture and tell about his own. The facade he has built for himself soon crumbles. His limited knowledge of the English language and his lack of ability to predict the consequences of his own behavior in interpersonal relationships in a strange culture forces him to re-examine his original assumptions. Subsequently, he is left with three choices: 1) to keep trying to assimilate 2) to isolate himself from Americans by withdrawal to his own ethnic groups and 3) to fight against the American culture (by being hostile and rejective to and of everything and everyone around him). Points two and three are hardly means toward a better understanding among American and foreign students. They start a vicious circle, breaking out of which is difficult, if not impossible. Unfortunately, these are also common occurrences.

On the other hand, as a result of the apathy, and at times, subtle hostility of some American students, effective adjustment which is typified by a continual attempt in assimilation (without totally losing one's original cultural characteristics) is also the most difficult to accomplish. For not only does it demand an open mind and patience on the part of the foreign student, but it also requires an open mind and patience on the part of the American student. Would that even occur? As an idealist, I like to hope so.

Davar Venouss

Shock, disappointment

On behalf of the African Students' Association of UNL, we wish to express our shock and utter disappointment at the fact that at this international community

there is the existence of a society whose main aim is the deportation of Nigerian citizens. We, as Africans, want to assure you and this community that like every other person we are bound to make mistakes but this notwithstanding, we want to live in harmony with all the students and citizens of the state.

It is against our aims and objectives to be a part of an international racial upheaval. We live for peace and we want peace with our guests. We are international students and we are in this university to study and foster the spirit of brotherhood and friendship. The signatories to the letter of Feb. 17, might seem to be a small group and spread like wildfire. We have been assured by your editorial and the contribution of Peter Levitov that not all Americans or Nebraskans think this way. Much as we are convinced of your sincerity, we suspect that today it is an attack on Nigerians, tomorrow it could be on Ghana, Ethiopia, Congo or some other African group of students.

We also wish to state that much as this organization does not tolerate any form of irresponsibility by our African students we do not accept any form of victimization or discrimination by any person or group of persons against any of our members. In furtherance of this policy, we once again call publicly on every African student in this university and in this state to respect the laws of this land and of the university. Concerned about this uncomfortable situation, we now call on the appropriate authorities of this university to make a public statement to clear this burning issue and to assure our Nigerian brothers and sisters of their continued acceptance of this university.

Solomon Asberom
T.E. Ekpenyong

Americans in Nigeria

I have read a lot of recent articles about Nigeria and Nigerian students in this school. We don't all have to attack whoever wrote the article. This is a free country and he is entitled to his opinion. Most of us have had a lot of bad experiences in this country and we never took it out on innocent Americans. I wish to let our friend(s) know some few things about my great country.

No country can survive on its own. One of the reasons why United Nations was founded, was to promote peace among nations. Nigeria, with the largest black population on earth, has not only contributed towards the peace in the world, but has contributed towards the economic strength of most of the industrialized nations. Half of U.S. imported oil comes from Nigeria. It is worth noting that this oil, almost sulfur free, helps clean America's air. In 1973 during the oil embargo, Nigeria kept the oil flowing to the U.S. despite the request from the Arab nations to cut back production. Nigeria's trade with the U.S. is the largest in the whole of Africa including the "racist white-ruled South Africa."

It is not surprising that a lot of Americans do not know much about Nigeria and Africa as a whole as we knew about America before we came over. How would you feel if I return to my country and write about crime rate in America? I am a father to two young kids born in Lincoln. Could you tell me what to tell them about American people? America has a democratic system with free enterprise, she needs all the help she can get from as many foreign students as possible to spread its gospel around the world. Students have more influence on their people when they get back to their countries than any mission sent over there. You need us, we need you. Let's make this world a better place to live in. Deal with people individually not collectively.

There are a lot of Americans living in Nigeria, we wish them a happy stay in our great country. For me and my family, we will surely return home very soon.


Paul Jaiyesimi



Make a good impression in the March of Dimes WALKATHON

THE WATER HOLE
celebrates
Tom Osborne's birthday
BOWL yourself over with
25' Tequila
Tonight, Wed. Feb. 23

Nebraska East Union opens with George Plimpton.




This afternoon
Informal discussion
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Loft

Tonight
"An Amateur Among the Pros . . . Every Man's Dream"
8:00 p.m.
Great Plains Room

George Plimpton, author and philosopher has among his many credits the Best Sellers: (Paper Lion and Out of my League.) In his topic, "An Amateur Among the Pros . . .", he uses actual experience as his resource. He has starred in several T.V. specials, was last string quarterback for the Baltimore Colts, a cowboy in a John Wayne movie, and is associate editor of several magazines.

Introducing Vision Center's

"Love 'em or Leave 'em" Plan



The original purchaser of this pair of contact lenses, if not completely satisfied within 30 days of purchase, is entitled to a refund of the cost of the lenses only. Refund will be made upon return of the lenses with this certificate to the Pearle Vision Center where purchased. This plan does not cover soft lenses or bifocal lenses and does not include damage or scratching, loss or theft of contact lenses. This certificate is not transferable.

Issued to _____
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It takes the indecision out of the decision to buy contacts.

If you wear eyeglasses, you've probably thought about getting contact lenses. You've probably also had second thoughts about whether you'll like them or not. That's why Pearle Vision Center now offers our "Love 'em or Leave 'em" Plan. Try contacts. Wear them. Live with them. And then, within 30 days of purchase, if you decide they're not for you, we'll refund the cost of the lenses. This plan does not cover soft or bifocal lenses. You owe it to yourself to see how you like contacts. And now Vision Center has a way for you to do that. Without owing anything to us.

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