wednesday, april 20, 1977

# letters

### Letelier's murder

Last Monday, the UNL-YAF paid for the appearance of an Evans and Novak article, "Letelier's Political Fund," in the Daily Nebraskan, in order to create a "proper context" for the recent visit by Orlando Letelier's widow Isabel to the UNL campus. I wish to reply to the "context" created by that column, and particularly to the attempt to divert attention from the central facts of the problem of U.S.-Chilean relations.

Orlando Letelier was murdered in Washington, D.C., in September of last year. He was murdered because he was the most eloquent spokesman against the Fascist regime of Chile, a regime so oppressive that it was condemned by the United Nations Human Rights Commis-

#### daily nebraskan

sion, in a resolution co-sponsored by the United States. The Chilean regime, infuriated by Letelier's effectiveness in blocking international funds to Chile, conspired with Cuban exiles in the U.S. to plant a bomb in Letelier's car. Orlando Letelier's death was thus a double blow against freedom, in that it would not only strengthen a particular repressive government, but would also intimidate many persons throughout the world who would otherwise speak out against tyranny.

Can we as a nation afford to submit to the murder of exiles and dissidents on the streets of our capitol? This is the central question of the Letelier case. Nixon and Kissinger spent millions upon millions of our dollars to "destabilize" the democratically elected Allende government, of which Letelier was a member. That policy seems like a much more serious threat to freedom everywhere than the Chilean Socialist attempt to re-distribute the national wealth of their country, or the efforts of Orlando and Isabel Letelier to spread the truth about the oppression and torture practiced by the Chilean Fascists.

**Robert Goetsch** 

#### Founding father speaks

In reference to Scott Whitcomb's article on MECA (April 11), if dissatisfaction with Bill Mueller's work and the representation that students are not getting with ASUN government makes one a subversive then all the students attending the university are subversive. When was the last time you met a student who knew about the work of ASUN? And then thought they were doing a good job? (Besides Bill Mueller.)

In addition, quoting a Michigan law student as a major source of information on current UNL campus events for a front page story shows a definite lack of professionalism (and resources). Jim Say may be ex-president of ASUN and former MECA member, but to say the things "he was quoted as saying" only shows that he has no idea of what's happening back home!

Carolyn Grice was misquoted as stating that there are more than "50" members of MECA. There has never been an official count but the number far exceeds 50.

As a "founding father" of MECA, I assure you that our goals were not to "subvert and block" the efforts of Ann Henrythere is no need to trip an incompetent, Ms. Henry had enough problems without us lifting one flager of subversion. MECA is founded in dissatisfaction and that alone. Without poor student government to complain about and without students who

care(d), MECA would have long ago lost its spirit. (Thank you Bill Mueller, you've kindled our dying flames.)

A subvert

#### More on Letelier

Even though I have my doubts on whether or not it is necessary to reply to the ads placed in the *Daily Nebraskan* on Monday and Wednesday of last week by the Young Americans for Freedom, I feel somewhat compelled to since they specifically mentioned the committee with which I am involved.

In reference to Wednesday's ad, I still don't understand what the "proper context" in which Isabel Letelier's speech should have been put. She probably could have been introduced as a sorrowing widow in political exile from her homeland, or a Cuban communist spy as some people would purport her to be, or maybe as a true lover of human rights, but it all depends on whether or not you've got all the facts.

As for backward information, which YAF accused us of not providing, the posters and flyers publicizing Ms. Letelier gave brief biographical information and the newspaper article following her appearance further expounded on her background.

The decision for her appearance was made by Talks and Topics itself in late January. Her honorarium was provided by funds from the Faculty Convocations Committee and therefore, less than \$10 worth of student fees was spent which was used to publicize the event.

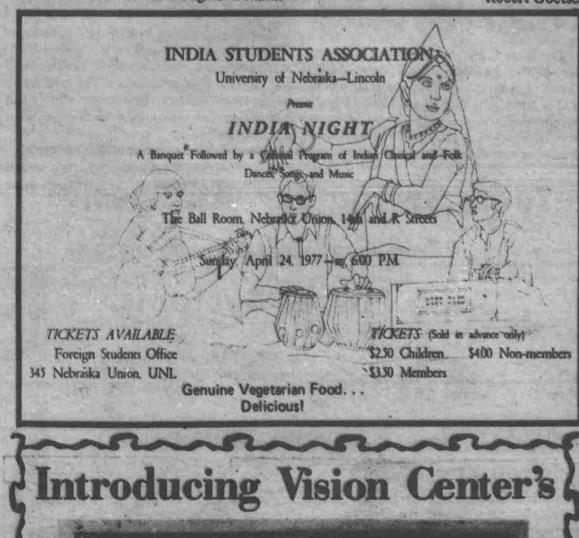
After answering these questions of utmost importance, I would like to add that all Talks and Topics meetings are open to anyone and that we meet at 5 p.m. in the Union on Tuesdays. Other meetings have also been held this spring to gain more, student input as that everyone will be able to help decide which speakers should be procurred for next fall.

Jay Yost



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