

opinion / editorial

Freedom of speech a abuse causes anger, annoyance

Contrary to popular belief, freedom of speech is not a freedom limited to Iranian and Arab students on this campus.

The spectacle created at Yitzhak Rabin's speech last Thursday proved for the second time this year the lack of understanding or respect some foreign students have for this country's freedom of expression—the same freedom they are extended and use so freely.

The former Israeli prime minister managed to get through his speech mainly because he could shout loud-

er than the taunts of 'Liar' and 'Jerk'. He finished, but not without an angry interruption by NU Regent Ed Schwartzkopf who said he "came here to listen to this man speak."

Schwartzkopf was not alone in his desire to hear Rabin. That's what the overwhelming majority of the audience were there for and the actions of the noisy protestors violated every member of the audience's right to hear Rabin as much as they violated the speaker's rights.

The angry, vociferous students interrupted even their own com-

rades' questions at the end of the speech.

This country's zealous guarding of the freedom of speech is based on the idea that truth is easier found in a forum of many different voices than in a single commanding voice.

It is obvious, despite efforts of the Organization of Arab Students' leaders to avoid disruption of the speech, that many students last week wanted only one opinion heard—their own.

The dissenting students had every opportunity to express their opinions during their demonstration in

front of the Union immediately before the speech, and through the signs they carried into the Union Centennial Room.

Campus feelings run from annoyance to hostility toward the various Iranian and Arab protests. But with the exception of a little blaring music from a fraternity, these protesting students' right of dissent has been respected.

With the cost of bringing political speakers to this campus so dear, it is a shame that once we get them here we can't listen to them.

Anne Carothers

Rabin visit helps to put thaw on chilling speakers program

Spring came Thursday, and, as Tennyson romantically wrote, in the spring a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of the prospects for peace in the Middle East.

Actually, it was appropriate that the smog-encrusted snow was melting just in time for the arrival of Yitzhak Rabin, spokesman of a land where snow is as rare as peace.

michael gibson

Rabin, former Israeli Prime Minister and ambassador to the United States, is an undisputed, although admittedly subjective, expert on the Arab-Israeli conflict. But while the crowd that heard Rabin's speech learned much about the Middle East, they may have learned even more about the Middle West—Harvard of the Plains division.

In the first place, they should have been surprised that Rabin was even here. After failing the test for being a 'non-political speaker' (A rare creature somewhat akin to the jackalope, unicorn and the Loch Ness monster), Rabin could not be paid by student fees.

Reshaped history

Thanks to the NU Board of Regents, who decided a year ago that political speakers were hazardous to our health, we nearly missed hearing a man whose actions have reshaped history.

Fortunately, the Chancellor's Office, the Faculty Convocation Committee and the University of Nebraska Foundation disagreed with that opinion and admirably donated the money needed to pay for Rabin.

But there were other, less praiseworthy things that Rabin's coming said about UNL.

Before his speech a group of students protested Rabin's appearance. It was then that an unnamed fraternity decided to unfairly stifle the protesters by setting their 140-watt stereo speakers in their windows and turning the sound up full blast—right in the middle of Rabin's press conference.

Rude hecklers

But those protesters, whose rights had not been respected, apparently believed that one wrong justified another, and so heckled Rabin throughout his speech. Their shouts were not as disruptive as those during Westmoreland's speech last fall, but they were equally rude and unwarranted.

Perhaps more importantly, the heckler's efforts again backfired. Although the Arabs' case is perhaps as strong as Rabin's, the hecklers' actions generated only antipathy and little if any sympathy for their cause.

And then there was Lincoln Regent Ed Schwartzkopf. Although he and Omaha's Fermit Hansen were the only Regents last year with the courage to stand up for free speech by supporting UNL's speakers program, Schwartzkopf's action Thursday night, while nobly motivated, was dis-

heartening.

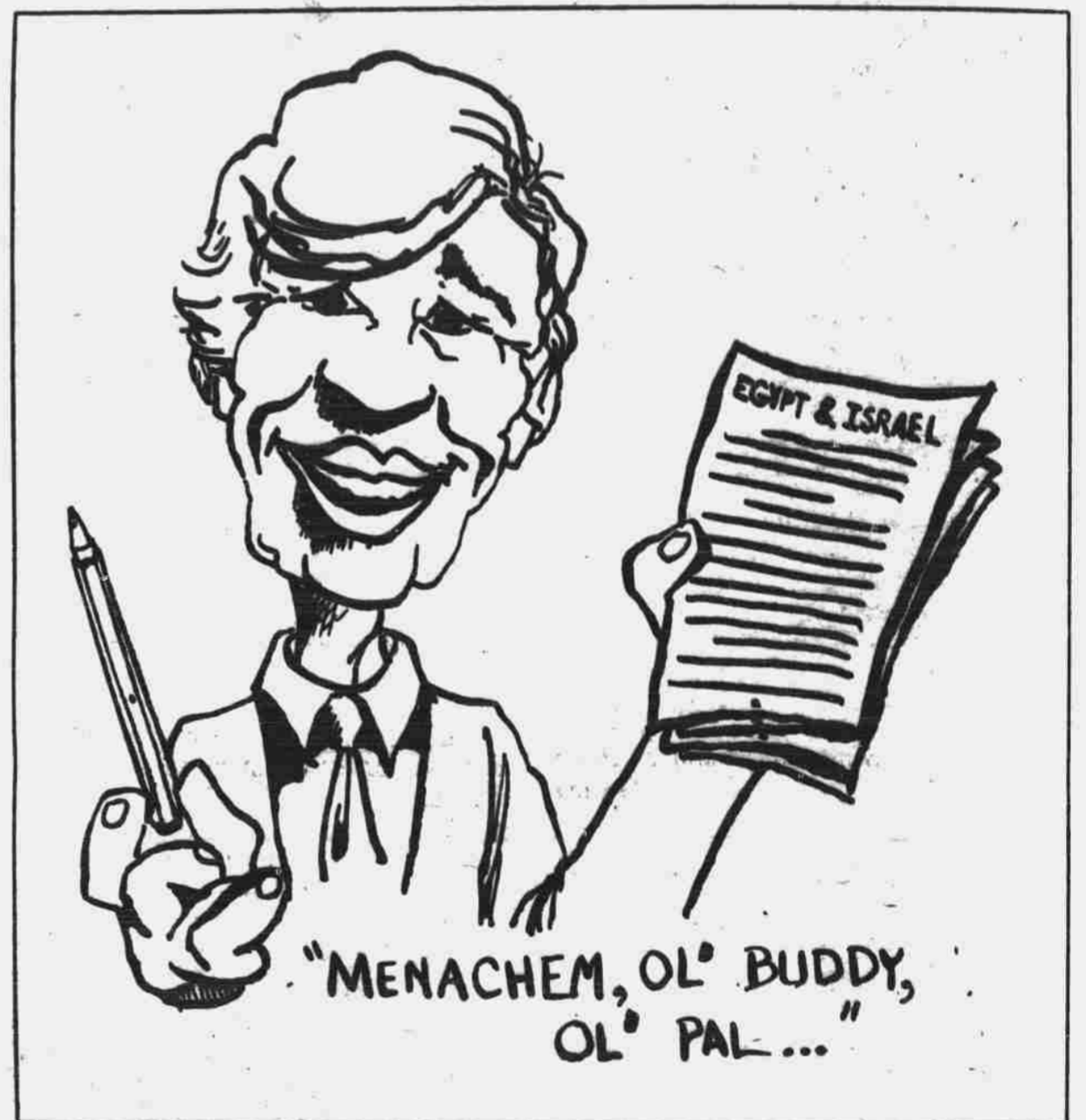
Concern

Rabin, who has verbally sparred with the world's leading politicians, handled the hecklers quite well and probably considered their remarks easier to deal with than Billy Carter's.

But as the shouting died down, Schwartzkopf apparently decided that Rabin was incapable of defending himself and so proceeded to give the hecklers a tongue-lashing which, though well-deserved, also proved that *In loco parentis* applies to UNL students and Israeli prime ministers alike.

Yet Rabin's appearance did say something good about UNL students: they were there. Despite the spring weather, *Mork and Mindy* and the pressure of mid-term exams, the Centennial Ballroom was full of students who came to hear and to question Rabin.

And if so many students are concerned about something other than football, are concerned about something other than Nebraska, are concerned about their own lack of knowledge, then despite the three inches of snow drifting outside my window, perhaps spring is still coming.



In the buff exposure degrades men too

By Arthur Hoppe

Playboy, the magazine for consenting voyeurs, managed to get itself a page of publicity in *Time* by embarking on a photographic essay project entitled "Girls of the Ivy League."

As a first step, *Playboy* attempted to take out an ad in the *Harvard Crimson* offering \$400 to any coed who would pose in what is referred to in the Ivy League as "the all-together."

innocent bystander

Needless to say, the *Harvard Crimson* rejected the ad amidst cries that such photographs "degrade womanhood." This is absolutely true and I feel strongly that *Playboy*, having garnered its publicity, should abandon its otherwise ill-conceived project forthwith—for the good of all concerned.

First of all, due to more stringent college entrance requirements, the average Ivy League woman has an IQ 23.4 percent above the national norm. Keeping that in mind, let us recall the study Dr. Homer T. Pettibone, the noted physical anthropologist, made in 1968 of 12,316 American women in which he proved conclusively that the size of a female's bosom was in direct inverse proportion to the size of her brain.

Knowing the artistic taste of its male readership, these figures should cause *Playboy* to give up on "Girls of the Ivy League" in favor of, say, "Girls of the South Dakota College of Auto Upholstering."

With that out of the way, let us ask whether nude photographs of women degrade womanhood in general. Yes, they do. You may well wonder what I, a mere man, know about the subject. Plenty.

It so happens I attended Heathcliffe College, at that time one of the most prestigious Ivy League schools with none but accredited geniuses in residence.

One accursed day, a photographer from *Swinging Girl* magazine slinked on to our campus and offered any full-time student \$25 to be photographed in what was then known as "the buff." That was big bucks in those days and six of us weak-willed individuals succumbed to mammon.

How well I remember the morning *Swinging Girl* with its story on "Boys of the Ivy League" hit the stands. The results were disastrous.

For a good two weeks, my phone rang

night and day with obscene phone calls—purportedly humorous obscene phone calls, which are the worst kind. *Swinging Girl*, its readership devastated, ceased publication the following month. And it was seven long years before a Heathcliffe man was able to obtain dates with a Vassar woman.

To this day, I will occasionally run into women of my vintage at cocktail parties who blurt out, "Say! Aren't you the fellow who posed with the volleyball..."

But I must carry my burden of shame to my grave. And if nude photographs of men degrade men, then nude photographs of women degrade women.

As for you, should you think the entire issue is nonsensical, may you wake up tomorrow with a staple in your belly button. Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company 1979

letters to the editor

I was very intrigued by several American reactions to the heckling of Mr. Rabin's speech.

The first was by a university official who protested this infringement of free speech.

His reaction was typical of the self-righteousness of self-centered Americans who are moved to action only when they themselves are personally inconvenienced.

If this official is so concerned about free speech he should do something about a situation where Mr. Arafat and other top Palestinian leaders are prohibited from touring this country and giving their view-

point of the Mideast.

He should do something about the sad fact that the PLO (the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians as recognized by the UN) is only allowed one office of information in the United States.

He should protest to the news media which, until 1973, only allowed pro-Israeli reports to reach the American people; and which is still anti-Palestinian.

If this official is willing to do these things I suggested, I will then take his protestations about free speech seriously.

Continued on Page 5