



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Can spring be far away if the sea gulls are flying around?

Pacifist says to open eyes

By Liz Austin

If a person looks out at the world with his eyes wide open, he might see a never ending concrete wall, according to a professional pacifist agitator.

Igal Roodenko, a pacifist agitator since the 1930s, told UNL students Wednesday that a person's first feelings about the wall might be that there is no way around it.

Roodenko said he uses the concrete wall analogy to represent his fight against issues he opposes. Roodenko participated in the first freedom ride into the South, was jailed for demonstrating at the Soviet Mission to the United Nations in support of jailed Russian dissent writers and was arrested last April for demonstrating at the site of a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in Barnwell, S.C.

"You see, if you look at the wall and squint, as I did, then you will find a very small crack," he said. "You will find the wisdom of the grass seed because the grass seed knows concrete doesn't last forever."

But the grass seed doesn't try to push through the concrete immediately, Roodenko said. Instead it takes it slowly, he said.

According to Roodenko this is what people working for a cause should do.

"I don't want total revolutionaries," he said. "I want people who will go as far as they can and then gradually take another step and then another."

To do this people have to be able to communicate to others, he said, adding that to simply know something is wrong doesn't change it.

Roodenko said he sees the mind as a computer. If limited and false information is put into a mind then that is what will come out, he explained.

According to Roodenko the human mind has three weaknesses. The first is a trap smart people fall into by believing they are too smart.

The second weakness is the mind's habit to center on the "garbage in life," he said. If one hitchhiker beats up the person who gave him a ride, then it is broadcast loudly, he said. But, he said, no one ever hears of the good results from others hitchhiking that same day.

The last weakness humans seem to fall into is an either/or type of thinking, he said.

For example, politicians will say either whip the communists in Russia or they will start crawling up the shores of California, he said. They never consider any third alternative.

Speaker calls for long-range energy plans

By Kevin Field

Uncertainty is the biggest problem facing this country today, according to V. Kerry Smith, a senior fellow with Resources for the Future, Inc.

The non-profit, Washington based firm works with economic problems dealing with the environment.

Smith, who earned his Ph.D. in economics at Rutgers University, was at UNL early this week under the Visiting Scholars Program. He spoke at the College of Business Administration.

In an interview, he expressed his views on the energy problem and the current economic situation.

Smith said he believes the country's biggest problem is an uncertainty in the business community about the unstable energy climate.

He believes some type of long-range planning department is needed in the government. That way businesses could more readily predict the outcome of long-term investments.

"When you are unsure of something, the tendency is to wait and see what happens. Most policy makers don't seem to appreciate this fact," Smith said.

Too difficult

He said it was too difficult to make in-

telligent estimates on the future gas price level.

"The international uncertainties are too great. The current price would at least double if oil for gasoline that is sold domestically were to be sold at world prices," he added.

Iran and Saudi Arabia hold the cards and what they do in the world situation is critical in determining whether gas rationing is in our near future, he said.

If Iran does not get back in the world oil market, or near its previous production level, we could be looking at a short term problem. Oil development in Mexico can offset the Iran's significance in world oil production, but that is still three years away, he added.

Many people are concerned about the future of their cars, but he said there is too much investment in cars as a means of transportation for much concern.

As oil prices continue to rise, it will soon be economically profitable to develop other carbon sources for combustion.

Oil scarcity

Smith also believes that because of OPEC and the Iranian problem, current prices are not true reflections of the scarcity of oil.

"Anytime you introduce into a market an agent that has power (such as OPEC)

you can not expect prices to reflect true scarcity," he said.

Coal is the energy source for the future, he said, but until problems in complying with pollution control are solved we cannot rely heavily on coal. Smith said he does not see solar energy as a likely source for the near future using present technology.

The best source of future energy lies in nuclear fusion, he said. Fusion is the opposite of fission. It produces more energy and does not leave behind the harmful waste products of fission. However, it is still a number of years away in development, he said.

He described Carter's inflation policy as a sophisticated form of an old jawboning procedure applying informal pressure to maintain prices and wages. Since the government cannot pressure unions, Smith said, he gives the policy a 50-50 chance of success.

He said the next logical step is wage and price controls as practiced during the Nixon administration.

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