

opinion/editorial

Peace Prize recognizes threat of poverty, hunger

The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize Wednesday to Mother Teresa, the "Angel of Calcutta," seems particularly appropriate.

The aged and frail Roman Catholic nun has spent 33 years, nearly half of her lifetime, in the slums of Calcutta working with homeless beggars, abandoned children, starving women and pitiful lepers.

Her dedication can be sensed by reading her comments reported by UPI: Of the destitute, Mother Teresa

said, "We want them to know there are people who really love them . . . at least for a few hours." And of her Prize and the money that accompanies it she added, "I'm going to build more homes for lepers."

The Nobel citation noted that, "a feature of her work has been respect for the individual human being and for his or her dignity and innate value. The loneliest, the most wretched and the dying have at her hand received compassion without

condescension based on reverence for man."

This is particularly significant. The most recent winners of the Prize including such as Henry Kissinger, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin were honored for their efforts to promote peace after peace had been broken.

Kissinger's, Sadat's and Begin's efforts for the Mideast are truly notable and praiseworthy, but the promotion of peace at the most in-

dividual and human level is what true brotherly love is all about—and where world peace begins.

"I believe that by giving me the prize, they have recognized the presence of the poor in the world and that they are our brothers and sisters," Mother Teresa said.

Just as important, the committee in its tribute to Mother Teresa remembered what is so often forgotten: "Poverty and hunger and distress also constitute a threat to peace."

Pope goes home; lifestyles remain

Boston—Religion is once again off the front page and morality off the evening news. The people who followed the pope's trip as if he were a candidate and the people who tracked him as if he were a celebrity will soon be after other stars. Those who care are left to sort out the dashed and renewed hopes.

But for a week we witnessed the impressive behavior of a religious incumbent in an age of political transients. For a few days we heard the sound of authority in an age of relativity.

People who long for such certainty greeted the embodiment of it, wrapped in splendor and human warmth, with admiration—even envy. John Paul II spoke of eternal truths when most of us are playing catch-up to change. He represented unity when we were so aware of disparities.

ellen goodman

Americans responded to the pope more than to his programs, and displayed a kind of nostalgia for a world that seems more stable.

But in the end, nostalgia doesn't change the way people live.

THE PART of John Paul's message at greatest odds with the daily life of the Catholic laity was his unwavering opposition to birth control. On this issue, his words were as clear and conservative as they are likely to be ignored. As one woman put it: "The pope is in Rome and I am on the pill."

But the words of the pope on birth control were, in a way, central to this nostalgic vision. He spoke of a world in which pleasure has a biological purpose and sex is part of nature. There is an intellectual purity and wholeness about this ideal which appeals strongly to people like us who have such mixed feelings right now about the ways in which we have "controlled nature."

I suspect that the real revolutionaries of the past hundred years have not been politicians, but technocrats and medical scientists. In this century, medicine has learned to do something it rarely did before: save lives.

Doctors are the ones who have "interfered with the natural order" in the deepest way: by preventing so many deaths. Today, in the western world at least, far fewer women die in childbirth as did the pope's own mother. Fewer children die of infectious diseases.

BECAUSE OF MEDICINE, the world eventually will be faced with overpopulation or with birth control. It is not a question of wanting to provide each child with a color television set. It is a question of protecting the existing life and exhaustible resources.

We have already breached the natural order. The question is how we respond.

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letters

X-rated films sexist

We are writing about the editorial of Friday, Oct. 12 which focused on whether or not the Daily Nebraskan should advertise pornographic movies.

We consider this a serious issue. It is obvious that our "free society" is sexist, racist and built along class lines, and it is our responsibility to try to counteract these influences. Theaters that advertise in the Daily Nebraskan do so for good reason—to attract those of the 22,000 students who are unaware of the oppression in our society. These pornographic films are blatantly sexist and depict women as nothing more than sexual objects existing to fulfill the fantasies of men. Even if such students exist who enjoy seeing women portrayed in this degrading manner—that is not a reason for a student newspaper to promote sexism. The Daily Nebraskan must decide if it wishes to advertise such sexism. The paper should not advertise anything simply because of money and profit.

The editorial on Friday, Oct. 12, illustrated little more than how lightly the Daily Nebraskan takes criticism from students on charges of sexism. It remained unclear whether the Daily Nebraskan has given any thought at all as to the question of pornography and how it affects women. To say that the editor is a woman does not

exempt the Daily Nebraskan from blame. It is the responsibility of both men and women to challenge the way women are exploited sexually in our society.

There are many more mature men and women on campus than the Daily Nebraskan seems to believe who are concerned that the newspaper reevaluate its "policy" on sexism in advertising and elsewhere. We hope that in the future the Daily Nebraskan will be a less flippant and more serious about the oppressed position of women in our society.

Ellanora Ward
Teresa Holder
Jean Potmesil
Cynthia Trainor
Nasser Arshadi
Moira Ferguson

Melanie Hatfield
Theresa Coughlin
Roxanne Mahloch
Mary Emanuel
Linda Pratt

Members and Supporters of
The Progressive Student Union

ASUN concerns

Since my last communique there have been two Board of Regents meetings upon which I would like to comment.

The September meeting of the board was of great significance to students. As I'm sure you've read in the press the board elected to raise tuition 10 percent. To be perfectly honest there's very little that we can do about the 1980-81 increase at this point, but our focus must be on re-orienting regental and administrative thought so students in the future can obtain a decent quality education at a reasonable price.

The October meeting of the board had nothing on the agenda directly pertaining to student life at UN-L; although, I'm sure that a great many of you have an interest in the abortion issue at the Medical Center. Frankly, I don't feel that this is an issue that I am either in a position to, or qualified to take a stance on.

In addition to the abortion issue the regents also brought up the issue of student tickets and the abuses linked with these. I have been appointed to a committee with Regent Prokop, Athletic Director Devaney, and ticket manager Helen Ruth Wagner.

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