

In quest for better society

Ginzburg: USSR slights rights

By Mike Sweeney

By attempting to build a better society through violence, the Soviet Union has denied its citizens basic human rights, exiled Soviet dissident Alexander Ginzburg said Wednesday night.

"There are no human rights in the Soviet Union," Ginzburg said to a Nebraska Union crowd of about 900. "If the theme (of his address) is going to be on human rights in the Soviet Union, this would be the shortest lecture ever given at this university."

Ginzburg was arrested four times by the KGB, the Soviet secret police, for his human rights work as a journalist and for his work as one of the founding members of the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group. The watch group is a citizen's group organized to monitor the Soviet Union's compliance with the Helsinki human rights accords of 1975.

He was released in April with four other jailed Soviet dissidents in exchange for two convicted Soviet spies in American prisons.

GINZBURG APPEARED thin and stooped from his years in Soviet labor camps. When he smiled, broken appeared at the edges of his mouth.

Speaking through independent Washington D.C. interpreter Harris Coulter, Ginzburg said the Soviet Union spreads the idea that human rights are something individual humans don't need.

The Communist party line says only large groups, such as the government, need rights at all Ginzburg said.

Although the Soviet Union officially guarantees rights, the government doesn't fulfill on its promises, he said.

For example, Ginzburg said, the government guarantees the freedom of conscience.

"The freedom of conscience means the right of every individual to profess a religious belief or not to profess a religious belief," Ginzburg said. "The only right left to us is not to profess a religion."

Laws deprive churches the right to give religious education to children, hold religious ceremonies outside the church, and discourage performing religious rites such as extreme unction and burial services. In addition, a member of the Soviet intelligentsia—the intellectuals in government and science—may lose their jobs if they have their children baptized.

Ginzburg, arms folded and body hunched behind a

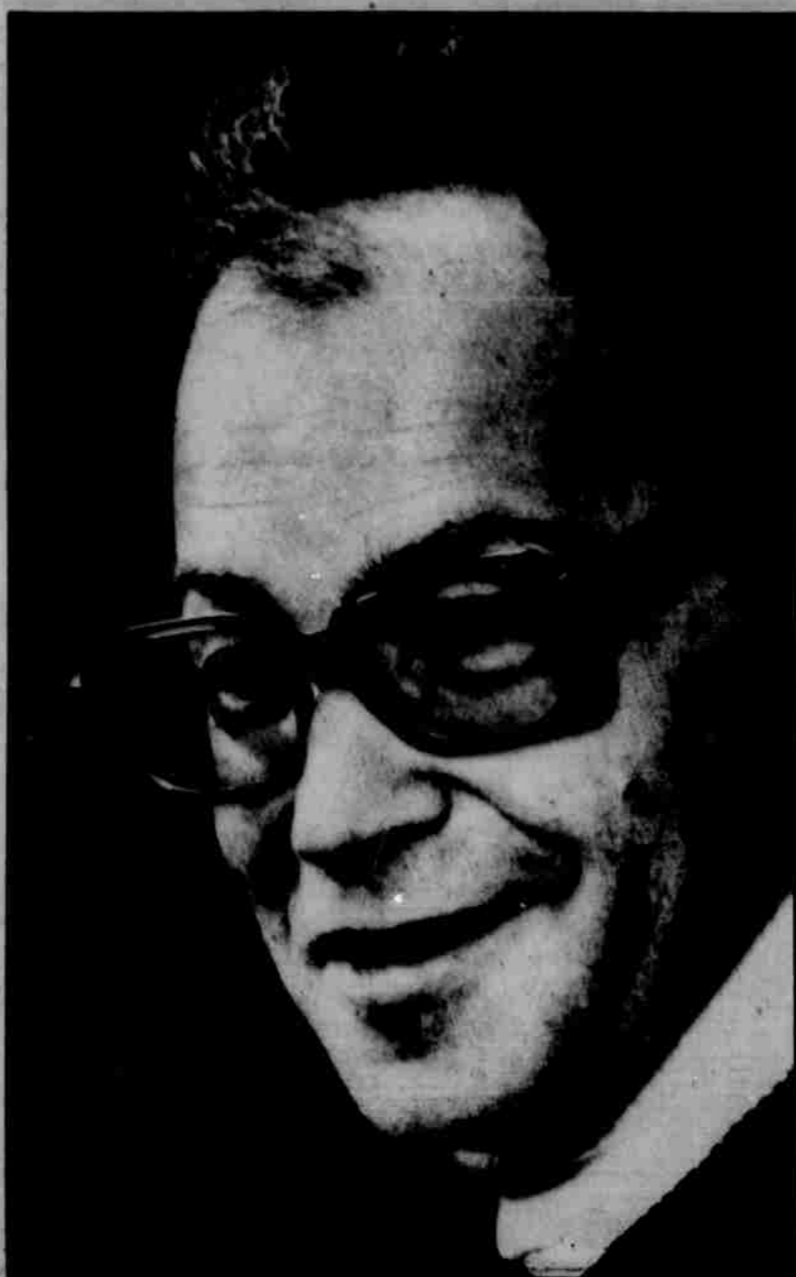


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Alexander Ginzburg

microphone, painted a picture of his homeland where peaceful political protesters receive automatic prison sentences, workers earn the equivalent of \$100 a month, and the government monitors all publications—an easy task because it owns all the legal printing presses.

At a press conference earlier in the day, Ginzburg reiterated his distrust of the Soviet government and its promises.

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Cigarette sales are down at UNL, but an 'alarming' amount still sold

By Rich Jurgens

Students beware: Cigarette smoking does have sexual consequences.

Even though cigarette smoking is decreasing by UNL students and employees, last year's cigarette sales at UNL are still at an alarming high.

Gene Meerkatz, UNL vending systems manager, said that students and employees purchased 107,000 packs of cigarettes from the various vending machines on both campuses last year.

The University Book Store sold 10,400 packs of cigarettes according to Cindy Grashorn, University Book Store supply manager.

Betty L. Vodehnal, assistant to operations manager at both Nebraska Unions, reported that 41,900 packs were sold at the Nebraska Union last year and 17,800 packs were sold at the East Union. The two unions are the only ones reporting an increase in cigarette sales from the previous year.

Nellie Hoscic, administrative assistant to food services, said about 24,000 packs were sold in the eight dorm units. She said this was about a 10 percent decrease from the previous year.

Dr. Garland O. Bare, chief of staff at the University Health Center said a 21-year-old person who smokes one pack or more a day can expect to have 14 years less life.

A FEMALE SMOKER will have a faster aging process and menopause will start five years sooner than average, Bare said.

A male, he said, will experience sexual impotency 10 to 15 years sooner than the non-smoker, or in other sexual impotency in males will occur between the ages of 35 and 40 with the usual sexual impotency in males occurring about age 50.

Garland said smoking among women is increasingly rapidly. Lung cancer is now the leading cause of death among women, followed by breast cancer.

There are 8,000 prenatal infant deaths each year because the mother smoked, he said. The reason for the infants' deaths is because the nicotine goes directly into the fetus, causing heart failure. He said babies born to women smokers go through nicotine withdrawal and are usually irritable and don't feed well. For this reason, babies born to smokers usually have a lower weight at birth.

GARLAND BARE SAID cigarettes contain many other poisons besides nicotine. The tars in cigarettes cause lung cancer, respiratory diseases and bladder cancer. The carbon monoxide in cigarettes affects the central nervous system.

For every dollar spent on cigarettes, Bare said, the smoker can expect to spend about \$2 on medical and dental bills.

Bare said the reasons for starting smoking vary from person to person.

Bare, who quit smoking 30 years ago, said he started in grade school.

"It's (cigarettes) a good ego prop for emotional security," Bare said, "I was cool; I was big; I was a man."

For most people, Bare said, "It's a readily available pacifier for playpen graduates who still need something to suck on."

Bare said about the only benefit of tobacco was that it kills insects and worms. He said farmers in Missouri fed tobacco to their animals to rid them of worms. He said for humans there were no benefits.

No fewer than 218,000 and as many as 500,000 people will die next year because of tobacco-related illnesses, Bare said.

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Love Library to remain open

By Barb Richardson

Love Library will not close on Saturdays or an hour earlier on weekdays, President Bud Cuca told the ASUN senate during their meeting Wednesday night.

Administrators planned to close the library during those times to make up for the Library's budget problems.

"I had a meeting with Ned Hedges this afternoon and what he had to say was hey, you kids have got a point, we're not going to close the library," Cuca said.

Cuca said that Hedges, vice chancellor for academic affairs, told him that he did not know where the money would come from to keep the library open, but he would find some.

Sen. Brad Belt told the senate that Hedges mentioned cutting student hours and scheduling salaried employees to cover some of their hours. Re-scheduling would make up for the money lost during the weekdays, Belt said.

Cuca said later that Hedges did not know how keeping the library open on Saturdays would be financed.

Sen. Karen Miller said a rumor that there was going to be a sit-in in the library Tuesday night caused Assistant Dean of Libraries Dean Waddel to leave special instructions for the library staff Tuesday night.

"He issued a notice that if there were any people in the library after hours and they were destructive, campus police should be called," Miller said.

He left a list of numbers, Waddel's included, to call if anything happened Tuesday night, she said.

Cuca said Hedges told him he changed his mind not to close the library because of input he received from students and the inconvenience closing would cause students.

"Don't stop now," Sen. Dale Wojtasek told the senate, "Let's push for more hours."

"Don't get too complacent. We still have a lot to do," Belt added.

"It's something we can grab onto, it's something we've accomplished," Cuca said.

The Senate passed a bill directing Cuca to move at the regents' December meeting that the regents meet once a month on the Lincoln City campus and once on the University of Nebraska-Omaha campus while classes are in session during the year.

"This is a positive bill to further educate faculty and students about what the regents do," said Sen. Vernon Daniels, co-sponsor of the bill.

He added that having the regents' meetings on east campus cause problems for students who want to go to the meetings but cannot get to east campus.

It's not unreasonable to ask the regents to move two of their meetings, Daniels said. He added that regents' meetings are moved at other universities.

Cuca said, "I think it would be very hard for them (regents) to say no, politically."

Political speakers, student fees and teaching assistant training programs will be discussed at the regents November meeting, according to Cuca.

He said students will ask the regents to allow student fee money to finance political speakers.

"Administrators are in support of financing political speakers, but not enough to go before the regents and say so," Cuca said.

Later, he said Alexander Ginzburg's appearance, financed by student money, is an example of how vague and arbitrary the present speaker guidelines are.

Currently, political and ideological speakers cannot be financed by student fee money.

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