

letters

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Americans, don't allow America and the American flag to be used as a symbol of trickery and outrage. We hope you do not let the U.S. government keep this country as a shelter for dictators, and criminals of other countries. We hope you show to the people of the world the same that you showed for the Vietnam War. God Bless You.

Iranian Muslim Students Association

Racism in America

The ongoing takeover of the United States Embassy by Iranian supporters of the religious rule of the Ayatollah Khomeini, regardless of its questionable merits, has given vent to two American traits: overt racism and imperialist ethics.

The rise of punk violence against Iranian students does not merely reflect anger over American hostages. Racism has been part of the American scene since this country's birth. Now, with the embassy takeover, such attitudes have been given covert as well as overt sanction by assorted powers, from President Carter to UNL professors.

Mindless mob violence has erupted in the context of a nation-wide witch-hunt—in which all Iranians are suspected and considered guilty (of who knows what) until proven innocent. The tactic of requiring all Iranians to report to immigration officers is somewhat reminiscent, not only of the McCarthy era communist scare, but also of the WWII travesty in which Japanese-Americans were herded into concentration camps.

Unlike the Japanese Americans, the Iranians are no not U.S. citizens, so perhaps there is more justification for treating them as social lepers. However, the current official "eye-for-an-eye, retaliatory attitude does not speak well for the nation oft-proclaimed as the leader of the "free world," the "champion" of democratic rights and justice.

If equal justice were indeed the hallmark of America, we would expect even treatment of all foreign students. Which raises the question: Will the United States Department also start investigating the possibilities of visa violations among Taiwanese exchange students, or those from Argentina or Venezuela, or, for that matter, from Britain and Western Europe? Are questions ever raised about Cuban, South Vietnamese, and other refugees?

It seems easy for some Americans to hate "slant-eyes," "gooks," "camel jockeys," etc., particularly if they can justify their attitudes and actions for once on a seemingly rational basis. It is also easy to start talking in Hitlerian tones about bombing some Third World country into submission, presumably because "American honor" has been threatened. Somehow forgotten is that United States imperialism would like very much to have a pretext to safeguard its *economic interests* (as distinct from its shaky "honor") in Iran.

Also somehow forgotten is the former Shah—who is supposedly not the issue. Yet it was American military and financial interests that sustained and benefitted from the Shah's vicious rule. It is interesting to speculate how the people of Israel would have reacted had the United States given asylum to Adolph Hitler or Herman Goering. For the Iranian people who have grown up under the Shah's tyranny, under systematic oppression, murder, and exploitation, this is, for them, a parallel situation.

It is unfortunate that innocent people have been caught up in this anti-imperialist struggle. And the Embassy takeover has been criticized even by the lately resigned Iranian government officials. But the real issue is the Shah and his ties to America and American foreign policy, not the visa status of exchange students. Instead of intensifying race hatred and petty national chauvinism, it is time for this country to stop being the second home for the facist dictators of the world.

Moira Ferguson
Faculty Advisor Iranian Student Association

Regents praised

I come away from the November meeting of the Board of Regents with a great deal of excitement. As you have probably heard, the Board reversed a 1978 decision banning the use of student fees for speakers of a political and ideological nature. It is my feeling, and the feeling of your student government, that this policy change will enable the University Program Council to provide the kind of speakers' program that will greatly enhance the educational opportunities at the University.

I wish to commend several members of the board for their willingness to listen and react to the arguments students presented on Friday. Regents Hansen, Koefoot, Schwartzkopf, and Simmons, are to be commended, not only for their vote on the issue, but also for their insight on the great potential of such a speakers' program in the university community.

Moreover, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the more than 200 students who appeared at Regents Hall on Friday. I was impressed with these students' concern over education and the issues related to it.

Aside from the speakers issue, the only issue that pertained directly to students was a teacher assistant training program that students brought to the Board in the September meeting. This program, aimed at the recruitment, evaluation, training, and communication skills of graduate teaching assistants was passed on a vote of 7-0. This item will be targeted for budgeting in the 1981-82 fiscal year and implementation at that time. This is a program that can greatly improve the quality of education at the institution for a relatively small investment.

There are several issues on campus that merit your attention. Two of these issues deal with closings. One is the proposed closing of the student union earlier than usual. The other with the possibility of closing the Men's P.E. Building second semester. Neither of these closings seem an advisable alternative from a student perspective. We would appreciate knowing how these closings will affect you.

Other projects ASUN will be involved with during the next month will include the housing department's alcohol awareness project, the university budget and the complications related to it, and the beginning of Senator Kelly's fight to raise the drinking age. Once again, if you have any reactions to these items please refer them to the ASUN office, room 115, Nebraska Union.

Bud Cuca
ASUN President

Thank you

I would like to extend my warmest "Thank You" to all of the students who attended last Friday's Board of Regents meeting to show support for the student position on political speakers. Those of us who had been working on the speakers issue really appreciated the solidarity shown last Friday. Thanks are also in order for Tim Rinne and the members of USED for showing to all Nebraskans that students at this University care about where their education is headed. Finally, I would like to thank Regents Simmons, Koefoot, Schwartzkopf, and Hansen for realizing in this instance that the students of the University of Nebraska are dedicated to the quality of education here, and will strive to improve it in all possible ways.

Hubert Brown
ASUN 1st Vice-President



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Professor honored for medieval study

UNL Associate Professor and Chairman of Modern Languages Department David Gitlitz was honored at an award luncheon Monday for winning first place in the development and implementation of a summer sessions program.

The program, which entailed a 650-mile hike along a pilgrimage route in northern Spain was commended for its creativity by the North American Association of Summer Session's Creative and Innovative Award Committee.

Gitlitz said he, another professor and seven students spent two and one-half months studying the history, art, architecture, literature, culture and language of Spain during their pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

"We wanted to structure some type of course that would provide students with an opportunity to develop a keener appreciation for medieval Spanish life, practice Spanish conversation and develop an understanding of modern Spain," Gitlitz said.

"It's nice to get recognized for what was an enormous amount of work and fun," he said, recalling the 18 to 40 mile a day walks the class undertook on bumpy roads through high rolling plateaus, fertile valleys and fields filled with grain.

"All of the students gained a great deal of sophistication in medieval art," Gitlitz said. "On a final examination, all of them entered a church they'd never seen before and successfully identified each architectural style, sculptural and painting style, and dated each within 50 years."

"Naturally, their conversational Spanish improved as well," he added.

The class was the second UNL class in three years to garner the first place award for creativity from the