

opinion/editorial

Rewarded efforts should encourage student activism

The fall semester is quickly coming to a close. This seems to be an appropriate time to congratulate and thank the students who are responsible for several victories concerning policies of the University of Nebraska.

The most recent, though small, victory was the vote Thursday by the Central Planning Committee to recommend that the new alumni center be built on Memorial Mall east of the stadium.

Although the new location is not good, it is better than the site that was originally proposed—the metered parking lot north of Nebraska Union.

After the original proposal was announced, the ASUN Senate expressed its opposition to the site as did students from several residence halls and the Residence Hall Association.

The attempt by the administration to close the library earlier on weekdays and all day on Saturday next semester was similarly thwarted by united student opposition.

The most significant victory so far this year, of course, is the reversal by the NU Board of Regents of a policy which prohibited using student fees to pay for political speakers. The original policy came about after the

Young Americans for Freedom complained that they should not pay for speakers who disagreed with their political beliefs.

Because of the efforts of ASUN Senate leaders, the members of the Union Program Council and those of the Council's Talks and Topics Committee, the policy has been reversed, with an agreement on their part to get a wide sampling of political speakers.

All UNL students will get immediate benefits from these victories. Parking will not be displaced by an alumni center, the libraries will

remain open and the students now will be able to hear a wide range of speakers. Obviously this is good.

Less obvious, however, is the realization that unlike in the past, the students now seem to have a significant impact on the university policies which affect them. United student effort is important and does work.

The benefits of this realization can be enormous. We hope that it will encourage more student activism and hope on the part of the students that their efforts will be rewarded.

The results, as we have seen this semester, can be nothing but good.

Diplomacy like dull knife: safe, but not too effective

The Iranian crisis will be one month old tomorrow. Through all of the turns this situation has taken, many questions have been raised.

But on at least one subject, the question has already been answered. That subject is diplomacy and the answer is that it doesn't work.

tom prentiss

In a time when diplomacy is our only hope, it also is our most useless tool. Without question, as long as American lives are at stake, the U.S. must look for the safe answers.

But, while diplomacy is safe, it doesn't bring instant results.

Diplomacy, as I know it, is when representatives from countries meet to discuss "meaningful issues." And nothing happens.

Before these diplomats agree to talk though, vital negotiations have concerned the nature of the talks. Important questions must be answered.

QUESTIONS LIKE what shape of table to use, what kind of flowers will make up the centerpiece and whether to serve coffee or tea.

The time of the talk must also be determined. It must be early enough to make the evening papers back home, but it must be brief enough to touch upon the subject without solving it.

Upon closing the talks, they give the same phony smiles and issue statements that termed the talks as "frank and cordial."

This usually means that two parties that wouldn't speak to each other before, now will talk, even in the same room. But, like children, they each demand to sit on opposite ends of the table.

You'd think they had cooties, or something.

Just once, I'd like to have an impartial observer issue the statement to the media on the talks between two countries. Perhaps it would be like this.

FROM IP (Impartial Press)—reports: "Premier Flint of Moindesto today met with Chairman Weeby of Ballst, to discuss the tenuous relations between the two countries.

After the picture session for the press, the two leaders immersed themselves in hot and heavy arguing.

Flint threw water in Weeby's face and said, "I wish you were the Wicked Witch of the West, because then you'd be melting all over the place."

Weeby countered by calling Flint and her country "dirty poop." Outraged, Flint slid a large ashtray across the table, dropping it into Weeby's de-militarized zone.

The infuriated Weeby, took off his tennis shoe and after banging it on the table in a manner reminiscent of Khrushchev, stuck it in Flint's face causing

him to pass out.

He was revived by the playing of Moindesto's national anthem, Moindesto—The Surprising Place, which was played by Cheap Trick.

Fling, outraged that Weeby would pull such a stunt, took advantage of a cold he had had for a week. Blowing his nose into four different tissues, he rolled them up as one, into a tissue spheroid and hurled it at Weeby.

The snot ball caught Weeby square in the face, knocking Weeby senseless. Flint was then able to get Weeby to sign a mutual non-aggression pact and the two diplomats hoped for a prosperous peace.

Flint and Weeby issued a joint statement that read, "If it works out, it works out. If it doesn't, it doesn't."

Which is about as profound as you can get for diplomacy these days.

We feel that the Daily Nebraskan is completely abdicating its social responsibility with its practice of accepting any kind of ad that fills up a page. We are referring to the ads that the Daily Nebraskan has run to recruit people to the CIA. Accepting or not accepting advertisements does not conflict with freedom of speech. Most newspapers make a policy on what kind of advertising they will or will not accept. If Hitler were here today perhaps the Daily Nebraskan would feel responsible to offer him an advertising space.

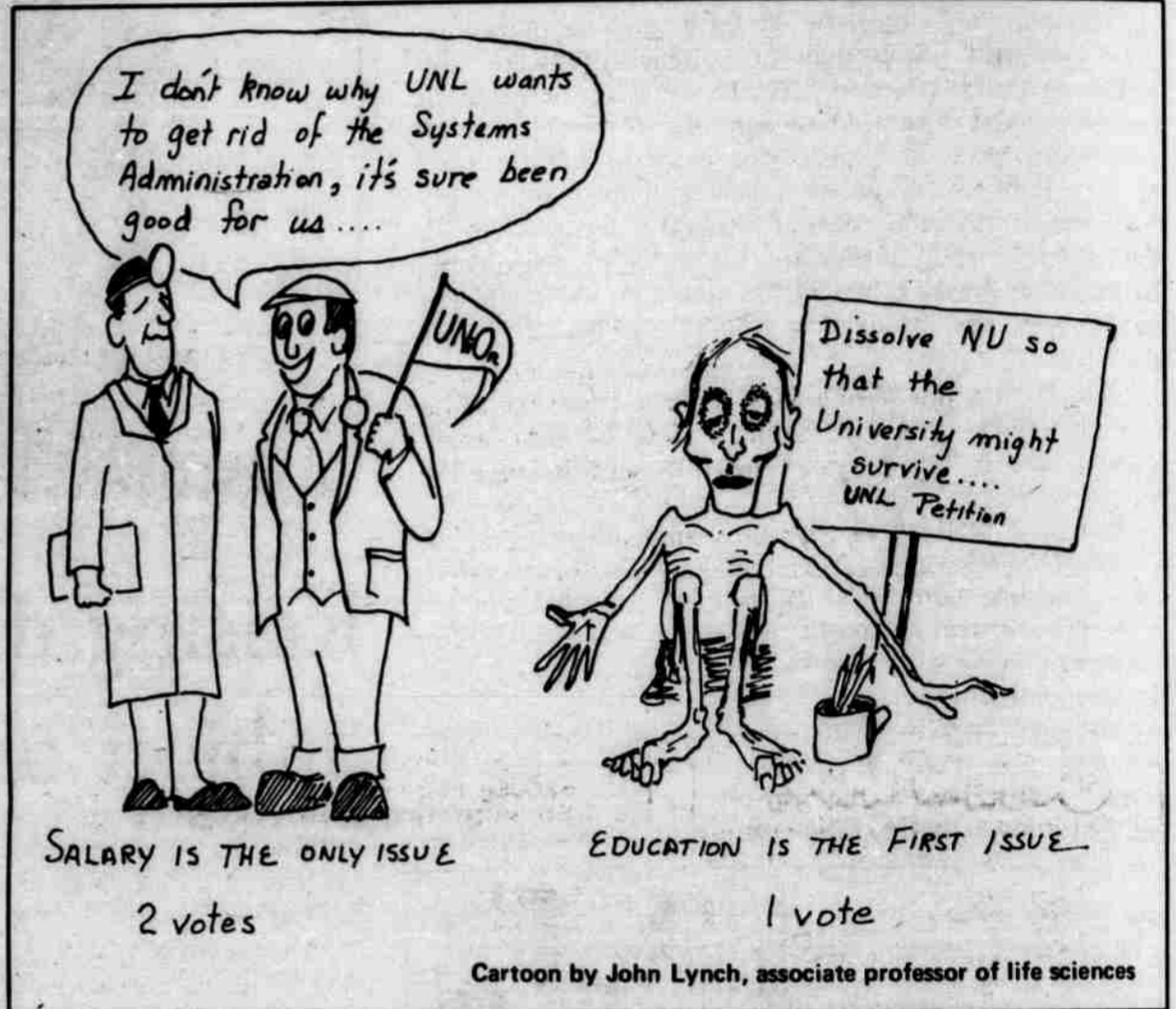
The CIA trained, or is training the most brutal secret police in the world. For example, in countries such as Israel, Brazil, Argentina, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Uruguay, Paraguay, Iran (under the shah), etc. These are the most brutal, reactionary regimes in the world according to Amnesty International. The secret police in these countries have indeed learned their techniques well.

We hope that the Daily Nebraskan has run these ads through sheer ignorance. We feel that the objections to this ad as well as to the advertisement of pornography, are serious criticisms and deserve a serious reply.

The Progressive Student Union

Logic questioned

It is really unfortunate that you, Jim Peterson, hold the use of logical thinking in such high esteem, when you obviously don't know what it means. First of all, the purpose of the so-called "interviews" with the Iranian students in this country was to discover any Iranian students in the U.S. who were in violation of their student visas. This action was taken in retaliation for the takeover of the American Embassy and the holding of American hostages by



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the supporters of Khomeini. I see very little logic used in the setting up of these "interviews." Since the vast majority of Iranians in violation of their student visas are no longer students, they will remain undetected by the immigration authorities.

Secondly, you seem to imply that discrimination on the basis of nationality is logical, justifiable, and to be condoned. I see little difference between discrimination on the basis of race, and discrimination on the basis of nationality.

As for defending the "interviews" on the basis that no other country is doing what Iran is doing to the United States, this too, is illogical. The Iranians at the University of Nebraska have NOT taken American hostages, burned American flags, and have NOT held demonstration advocating that America be crushed or that Carter be put to death.

You also contend that the reaction of the American people is a normal and logical one. Normal, it may be, considering the disgraceful ignorance of most Americans concerning foreigners of all nationalities, especially those of the developing nations, of the "3rd World." Your reaction and the reaction of the American people is of a purely emotional nature, devoid of even the slightest trace of logic.

You do not support the deportation of all Iranian students, because you understand that not all Iranian students support Khomeini. If you would stop and use some of your "logical" mind for a minute you would see the "simple fact" that the Iranian students being deported are not being deported necessarily because they support Khomeini, but because they are in violation of their student visas. The U.S. government has made a senseless, inept, and yes, discriminatory attempt to "get

back" at Iran for their actions, by forcing many innocent Iranians here in the U.S. to go through a humiliating process whereby their pictures and fingerprints were taken, like common criminals. For all the people of the U.S. talk about freedom, justice and human rights (especially President Carter), I, for one, as an American, am not blind to the hypocrisy the government of the U.S. has shown in this action.

The injustices the Iranians are suffering in this country is just another in a long string of injustices the Iranian people have suffered at the hands of the U.S. government. The U.S. government will support any political leader in the developing countries as long as 1) he is anti-communist and 2) he is willing to let the U.S. government exploit whatever natural resources or manpower the country has to offer.

How sad it is that the comfort that Americans have enjoyed throughout the years, with cheap gasoline prices and the security of military bases close to Russia, has all been at the expense of the Iranian people who suffered and were exploited under the shah's rule.

It would be idealistic to think that the people, and the government of the people in the United States, would take a long look at the revolution which occurred in Iran and begin to make some long needed changes in its foreign policy toward "3rd World" countries. But if they don't, some day the developing countries of the world will be developed, with military strength and resources to match our own. Hopefully, the United States will not have to learn the hard way that it cannot "buy" friends, and that two nations can only be friends in the true sense of the word when they treat each other as equals.

Jennifer Staley
Senior, Spanish and English