

letters

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There is one other thing that bothers me about the Iranian crisis. For weeks now, Iranian students in America have been complaining that Americans do not understand the plight of the Iranians and why the shah is so important to them that they feel they must take this stand. It is impossible to understand what issues the Iranians feel are important and for what reasons, because when they are interviewed by the media, they usually say 1) very little, or 2) their argument has very little logic behind it but much emotion. I know that Iranian students on the UNL campus have their own bulletin board in the Union which I'm sure deals with this very thing and probably uses logic to back up views and opinions. It's too bad that I, an American, like many of the 22,000 UNL students, can't read Persian.

There don't happen to be any classes on this campus that teach Persian, nor do I see a personal need to learn the language at this time. I suggest to Iranian students who wish to give their political and religious views, to let everyone understand them, not just the people of their country who are not the target of this last action.

Denise Andersen
Senior, Journalism

Speech out of context

This letter arose out of my reaction to the Daily Nebraskan's coverage of the international journalist Gerry Foley's speech, which appeared in Thursday's (Nov. 29) edition.



Keep Red Cross ready.

I was one of the people who listened to Mr. Foley, who incidentally had just come from Iran. Not only did he give us first-hand information about what is happening over there, but he also tried to explain to the audience how and what the Iranian people were feeling when they took over the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. Which brings me to the purpose of this letter.

In their coverage of this speech, the Daily Nebraskan quoted parts of the speech, which out of context seemed to emphasize the point that the Iranian people are lusting for American blood. On the contrary, Mr. Foley emphasized the fact that the people in Iran are human beings with feelings and emotions like ourselves.

The fact that the U.S. foreign policy in Iran, using the CIA as a tool, put the shah in power and helped him stay in power until his dictatorship was toppled, and the fact that the U.S. government let the shah in our country afterwards, did not help matters over there. The Iranian people are demonstrating against U.S. foreign policy, and not, I repeat not, against the U.S. people, the only way they know how. I may not approve of the Embassy takeover, but I beg you to try to understand the motives and feelings behind it, and not to let the biased coverage of the world press affect your thinking and lead to misrepresentation. It is only with better understanding that we can honestly interpret world affairs, and the effect they have on our own lives here.

In my opinion, the Daily Nebraskan should take the lead in representing the views of the people they cover and interview accurately. Unless the Daily Nebraskan itself takes this responsibility to faithfully present the news, the confusion that now exists on this campus cannot be cleared up. Thank you.

Editor's note: The above letter was written by an Iranian student who requested that his name be withheld. The writer said he fears for his safety if his name is published.

Libertarians go too far in striking regulations

Anyone walking on Union Mall lately probably has been accosted by someone with a clipboard asking, "Are you a registered voter?"

These good folks are members of the Libertarian Party who are trying to get their candidate for president, Ed Clark, on the ballot next year.

jerry fairbanks

The Libertarian Party is an interesting exception to the rule in American politics, a party based on an ideal, not a party designed just to get people elected. Their ideal calls for the dismantling of most government by ending its regulatory functions.

Specifically, that means ending laws against drugs, pornography, owning guns and sex between consenting adults. It also means the end of compulsory education, public utilities, and all government regulatory agencies - the Civil Aeronautics Board, the Federal Communications Commission, the Interstate Commerce Commission, et al. The government will protect the coasts and carry the mail.

Admittedly, that sounds like a great idea. As the men's room graffiti says, "When drugs are outlawed, only outlaws will have drugs." And the spectre of Dade County's anti-homosexual law is a national disgrace.

But the rub comes when they propose to do away with the government's power to regulate business. The idea of laissez-faire has been around since Adam Smith realized the economic activity of a nation can be studied and changed. But laissez-faire, in giving businesses complete freedom, has never

worked in the past and would be disastrous in the future.

Almost every federal regulatory agency was set up in response to abuses by the business sector it regulates. The Food and Drug Administration came into being because there was an outcry against food that caused diphtheria epidemics and patent medicines laced with addictive opiates. The Interstate Commerce Commission was created to combat monopolistic practices.

The Libertarians explain that such abuses won't happen under their system because competition will force companies to be fair and honest. But companies loathe competition and are quite adept at getting rid of it.

The monopolies of the late 19th century are the historical example. For a while there was a real danger that the entire national economy would be controlled by and belong to a dozen companies. The power they exercised, both in government and in the country as a whole, was completely out of proportion to their usefulness.

The Libertarians say the monopolies were caused by old monied families using the government to prevent new companies from forming. But John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie weren't old money, and they created two of the biggest and most powerful companies in history.

The truth is, power, especially economic power, tends to gravitate to the least number of hands and unless something like an elected government prevents it, a nation's economy will end up in the control of a handful of business executives.

The Libertarians have a beautiful ideal—people, if allowed to be good, will be good. But when money comes into any situation, look for the lowest and most disgusting behavior imaginable.



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