

opinion/editorial

World turmoil marks beginning of decade

Not only does a new semester await returning UNL students this spring, but a whole new decade full of problems, uncertainty and promise.

The 1980s came in with a bang and will require understanding and communication on the part of people throughout the world.

For the first time in history, the Soviet Union has invaded a country outside the Warsaw Pact—Afghanistan. It is the third time Soviet aggression has gained worldwide attention and will most likely

seriously jeopardize the SALT II treaty.

American hostages are still being held in Iran and a grain embargo threatens Nebraska's economy.

American athletes, who have trained so hard for the summer games in Moscow, may have to sacrifice their opportunities to perform with talk of a possible boycott of the 1980 Olympics.

Of a more immediate concern to UNL students is the 1980-81 "financial crossroads" budget request for a 15 percent increase in university appropriations.

Faculty unrest continues over the central administration and there have been hints at collective bargaining attempts for 1980.

The abortion issue continues after an incident in September at the NU Medical Center and the regents are now considering safety guidelines for possible test-tube baby research in the 1980s.

State Sen. Dave Newell may approach the Legislature with findings from an interim study to realign the NU Board of Regents into a superboard responsible for statewide

coordination of higher education.

And Sen. Ralph Kelly of Grand Island will continue his third attempt at raising the legal drinking age in Nebraska from 19 to 21. Kelly says the bill has an excellent chance of passing in 1980 after failing to pass first reading in 1979 by two votes.

Add a national election this year, and 1980 looks to be an action-packed year leading off a new decade—a complex and exciting decade which will require intelligent attention from all of us.

Harry Allen Strunk

New Year's vow: grin and bear it days out, hassling in

BOSTON—Normally, I begin my New Year by sharing a few weighty thoughts. But since I grazed through the past weeks, as if the holiday season were all-you-can-eat

ellen goodman

night at the Galloping Gourmand, I would prefer shedding weight to sharing it.

In fact, my entire fantasy life this morning revolves

around figuring out a way to come down with about three weeks worth of anorexia nervosa.

At the top of my New Year's resolutions list is the determination not to go through the future bearing my own personal roast beef.

However, since it takes two items to make a list, I will go to the second resolution: I hereby promise that I shall not go gently into the 1980s. I am about to become a cranky consumer.

Let me explain. For the past several years I have had a creeping case of consumer crump-out. I have fallen victim to despair, what-good-will-it-do-to-complain-itis.

The everyday hassles that have tracked me these past

12 months are not that unusual or even that crucial:

—The pilot light in my gas stove has developed the constancy of a one-meal stand.

—The bank where I have done business for several years sent me long intimate letters rototyped personally to me, suggesting that I come to them for estate planning for my wife and children.

—I had to replace an entire one-year-old shower attachment because a small plastic joint broke and they do not sell the joints separately.

—The handle has fallen off my new front storm door; the blouse that I sent to be cleaned isn't; the buttonhole in my new jeans has shredded; the newsboy has missed my doormat 17 days in a row; and by actual count, six people who were going to fix three things have yet to show up.

One person who did show up, I now wish hadn't.

My first reaction to all of these routine events has been predictable. I composed brilliant letters and had wonderful telephone conversations in which I was totally vindicated. Bank vice presidents were abject. Manufacturers sent me new ovens, shower-makers revised their entire policy about parts and the plasterer re-did the bathroom.

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Office is available to air complaints

By Liz Austin

My first task in this position apparently will be to get the title changed from ombudsman to ombudsperson. After all the Daily Nebraskan wouldn't want to be accused of being sexist.

Whatever the title, the main function of this office will be to listen to reader's criticisms.

ombudsman

Actually it is a rare privilege for Daily Nebraskan readers to have an ombudsperson, but then it is rare for any newspaper to have one.

At last report, only two college newspapers have such an office, the Daily Nebraskan and the Daily Texan. As far as professional newspapers go, out of 1,765 daily newspapers only 20 have ombudspersons.

The office of newspaper ombudsperson is fairly new and growing slowly but surely. The first newspaper ombudsperson was appointed in 1967 at the Louisville Courier-Journal.

He was appointed because newspapers realized readers need a mouthpiece for their opinions. The press is responsible for criticizing the government, business and other public affairs, but without reader criticism the press itself remains uncensored and unwatched.

Newspapers aren't perfect, the Daily Nebraskan included, and that is why readers are encouraged to bring their criticisms to the ombudsperson. The office is here to promote better understanding between readers and the Daily Nebraskan. Without its readers a newspaper would be nothing.

The ombudsperson can be found at the Daily Nebraskan office, 34 Nebraska Union, or tentatively in the Daily Nebraskan Ombudsperson office, 335-B Nebraska Union. The Daily Nebraskan will request use of the room at Wednesday's Union Board meeting.

The office has been added this semester so the ombudsperson may speak privately with those who have criticisms and wish to discuss them out of hearing range of reporters and editors.

If the ombudsperson is not in the office, calls will be returned and any messages will be answered. The telephone number for the Daily Nebraskan office is 472-2588 and a telephone in the ombudsperson office will be connected next week.

The office is here for the reader, so make use of it.

letter to the editor

Referring to the article on page 4 of the Dec. 11th paper.

Ask the writer of this article on gun control to compare the gun to our automobile. A person gets shot and it's a tragedy, but a person gets killed in a car and it's just an accident. The car or the gun is only doing what the nut in control makes it do.

We have drivers ed in our schools but very little about gun education.

OK, so all guns are registered. Any criminal that needs a gun surely won't use his own registered weapon. He will get hold of some innocent person's gun and be sure to leave it where the law will find it after the crime.

The writer of this article probably isn't old enough to remember World War II, but this is what happened to the German people. They had to register guns, Hitler then knew where the guns could be confiscated. If the suspect didn't give him the weapon they were done away with. Then he had full control. Follow me?

I am a sportsman in every way I know how and it would be a shame to have our guns registered or taken away.

I have two sons, one a graduate of UNL. The other, a junior in the same college. These two were raised to respect guns and get enjoyment from them. There is nothing like an afternoon of quail hunting, blue rock shooting or just target shooting.

The trouble with most people is they only look at the bad side of guns, not all the pleasure one can find with one.

Compare it to a car. It only does what it is made to do. We do not know how many persons were killed when a car went over a bank, we never think that the driver might have wanted to do away with someone. Same as if that person were shot, he is still dead.

Just think a little before you condemn guns, maybe you should condemn the auto the same way.

Think about it! You might write a different article if you try to see the other side of it.

Cars are used in most crimes also!!!

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