

letters to the editor



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Upon recently being rejected from entering a virtually cavernous and near empty gymnasium by a less-than-polite cheerleader type late on a Friday afternoon. . . I paused to reflect. Have we not progressed enough through the years to allow a well-meaning, if indeed-unkept, group of court-starved youth to pursue their one desire in life? Can we justifiably deny six men the right to hoop on one end of a three full-court gym just so our yell squad can practice? Surely upon witnessing a performance at one of our varsity games, one can deduce that all this room for practice is not necessary. One conjures images of practicing above Horsefeathers, in the basement of Morrill Hall, or some like semi-spacious environ, completely suitable to the event at hand. Don't get me wrong. . . I love cheerleaders . . . (the female type anyway). . . but c'mon people, elitism went out when they started taking females in the TNE and renamed the Program Council to equalize East Campus. Next time "Sorry fellas" just won't hack it. I'm going to the OMBUDSPERSON!!!

Bill Schilling  
Senior, pre-law

Trigger happiness

I would like to look at Clark Ackerman's two main contentions against registration, one that fears the "trigger happy" politician in Washington, and second that Mr. Ackerman is caught up in the "me-ism" so predominant in the 70's. The present attitude in Washington is anything but "trigger happy", and even if there were a supposed trigger happy politician running around Washington looking to get his name into the history books by starting the third World War, the forefathers of our country did provide for certain safeguards, namely the Congress of the United States, which is 435 members that "Mr. Trigger" would have to contend with before he could resign us all to our doom. And as far "our age group would be getting hit by it" can we let our own self-interest get in the way of the freedom and safety of the United States?

I think Mr. Ackerman misses the point, and that is that the United States must be able and prepared to protect herself and her ideals. Registration greatly enhances the preparedness of the military, and contrary to the rampant emotionalism that is sweeping the country, it is not an automatic stepping stone to conscription. It is being prepared. Personally, I feel the defense of this country and her ideals does not lie in the methods (man-to-man warfare) that led to the loss of lives in Korea and Vietnam, but through the use of her superior scientific technology.

As a Republican, I can say Mr. Ackerman's views do not speak for all, and hopefully he does not speak for the majority.

Steven J. Miller  
Sophomore, Ag Econ

Baker . . .

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But the candidate professed ignorance about why he was here. "I just go where they tell me," he said. The scheduling snafu is not unusual for an organization which, confronted with modest challenge of transporting two network crews and three newspaper correspondents, can be counted on to lose the New York Times reporter's luggage.

Earlier on the day of the Maine dinner, Baker had addressed a convention of New England broadcasters in Boston. The speech, which was important enough to be filmed by his own crew of commercial-makers and touted as a major policy address, was built around this proposal:

"Twenty years ago, President Kennedy challenged America to put a man on the moon by the end of the Sixties. As President, I will challenge America to put a man in a car not powered by gasoline by the end of the decade."

That supposed clarion call left the broadcasters so unmoved that in 20 minutes of questioning, not one of them

Amnesty reply

As a member of the local chapter of Amnesty International, I feel it necessary to correct a letter to the editor sent in prior to winter vacation by the Progressive Student Union.

In the letter, they undermine the CIA by citing ten countries in which "The CIA trained or is training the most brutal police force in the world". The letter goes on to say that "these are the most brutal and reactionary regimes in the world according to Amnesty International".

First of all, the first country on your list, Israel, has never been cited by AI to have a "brutal secret police force" or anything resembling one.

Furthermore, it is not the policy of AI to state which country or countries are or are not reactionary in nature or for that matter the most brutal. AI is a political organization interested in the plight of political prisoners in every country in the world. They do not judge the quality or type of governments but only the actions of governments as they pertain to issues of human rights.

Efrem Bromberg  
Freshman

P.S. Anyone interested in learning more about Amnesty International may attend meetings at the Commonplace, 14th and R Street, the third Wednesday of every month at 8:00 p.m.

Headed for shelter

It grieves me to think that an educated, responsible adult who will soon be in a position to help run this country believes that the only way to solve problems of international origin is to send "10 B-52 bombers hitting oil fields." I am referring to the article in the Jan. 28 Daily Nebraskan, written by Erik Van Fleet. In his article, Mr. Van Fleet seems to portray the idea that efforts at peace-keeping and diplomatic solutions in Iran and Afghanistan are a farce, should not be indulged in and that force is the only word understood by the other countries we deal with. I submit that Mr. Van Fleet, although clearly articulate, really isn't in control of all the information. In fact, none of us are. Not one of us can possibly, in Nebraska, here at UNL, have all the information that President Carter has to make decisions. We are second guessing him without even having the intelligence reports, available, knowing the details of the situation, and being aware of all the courses of action open. That's not to say that I condone what's happening. And it's not to say that I don't believe in force at all, or can even really say that I'm a dyed-in-the-wool dove. It's not that either. But I do believe that a peaceful settlement is far preferable to a violent one, and that little things that Mr. Van Fleet has forgotten about (like the hostages and their safety) are very important. President Carter may not be doing the right thing. None of us can say. International relations itself is too much of an unsure thing to ever be certain which course of action is "right". However, one thing I am sure of. The day Mr. Van Fleet comes into a

cared to ask what would power the Bakermobile. A lucky thing, too, for when the senator was asked, he rattled off a list of alternative fuels long enough to suggest he had no idea which one it might be. And his confident assertion that the car could be built at a lower cost than today's gas-guzzlers turned out, on examination, to be based on no discussions with anyone in the auto industry.

It is hard to know what to think when a man who has demonstrated his ability in a variety of challenging situations as a senator for 13 years runs such an inept campaign for President.

The manager of one of Baker's rivals said that Baker is the "worst-served by his organization" of anyone in the GOP field. But Howard Baker has had at least three years, since the 1976 convention, at which he was passed over for vice president in favor of Bob Dole, to think about how he would run for President and who he wanted working for him.

At this point, the responsibility—and the consequences—are his.

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position to make national and international decisions, I'm building a bomb shelter.  
Theresa Van Fleet  
Senior, Pre-Law

An end to hypocrisy

Unresponsiveness can last only so long. I have the not-so-proudly-held record of attending UNL for 3 1/2 years without ever sending a commentary to the Daily Nebraskan. Many times I've felt the need or the urge to comment but, for one reason (excuse) or another, I simply haven't done it. Most certainly one reason has not been the lack of topics on which to write as oftentimes many articles, editorials, and personal commentaries have appeared that have aroused a multitude of ideas both within myself and in conversation with other people. The problem has been that my idea and feelings have never reached the Daily Nebraskan office in tangible form, much less been published there. Strangely enough, I am not alone in my inactivity.

The thoughts which are appearing in this letter originally started to germinate in my brain while I was reading Erik T. Van Fleet's open minded "letter to the editor" in Monday's paper attacking the covert activities of the Nebraskans for Peace and the Committee for American-Iranian Crisis Resolution which are undermining our red-blooded do-or-die American society. In reading this letter I became filled with my usual ideas and my common urge to say something, which in the past have been kept to myself or verbalized to only few friends. His insightful and clear-minded comment that the people in these groups "disdain . . . any kind of intelligence at all, including their own," made me realize how the Daily Nebraskan provides a

forum for those deep-thinking truth seeking people such as Erik Van Fleet to air their thoughts. His views about how this is a "ruthless world," and that to "compete" in it "when our opponents are cheating is to play dirty too." I find such insight inspirational. And then cool-headed response to the aforementioned committee's idea to have Iranian citizens meet with Midwesterners to "discuss a solution to the crisis," that the "best 'coalition for crisis solution' would be 10 B-52 bombers hitting oil fields" proved the depth of his thought process and that, like his neighbors near East Campus, he is one of the "real Americans who love their country." The coup de grace of Erik Van Fleet's letter came in his final paragraph when, with what I'm sure is flawless reasoning, he used final foresight to infer what future Soviet action would be ("invade Alaska") and what American governmental response will be ("avoid military action"). Brilliant.

I am in awe of Erik Van Fleet's unemotional appeal to logic; a truly fine statement I am sure he would make. I find such rhetoric as his inspirational. I am sure many other students also do. It may have taken a while, but his letter finally shook me down from my pedestal of passivity. I don't mean to imply that his letter was any more thought-provoking or incisive than numerous others, but, being one who disdains apathy and hypocrisy, I decided while reading it to quit being a hypocrite by stop being apathetic. I hope other students come to a similar realization and are likewise spurred into participation. As for me, I would like to thank Erik T. Van Fleet for his motivating letter. Without him and those like him, where would we all be?

Douglas J. Faulkner  
Senior, Geography

Computers used in learning new to education students

By Patti Gallagher

I was betting \$200 against the house. I played it safe and put down \$5. The dealer drew an ace of hearts. I was dealt an eight and jack of spades. I took my chances and stopped with an "18."

The dealer drew a king of diamonds. I lost.

My hands began to sweat as I upped my ante to \$10. I lost again.

I could not resist and put down \$20. A smile spread across my face as I got dealt a two-card "21." The dealer too got "21." The house wins a tie.

I didn't count my remaining cash, but threw it all on the table just to be done with the savage shark. I senselessly stopped with "12" the house beat me with an easy "17."

The room was not a smoke-filled bar with painted ladies smiling in the doorways. It was room 214B in Henzlik Hall on the UNL campus, and I just got the pants beat off me in "Black Jack" by a micro-computer.

"Black Jack" is just one of the many computer programs being used in the UNL education department in efforts to coordinate computer learning into all levels of education, according to Dorothy Stevens, assistant professor of secondary education.

In using the computers, instructors can program lessons onto discs which can then be inserted into the computer for student use, Stevens said.

New to UNL

The computers were new to the UNL education department this fall, she said, and currently are being used both in undergraduate and graduate courses.

Shaped much like a typewriter topped with a television screen, the micro-computers operate by means of student-written discs. The half-inch thick plate-

lets, for example, may be programmed for an elementary level algebra lesson and when inserted in the micro-computers provide drills and lessons for its user.

One of advantage of computer learning includes freeing the teacher from her regular "bookkeeping duties," Stevens said, allowing her to devote more time to individual student needs.

The computers also increase students' "problem solving ability," she said. If, for example, a student was required to complete a math story problem, he would be forced to think through each step in order to program it into the computer.

Repetition drills

Disc-learning also provides repetition through drills, and teacher computer literacy, Stevens added.

In evaluating the effectiveness of the computers, the "bottom line," Stevens said, is asking "does the child learn more?"

The use of micro-computers in education is new to Nebraska, lagging behind several other states that Stevens visited in recent months with fellow staff member Gerald Boardman to push their computer system.

Boardman, professor of educational administration and educational psychology and measurements, said their interstate travels were spent "teaching the language of computers" to school administrators.

The computers, \$600 to \$5,000 in cost are easily operated, Boardman said.

"Students pick up the skills very easily. The difficulty is for the instructors to keep ahead of the students," he said.

Because of the nature of the classes, most work is done independently, he said.