

# Protestors speak out against draft, imperialism

By Rose Fitzpatrick

Students and others gathered outside the Nebraska Union Friday to hear speakers opposing registration for the draft, the draft itself and U.S. involvement in other countries.

Cynthia Trainor, speaking for the Progressive Student Union which sponsored the rally, said that a draft to protect U.S. vital interests is not protecting democracy but protecting the rights of multi-national corporations.

Militarism means bad news for the poor and minorities, who will be over-represented, gives more power to generals and industrial leaders and means bad news for youth in general, Trainor said.

Bruce Erlich, associate professor of English, modern languages and literature, called for full public debate of the draft rather than passive acceptance.

#### Personal politics

Erlich said that politics must be personal and that people need not agree on all the issues. Instead, he said, they could form a broad-based coalition against the draft.

He said that if there is a new draft, the United States won't be fighting Russians because a conventional (non-nuclear) war is extremely improbable.

In Iran, CIA Station Chief Kermit Roosevelt was involved in overthrowing the elected government of Mossadegh to install the shah's government, which negotiated with Gulf Oil Co. to give Gulf the right to 40 percent of Iran's known oil reserves, according to Erlich.

In 1965, President Johnson sent 20,000 U.S. Marines to the Dominican Republic where Juan Bosch won the national election over incumbent Belaguer, Erlich said.

Belaguer had gone to the Organization of American States to ask for assistance and the supposedly neutral Marines fought against Bosch and the peasants, Erlich said.

#### Corporate deals

During the Vietnam War, the Texan construction company, Brown and Root, started receiving major government contracts for building military installations after Johnson became president, Erlich said. Brown and Root is now Brown-Root-Knudson-Morrison, one of the largest contractors in the world.

Referring to land now occupied by U.S. corporations that could be used to grow food by poverty stricken people of third world countries, Erlich said that U.S. draftees would be fighting Guatemalan peasants, the urban unemployed in the Philippines and Black miners in South Africa.

#### Democracy at home

Another speaker, student Carmela Sanchez, said that poverty and discrimination have limited full participation in American society for Americans of Mexican descent, yet President Carter is proposing that young Chicanas and Chicanos fight to protect U.S. interests.

Citing past participation of Americans of Mexican descent in the military, Sanchez said "the practice of democracy as full class citizens must be obtained at home before we can again feel comfortable sacrificing our lives and our children's lives in foreign lands."

Speaker Moira Ferguson, associate professor of English, said that neither equal rights nor the competence of women to fight was the issue.

Women haven't won equal rights in this country, yet women won the right to fight in an unjust war without asking for it, Ferguson said.

#### Pro-draft

At the fringe of the crowd were five men in fatigue jackets, two of whom silently held up an American flag.

Kirk Erlich, one of the flag bearers, said that he didn't agree with draft protestors.

He said he didn't see any U.S. corporate interests in Africa nor how foreign markets were increased by going to war in Vietnam.

Erlich said the five men in fatigue jackets had all been in the service, two of them in Vietnam.

After speeches were done, a group of about 60 people opposed to a draft walked to the ROTC building and back to the Union chanting "No draft, not now, never again," and "We won't drive a tank for Chase Manhattan Bank."

Upon their return, some people who didn't agree with the protestors expressed their opinions.

"Why do you live here?" one student yelled at protestors.

"If you don't like it get the hell out," another shouted.

## Janovy pleased station purchased

The purchase of a biological station near Ogallala is "the most exciting thing that has happened to this university in 100 years," according to John Janovy, UNL life sciences professor.

Janovy said the Cedar Point Biological Station has been leased by the university for five years. The NU Board of Regents approved the purchase of the site for \$95,000 at their last meeting.

The School of Life Sciences has used the station for summer courses, where students live in cabins and "can immerse themselves totally in the biology of the area," he said.

The 33-acre site was a Girl Scout camp before UNL leased it, he said. Nine cabins house students, and four residences house faculty. A library and laboratory set up for research purposes are located in a main lodge.

The school has spent about \$20,000 on library materials alone, Janovy said. Other purchases include a four-wheel drive pickup truck, two boats and laboratory equipment.

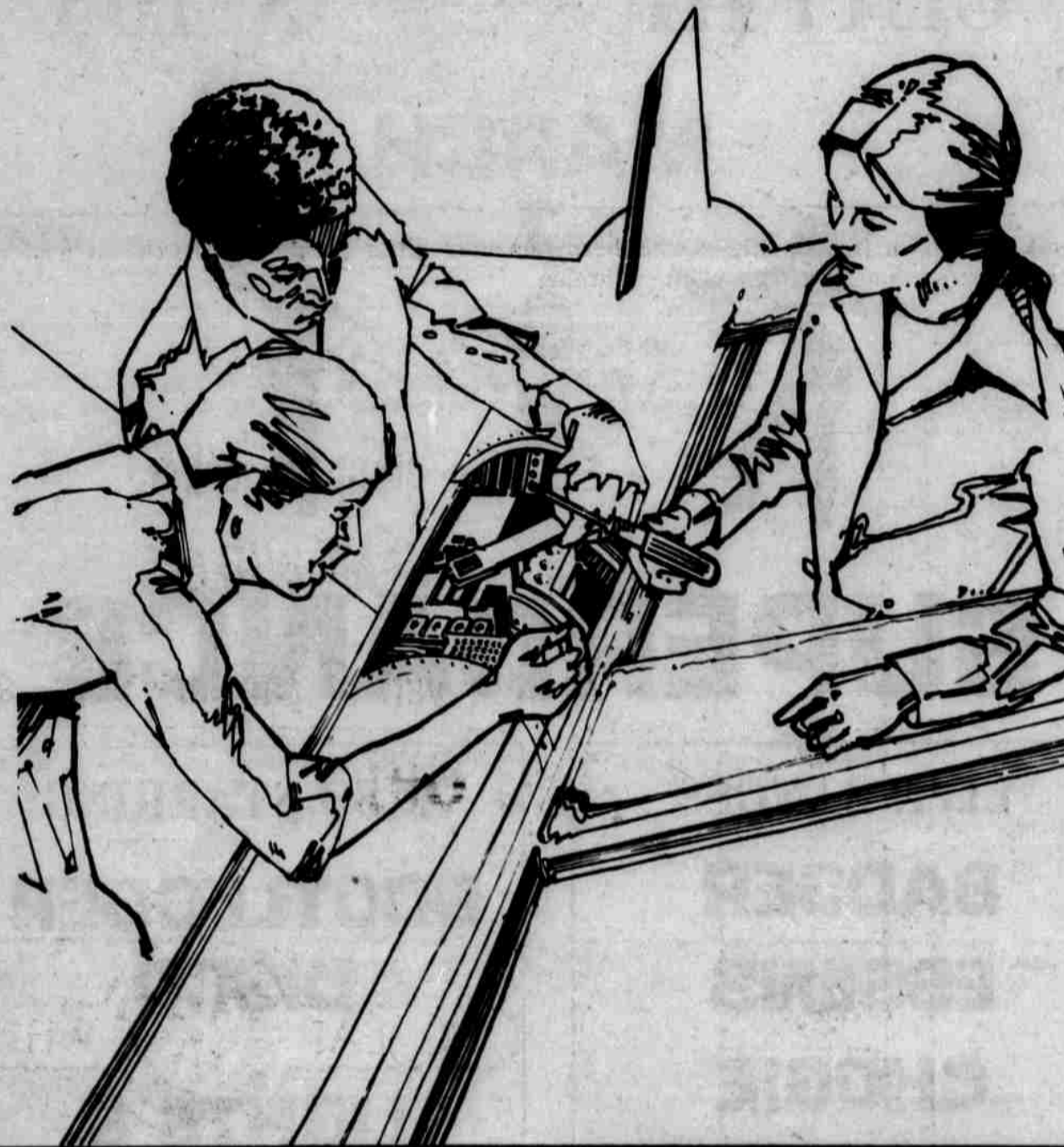
The program is one of the few opportunities faculty have to teach biology when absolutely everything they need is at their fingertips," Janovy said.

Students who participate in the summer program can receive 16 hours of 400-level coursework in two summer school sessions, Janovy said.

Janovy's book, *Keith County Journal*, is an account of the nature and biological studies at the Cedar Point sandhill location. It is dedicated to the students who participated in the summer life sciences program in 1976, he said.

"It is an incredible program," Janovy said. "It has been pure excitement for the last five years."

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