



Letters

Contradicting views

Steve Grasz, "College Republican," knows what the European Peace Movement wants. It said so in the Daily Nebraskan ("College Republicans: Unilateral disarming open door for Soviets," March 31). So, is the Daily Nebraskan trying to confuse us by telling us what the visiting leader of the European Peace Movement says, which is different from what Grasz says? ("Speaker: European de-nuclearization goal of peace movement," March 31).

Whom would good Nebraska students prefer to believe, a right-thinking "College Republican" like Grasz, who gets the straight poop from the College Republican National Committee or some left-thinking Italian who, Grasz knows on infallible authority, is sincere but "manipulated by the Soviet Union"?

To Grasz, the Peace Movement's call for "de-nuclearization of Europe from the Ural Mountains to Portugal" is a call for "unilat-

eral disarmament" by the United States and Western Europe. Either he is confused or I am. Perhaps the Urals are in West Germany. Or perhaps those are actually our missiles in the Soviet bloc countries, and we can unilaterally remove them.

The "College Republicans," we are told, support "a balanced and negotiated reduction by both the United States and the Soviet Union." Which is why they support the MX, the B-1, the cruise missile, and the Trident buildup. No doubt they also believe that the way to help the poor is to give more tax breaks to the rich.

I commend the Daily Nebraskan for contributing to the amusement as well as the education of its readers by printing the stories about the remarks of Grasz and of Giancarla Codrignani side by side.

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Cohen . . .

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No matter. We are sort of at war with Nicaragua. The president has reportedly authorized \$19 million so the CIA can covertly "de-stabilize" the Sandinista regime. When the Libyans allegedly sent 10 or 12 terrorists here to "de-stabilize" our government, we predictably went nuts. Nations should not do these sorts of things to other nations. So why are we doing it to the Nicaraguans?

Once again, we are the heavies. Once again, we play the role of the bully. We are, after all, past masters at de-stabilization.

Only a dreamy romantic could overlook the realities of big power politics. You sometimes have to make unholy alliances — deal with the sort of people you would not have to dinner. History can ensnare you. We are paying now in Latin America for the past sins of the United Fruit Co., for a patronizing view of Central and South Americans that showed itself in a thousand movies.

And only an idiot could overlook that rhetoric is only words. The North Vietnamese had terrific slogans, but they were silent about boat people. Sometimes oppressive right-wing regimes are replaced by more oppressive left-wing ones.

But that's no reason to settle always for the status quo, to attach ourselves like barnacles to whomever is in power and to compel the forces of change to look elsewhere for support. It is a perversion of history that a totalitarian regime like the Soviet Union gets to use the rhetoric of social progress, while we get stuck on the side of privilege and reaction. It would be nice to proclaim our ideals, to have the poor and underprivileged of the world look at us — shout our slogans and consider us their friend.

There are difficulties with this, I know. Practical considerations, I know. Don't worry.

It's just a dream.

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