

Daily Nebraskan

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Thursday, April 22, 1982

Vol. 109 No. 68

Lincoln, Nebraska

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Photo by D. Eric Kircher

The stuffed black figure hanging from a tree south of Richards Hall is part of a student art exhibit. Brace Physics Lab is in the background.

Ground Zero Week speaker links peace, economy issues

By Pat Higgins

The issues of peace and economy are directly linked today in the United States, Seymour Melman, an industrial engineer and economist from Columbia University said Wednesday afternoon.

Melman was speaking at Love Library as part of Ground Zero Week activities.

If the United States continues current arms policies, he said, the best-case scenario is a deterioration of the economy; the worst case, nuclear war.

"Neither of these outcomes is desirable," Melman said. "No leader wants a nuclear war, but the effects, however unintended, may well occur."

He said increased arms spending is ineffective in defending the United States, because nuclear weapons have transformed the concept of warfare.

"Even if the United States were to carry out a technically perfect first strike on the Soviet Union's nuclear forces, the consequence would be suicide by the United States because of the changes in the Earth's surface and atmosphere," he said.

Nuclear weapons are used as a psychological threat by U.S. policy-makers playing "nuclear chicken," Melman said. This has developed because of a misinterpretation

of the Cuban missile crisis in October 1962.

"The Kennedy White House played nuclear chicken and decided that they won," he said. "The Soviet Union came out of the Cuban missile crisis with an arms build-up that continues to this day."

Melman said the Cuban missile crisis ended the chance for a reversal of the arms race. In early 1962, the Kennedy administration proposed a detailed plan for an end of the arms race, he said, but the State Department refuses to reprint the proposal today.

"The full text is a blueprint to be put on the negotiating table today," he said. It's of cardinal importance in that it is a complete plan that could be used right now."

The United States military believes in a "conventional nuclear war," Melman said. NATO defenses in Western Europe have 7,000 tactical nuclear weapons. He said the debate over the neutron bomb is irrelevant because of these tactical weapons.

"U.S. armed forces are trained to win battles," Melman said. "I don't think that Soviet commanders are trained to lose either."

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Art exhibit and its early removal cause controversy, possible suit

By Bill Allen

According to Norman Geske, director of the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, student exhibits currently on display there will be taken down today, three days before the originally planned date.

The exhibits were originally planned to be up April 6 through 25.

Saturday, the gallery is sponsoring a fund raising dinner for about 400 Ak-Sar-Ben members. Geske said with that many people coming, it would be in the best interest of the gallery to have the permanent exhibits on display.

Geske said the dinner is necessary to raise funds to maintain Sheldon.

Geske sent a letter Wednesday to explain to the art students in the exhibit why their displays were being taken down early.

Caroline Meckland, a student whose art work is part of the display, said although she is upset that the displays are coming down early, the professionalism of Geske's letter helped ease some of the tension.

"I felt that the letter treated us in a very professional manner," Meckland said. "My main objection is that it (the letter) should have come several days ago."

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Professor says education cuts hit women hard

By Michiela Thuman

In fiscal 1983, an estimated 3,000 new or returning UNL students may quit or never come to college because of proposed federal aid to education cuts, said Elaine Franco. Franco is the chairperson of Committee "W" (on the status of women) with the American Association of University Professors.

Franco, also assistant professor of UNL libraries, spoke Wednesday about the effect of proposed budget cuts on women faculty and students.

The proposed cuts in aid to education would have great impact on the academic world, Franco said, and a distinct impact on women faculty and students. Franco also is past president of the Lincoln chapter of the National Organization for Women.

Cuts would result in denied access to Guaranteed Student Loans to graduate students except under a special auxiliary loan, she said.

Cuts also would result in a decline in the availability of Pell grants, she said. Pell grants, once available to students whose families' maximum income did not exceed \$27,000, have a reduced income eligibility rate not exceeding \$18,000 Franco said.

Drastic cuts in or elimination of National Direct Student Loans and Graduate Fellowships and cuts in research funding also would be effects, she said.

John F. Kennedy once said, "A child miseducated is lost," Lyndon B. Johnson said, "Freedom is fragile if people are ignorant," while Reagan, when governor of California, said, "Why should we subsidize intellectual curiosity?" Franco said.

Franco said women especially would suffer from the impact of cuts.

Women are more dependent on financial aid assistance, as their families are less likely to sacrifice the expenses

necessary for funding a college education for a female, she said. Also, on the average, women's salaries are 60 percent lower than men's. It is harder, then, for women to finance an education without assistance, she said.

Women also tend to be more dependent on university-provided housing, she said.

Financial cuts would affect areas and programs which are heavily populated by women, such as jobs in elementary and secondary schools, the social and behavioral sciences, the humanities and the arts, she said. Improvement training, library and adult education programs also would be affected.

Financial cuts would cause the elimination of two programs devised specifically to aid women, Franco said.

The Women in Science Program, established in 1980, already has been eliminated. It was set up to provide for the Technology Equal Opportunity Act, she said. The program provided training and fellowship opportunities for women scientists and helps award visiting professorships to women scientists with doctorate degrees.

The second program, The Women in Education Equity Act, was designed to "confront the problem of sexism in higher education," she said. It aids in the development of curriculum and text materials, and research and training programs for educators.

Although the future may appear bleak for students and faculty members, Franco said, it seems unlikely that Ronald Reagan's 1983 financial proposals will go through.

"He was asking for widely drastic cuts," she said.

With the combined efforts of organized student and faculty lobbies and public pressure on Congress not to accept the proposals, a satisfying compromise can be reached, she said.

Franco's speech, part of the 4th annual Women's Week activities at UNL, was sponsored by Committee "W" of the UNL American Association of University Professors.



Photo by Jodie Fields

Elaine Franco spoke Wednesday in the Nebraska Union for Women's Week.