

Contrasts . . .

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The creatures and creators of Reaganomics counted on our ability to walk around the bodies. They have assumed that those of us with jobs, those of us who have "slipped" only as far as shopping at sales and juggling bills will quietly count our blessings and not notice that others have missed their dinner.

But we are not comfortable living cliches. There is something primal about

feeding. There is nothing like hunger to sharpen the senses, and the consciences.

My own file has a collection of the gaps between haves and have-nots. But in real life, poverty isn't a gap. It's a sinkhole. Untended, the ground will collapse under a wider and wider number of people. We know the sound it makes, a noise as ominous as the rumbling of an empty stomach.

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Wimpdom . . .

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What we need today is some politician, administrator, ASUN leader, janitor, anybody, to swallow hard and do that gut-wrenching, heart-tugging, eye-watering blasphemy: stand ramrod straight, get everyone's attention, claim at the top of their voice that the pursuit of human dignity, quality education and an improved public welfare is top priority, and never alter that course.

On the other hand, you can tell when a wimp is speaking: his spine goes rubbery,

his posture is terrible, his upper lip sweats. Conservative wimps also will never recognize that there is such a thing as social responsibility, while a liberal wimp conveniently forgets.

We're paying a surcharge because of these wimps; we've had to assume the responsibility. If we don't start recognizing wimps and getting rid of them, we can kiss our collective self-respect goodbye. In a society that calls an ace an ace and a spud a spud, we must, above all, call a wimp a wimp.

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The Daily Nebraskan encourages brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available in the newspaper.

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