

Editorial

Men of vision have different voices

Last weekend I finally managed to see "Gandhi," one of the more interesting films of the year. I would have liked to have simply relaxed and watched the film, but my mind was filled with the shadows of the past and the present.

The shadows reminded me that there is an unpleasant side to the story of a man like Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who was lifted to power by people crying for strong leadership and deliverance.

For those cries are not always answered by a man with the humanitarian vision that Gandhi had. Adolf Hitler answered the same cries when they rose in a different country.

Like Gandhi, Hitler first proved his ability to sway the masses in smaller situations before moving on to national renown. Gandhi began by fighting for the rights of Indians in South Africa, a corner of the British Empire. Hitler began in the beer halls of Bavaria, rousing the nationalists to fury. Both men gained much support with the force of their personalities.

Both men were extremely skillful at utilizing both political and non-political methods. Hitler took advantage of the political and economic chaos of his country and used it along with the threat of violence to work his way into the government.

Gandhi skillfully managed to appeal to many shades in the political spectrum. He combined his manipulations of the political structure with more unusual methods like fasting and civil disobedience. Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933, and Gandhi reached the peak of his power in 1931.

Both men took on god-like status in their countries because of their promises to end the problems of their people. Hitler promised an end to the Depression, and everyone believed him. Gandhi promised Muslim-Hindu unity in an independent India, and everyone believed him, too. Both met with some measure of success, again, in different ways.

Both men flew on wings of rhetoric, on speeches about national pride and human dignity. One then used this to impress a reign of terror on his country and eventually on the world. The other man had a very different goal in mind, but his methods were similar.

The independent India that Gandhi worked for is a country in turmoil, turmoil exemplified by the massacres that took place last week prior to the Indian elections. Hindu tribesmen asked for a boycott of the elections to protest the fact that Bengali refugees in India are being allowed to vote.

More than 1,100 Moslem villagers were slaughtered for defying the boycott when the villages were stormed by citizens of the northeastern Indian state of Assam, armed with machetes, hatchets and guns. The democracy that Gandhi hoped for continues to struggle for existence, at a very high price.

These facts are not meant to knock Gandhi off his pedestal, or to paint an entirely pessimistic picture of the work that he and other world leaders have tried to do. They are meant to penetrate the mythology that films like "Gandhi" perpetuate, and to clarify our view of history.

In order to maintain that clarity of vision, it is necessary for people to be educated, to be able to discern the reality underneath the words.

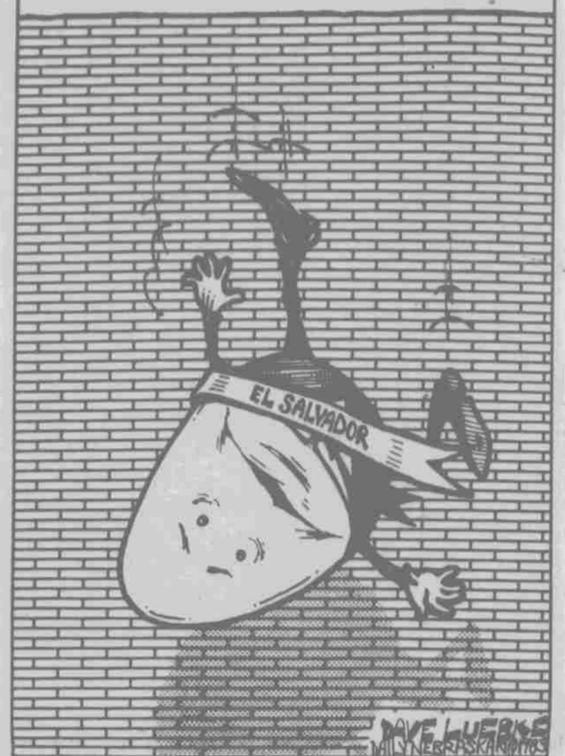
It is easy to watch films like "Gandhi" and get caught up in the story of the great man. Unfortunately, the Germans believed they were getting caught up in a similar story.

"The only devils running around are in our hearts, and that is where our battles ought to be fought," Gandhi says in the film, and he is right.

It is in our hearts that we should deeply consider the world around us.

It is important to have leaders with the vision of Gandhi rather than the distortion of Hitler, but what is more important is that we have the wisdom to know the difference.

David Thompson



Not just another tourist trap, Lincoln entices 'Berts' again

The welcome arrival of spring-like weather reminds us that before too long, summer will be here and vacation season will get into full gear. This year, the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce is going all out to promote the capital city.

Last summer was a bad one for Lincoln tourism. An official chamber study indicated that the city had only six tourists all season long (all who were named Bert, the



Mike Frost

survey further indicated). However, this year, the chamber vows to capitalize on the plethora of everyday events that Lincolnsites take for granted, yet could hold a special allure for out-of-towners.

A pamphlet, entitled "Spend a Week in Lincoln One Day" describes, in glowing detail, the veritable plethora of sights available to the typical tourist visiting Nebraska's capital city.

1. The most appropriate spot to start your Lincoln sightseeing day is at the beautiful Founding Block Landmark. "The scenic wonder at 10th and Q streets has been a first stop for tourists since the '60s. Not only can you marvel at its concrete splendor (bring plenty of film) but you can park there as well."

2. Folsom Children's Zoo. "The animal menagerie that Johnny Cash made famous in story and song. Added attraction for 1983: another animal for our beautiful Mammal Kingdom display: Perry the puppy. He joins Clarence the kitty cat, Donny the Dachshund and Slappy Greenbaum, the happy human, in this, the zoo's largest and fastest-growing display."

3. Lincoln Transportation Service Wound, Kill and Maim Competition. (Daily event.) "Mom and dad will be thrilled, and the kids will be too, as they watch those lovable Lincoln bus drivers playfully nudge

pedestrians, bump bicyclists and of course, sideswipe passing motorists. Rush hour is special matinee time, featuring that all-time favorite, Blindfolded Traffic Maneuvers. All this for just 60 cents."

4. Plan a Downtown Redevelopment Project. "A favorite activity of Lincoln natives. The whole family can play. It only takes a few minutes and, who knows, you might devise the scheme that saves our city's downtown. Gives the kids valuable insights into city planning. Try it. Please."

5. The Beautiful Lincoln Marina. "Spend the afternoon watching the grand sailing ships from ports of call as diverse as East Lincoln and North Lincoln." A related activity is exciting Lincoln International Airport, "where you and your family can watch those giant twin engine Cessnas rumble in for a landing every two hours or so. An excellent chance for the kids to hear firsthand what language they speak in North Platte."

6. Mel Main's Blooper Hunt. A "10-11 Strong" presentation. "Veteran broadcaster Mains, actually a native of Bristol, England, pretends to flub names, places and actions for your enjoyment. If you're lucky, you might catch Mel on a day when Martina Navratilova visits Sadegh Ghotzbadeh's grave near Azerbaijan. As if this weren't fun enough, you and your family can then try to figure out exactly what "10-11 Strong" is supposed to mean."

7. Game Room Hopping. "The Riviera has its casinos, Los Angeles has its Sunset Strip and Omaha its restaurant row, but Lincoln's pride and joy is its Game Room Alley. Video games galore abound in the capital city, with more than 10 game galleries in the downtown area alone. And, if you're hungry, remember most galleries feature scrumptious submarine sandwiches. As they say in game room vernacular, 'Go for it.'"

Here's hoping the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce can make 1983 Lincoln's most successful tourist season yet. However, it won't be easy. Two men named Bert just cancelled their hotel reservations.

Letters

Spectroscopy article interesting

I would like to applaud the Daily Nebraskan and reporter Lori Sullivan for the article on spectroscopy (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 24). The topic was interesting and the reporter made a complex story understandable.

This coverage is, I hope, indicative of a trend in campus journalism. First, a very large percentage of UNL's students and faculty are involved in technical research which would make equally interesting and informative reading.

Second, such coverage would be very newsworthy and appropriate to a campus newspaper. After all, why should the campus press, which is on the scene of significant research in fields like chemistry, biology, engineering and agricultural

engineering, be scooped by the local and national press?

And third, our society is becoming increasingly technical and will require specialists to report developments in these rapidly expanding fields. The campus press seems an ideal vehicle for potential reporters to gain experience and a portfolio in this field — thereby beating out hundreds of hopeful reporters who have only liberal arts and entertainment backgrounds when it comes to finding a job.

Again, my congratulations to Lori Sullivan and the news editor who had the judgment to assign such an article.

Tamara Russell
graduate student, journalism

Services should expand, not move

We are displeased with Sid Pinney's comments concerning the Women's Resource Center in "Board elects officers, addresses issue proposals" (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 24). His suggestion to move the WRC to the second floor of the Nebraska Union (a much less visible location) and move Student Legal Services in its place is puzzling to say the least. We think the survey among sororities is a highly inadequate means to determine the need of the WRC. Should data

have been collected from a more viable means, research would have revealed the WRC serves many more students daily than does Student Legal Services — all the more reason for keeping and hopefully expanding the WRC at its present site.

Nicola Ayres
graduate, life sciences
Julia Palmer
graduate, geology
Terry Prebensen
graduate, English

'Week on Wagon' commendable

I applaud Alpha Tau Omega's effort to recognize the excessive use and abuse of alcohol on campus with their "Week on the Wagon." However, the week begins in the middle of a weekend and ends in the middle of the next. This arrangement allows fraternity and sorority participants to imbibe on one night each weekend. A better

test or sacrifice would be to have the Wagon Week to begin on a Wednesday. This would demonstrate a better effort on the part of participants by foregoing an entire weekend, which I believe to be the period of most alcohol consumption.

Shelley Fetters
sophomore, chemical engineering