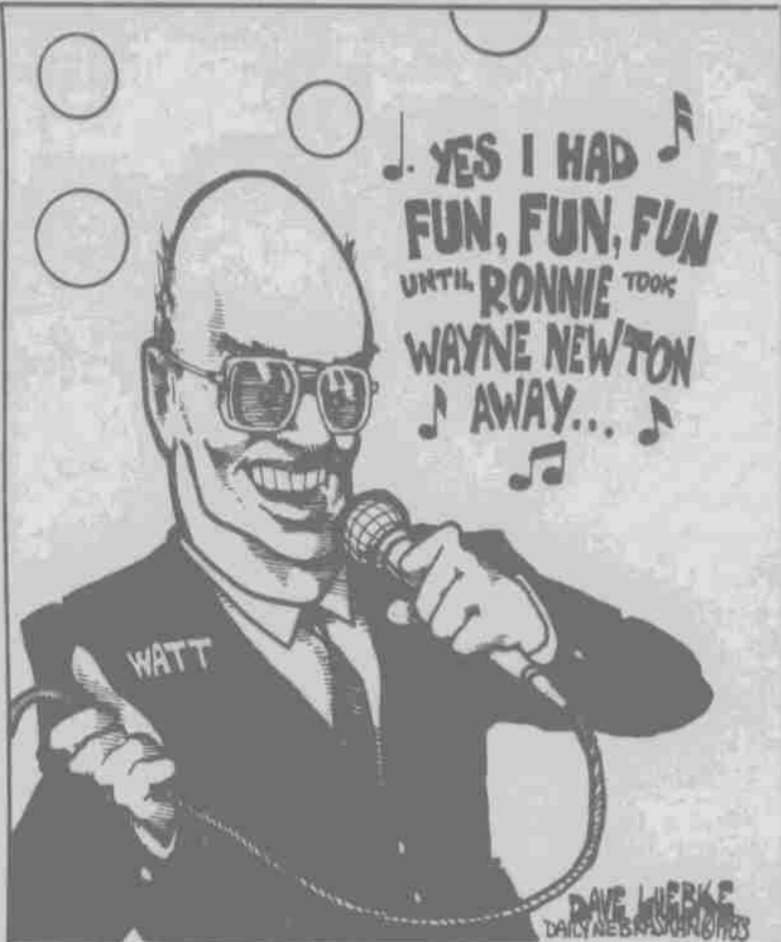


Editorial



Women's Week: A time to change outdated attitudes

Women, this is your week.

And men, this is the week to recognize women and get involved in the many activities brought to campus by the Women's Resource Center and the University Program Council.

These two groups have done an outstanding job of organizing a week-long calendar of events, speakers and entertainment, all of which have significance for both women and men.

Women's Week, April 10 through 17, is a time to learn and to enjoy. With that in mind, we'd like to draw attention to the serious issues being considered by the various events — and we'd like to show the lighter side by giving a few outlandish illustrations depicting the attitudes women faced in the not-so-distant past.

The agenda shows a balance of the difficulties facing women and the successes that have been achieved. Among the problems to be discussed are date rape, abusive relationships, stereotypes, health problems, mothering, racial disadvantages and career planning. Other programs emphasize women's achievements in art, writing, athletics, Plains history and Nebraska government.

One of the highlights of Women's Week is the Friday luncheon where we have the chance to meet and talk with the newly appointed women in Gov. Kerrey's administration. Kerrey has done a fine job of seeing that women are not overlooked in positions of power; now it's the university's turn to voice concerns to these women and show that we are eager to give them our input and support.

Such women as Mayor Helen Boosalis and the other featured guests who serve as directors of state agencies bring to mind the progress that women have made not only in politics but in all walks of life. It seems fitting to compare this to the plight of our female ancestors, who had little hope for respect, let alone equity.

The April issue of Ms. magazine looks at several laws which are hard to rationalize at any point in history.

For example, "No woman in San Francisco can spray her laundry cloths by squirting water out of her mouth;" "A Michigan law permits a man whose wife has left him to follow her down the street removing articles of her clothing one by one because they are 'his property';" and in Kentucky, no female can appear in a bathing suit on any highway unless escorted by two officers or armed with a club. This doesn't apply to females weighing less than 96 pounds or more than 200 pounds, "nor shall it apply to female horses."

These statutes are only humorous when you consider the ignorance that gave rise to them. Let's hope the fifth annual Women's Week can make strides in continuing to fight the ignorance which keeps women, even today, from achieving equity.

Daily
Nebraskan

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN (USPS 144-080) IS PUBLISHED BY THE UNL PUBLICATIONS BOARD MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY DURING THE FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS, EXCEPT DURING VACATIONS. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE DAILY NEBRASKAN, RM. 34 NEBRASKA UNION, 68588. SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$13/SEMESTER, \$25/YEAR. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LINCOLN, NEBRASKA. ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1983 DAILY NEBRASKAN

Reagan tax cut works for the rich

When Ronald Reagan wants to show how much he thinks of the little guy, he drinks a beer in a blue-collar bar.

When he wants to show how much he thinks of the rich, he gives them a tax cut.

The three-year tax cut that Reagan pushed through Congress was an across-the-board cut, which means



Eric
Peterson

that the actual effect of it is regressive; the rich have and will gain a lot more than it than anybody else.

The Congressional Budget Office has projected that Reagan's tax cuts, combined with his very selective spending cuts, will make the rich richer and the poor worse off. The Congressional Budget Office has calculated that the poorest families will lose about \$150 each this year because of the tax and spending cuts, while those families with incomes between \$40,000 and \$80,000 will gain an average of \$1,800 each from the tax cuts, according to the February issue of *Dollars and Sense*. Families with income of more than \$80,000 might gain an additional \$15,000 each.

The final installment of the Reagan tax cuts this summer will only deepen the income gap between people in this country. Family income in the United States had become slightly more evenly distributed during the last

30 years — until this recession. Beginning in 1979, the share of income going to the lower 60 percent of the U.S. population has declined, while that going to the upper 40 percent of U.S. families has increased, according to the Census Bureau.

The poorest fifth of families saw its share of the national income decline from 5.2 percent to 5 percent from 1979 to 1981, while at the nation's richest fifth of the population increased its share of the national income from 41.6 percent to 41.9 percent.

One of the main reasons that the poor managed to gain as much as they did during the last 30 years was the development of certain parts of the welfare state. In 1950, the federal government spent \$7.5 billion on transfer payments; in 1980, it was \$205 billion. But with Reagan's attacks on all federal spending except the Pentagon's budget, transfer payments are less equalizing than they were in the past.

Without these transfer payments, the economy would have been immeasurably more unstable and top heavy. The difference (or at least one big difference) between the Great Depression and the recessions of the 1970s was the greater income distribution; we didn't fall into another abyss because the middle class is larger than it was in the 1920s and because the lower class is not as desperately poor as it was then.

Poor families are 85 percent better off in absolute income, even after an adjustment for inflation, than they were in 1950, according to *Dollars and Sense*. However, this may not continue. The recession (in which the people on the bottom always suffer most), the regressive tax cut and the ideologized selfishness of Reagan's social and welfare policies are doing a job on the middle and lower classes in America that not even a glass of beer can disguise.

Hu Na wins deserved U.S. asylum

By defecting here, Hu Na has performed a public service worthy of a citizen. She has caused discomfort to some people here and in China, who deserve it.

When the 19-year-old Chinese tennis player defected during a California tournament last July, the Reagan administration should have immediately said to Peking: Anyone within our borders has an absolute right to apply for political asylum. This is a legal, not a political process, so butt out. There is no way this process can end other than in a grant of asylum.



George
Will

And this is true also for the 1,000 Chinese (of the 10,000 now in this country) who have become enemies of the Chinese regime by seeking asylum.

Instead, the administration dithered for nine months and did so for — it is glaringly obvious — political reasons. As this is written, a decision — the right one — is near. The appeasers (the word fits) have lost their battle to have Hu granted something less than political asylum, some indefinite but temporary and revokable permission to remain here.

Although Peking demanded it, there never was a possibility that Hu would be "sent back." Persons denied asylum are not extradited to the country from which they are fleeing. They can go to any nation that will take them. Taiwan (I know, I know: we have declared it a non-nation) would take her. Would Peking like that?

In the agreement within the State Department, the human-rights advocates defeated those people who rise every morning wondering what they can do that day to please Peking. The department recommended to the Immigration and Naturalization Service that Hu be given political asylum. INS also always takes the State Department's recommendation. But not this time. Fortunately, it is up to the attorney general to make a final decision. Hu will get political asylum.

The INS is reportedly in a snit because the State Department did not furnish what INS considers sufficient reasons for its recommendations. In 1980 the law was changed, so there no longer is a presumption that persons fleeing Communist countries have valid reasons for fleeing.

But when asked why she wants asylum, Hu gives persuasive reasons, including threats aimed at forcing her to join the Communist Party and fear of becoming a victim of factional strife. It is absurd to ask why anyone would want to escape from one of the world's most repressive regimes. But she has what the law requires: a well-founded fear of persecution, were she to return.

When Hu was playing for China and lost a match, her team captain would say it was a sign that "I had not sufficiently studied Marxist-Leninist thought." Her grandfather, a coach, was purged for neglecting the Communist dimensions of tennis, whatever that means. A player was sentenced to a year at hard labor because he threw his racket during a match abroad — a sure sign of capitalist influence. Hu has been severely criticized for fraternizing with foreigners while abroad, and — oh! bourgeoisie deviationism! — wearing tennis clothes with American brand names.

We may be past the period of ludicrous enthusiasm for China, the period when, as Pat Moynihan says, many Americans returned from China more impressed by the absence of flies than the absence of freedom. But there is in the United States a lobby devoted to pleasing Peking, and therefore terrified of truthful talk about Peking. The core of the relations with particular countries often become single-minded about reducing "friction" with, and increasing the contentment of, that country.

What Peking's advocates say is wrong with granting Hu political asylum is actually what makes political asylum so pleasing: It is offensive to Peking. Thus it is welcome evidence that the U.S. government can assert itself against Peking.

Political asylum for Hu is offensive to Peking because it is a clear comment on China's ugly, irrational totalitarianism. (No one from, say, Denmark, could be granted political asylum.) Political asylum also is splendidly offensive because it clearly expresses disbelief concerning China's assurances that Hu would not be persecuted were she to return.

In this episode, Peking has shown disrespect for U.S. legal processes and confidence that the U.S. government would cave in to pressure. Why? Because from the Shanghai communique (1972) through the Reagan administration's capitulation concerning arms for Taiwan (committing the United States to phase out sales), the United States has earned Peking's contempt.

Finally, the fact that Reagan's administration contrived to make a long-running problem and embarrassment out of what should have been a quick, easy decision illustrates this administration's failure to communicate certain core values to certain recesses of the bureaucracy.