

Editorial

Lounge gives women needed sanctuary

I've heard two arguments from women who want to keep their lounge in the Nebraska Union.

One says the women's lounge is a quiet, private place where women can escape the pressures of frenzied campus life.

The other says the lounge is a place where women can feel safe — protected from some of the harsher realities of UNL's campus.

The first argument is prejudicial. If women need a quiet place, then men also need one. If locating computers in the lounge simply would displace women who need a quiet place, I wouldn't object.

The second argument illustrates the

fact that many women feel unsafe on campus. The rapes and assaults that occur on campus fuel that fear, which is real, and justified. Some women say it's still a "man's world," hence not always safe or comfortable for women.

The second argument is the most powerful reason to keep the lounge. If women don't feel safe on campus, and evidence indicates they aren't always safe, then the lounge is essential.

Computers certainly would be a great addition to the union, and UNL students need them desperately. Any computer science major can tell you about the problems in their department: outdated computers and limit-

ed access. New computers and 24-hour access would be two severe blows to those problems.

There is no doubt, though, that until women can feel safe anywhere on campus, the lounge is necessary. Maybe, just maybe, someday there won't be need for a women's lounge.

The Student Watch group is one step in the right direction. Bob Fey of the UNL Police Department said Monday the watch group is fulfilling need in our community.

He said they are serving as a deterrent to crime, but that he could not make any correlations between the group and the number of sexual as-

saults; it's too early to tell any effect they may have had.

Ultimately, attitudes have to change. Until women stop feeling they live in a "man's world," which is often unsafe for them, they will need a secure place like the lounge for a place to relax. A place where one doesn't have to keep looking over one's shoulder.

Both needs are real.

But because the computers aren't settled anywhere yet, and the women who use the lounge are, it would be easier to put the computers somewhere else until the lounge isn't needed. That could be a long time.

— Chris Welsh

Ricoh pitchman turns capitalist pig dog red

It had been coming for a long time, but last week it exploded. A once-proud American and aspiring capitalist pig dog fell to the dark side.

Oh, it wasn't the exploitation of lower class citizens for the benefit of Big White Rich Daddies, nor was it so much the killing of third world peasants who threatened national interests.

No, those lower class citizens, as the so very astute Paul Harvey has informed us, are exploited because



Christopher Burbach

they want to be exploited. Those crazy peasants can't read or write; furthermore, they don't even speak English.

It wasn't the discovery that only rich folk can become legislators and rulers or the realization that women and people with dark-colored skin are markedly less equal than white men.

Even fear created by a military-industrial-government complex, whose interchangeable leaders' greediness renders the pursuit of peace by lesser beings futile, wasn't enough to convince me.

What finally severed the umbilical cord between me and Mother Capitalism and left me in a basket on the doorstep of the Old Sea Hag Communism were two advertisements — Ricoh copiers and a cable television spot.

Five times in half an hour, the obnoxious Ricoh man pointed his finger at me and said, "Ricoh's bigger!" Then the television screen praised Albert Einstein as the greatest marketer ever (something like "excitement equals more cable"). I cracked under pressure of the Ricoh man's personal affront and the public disgrace of Einstein's memory.

Advertising is a necessary evil in a free market system, which is based on competition. In a communist system, however, the people own all raw materials, means of production and finished products. There is no need for advertising.

That is why I've chosen to endorse Gus Hall, the Communist Party's candidate for United States President.

I'm willing to sacrifice my religious freedom, my freedom to say or read what I want, my freedom to own two cars and a color television set.

I'll eat black bread, swallow propaganda whole, worship the State, inform on my neighbors, wear homespun gunnysacks in midwinter. All this and more will I do to see my country wiped clean of the scourge of advertising.

No private enterprise equals no advertising. No advertising equals peace of mind. What matter the ideology of my rulers when peace of mind is in question? Go Gus!

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1984 Daily Nebraskan. They are written by this semester's editor in chief, Larry Sparks.

Other staff members will write editorials throughout the semester. They will carry the author's name after the final sentence.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the newspaper.

According to policy set by the regents, the content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.



Letters

World unity sought

I would like to thank Krishna Madan for presenting a very well written and thought-provoking column (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 10).

I feel he correctly defined the problem we face today and what must be done if our species is to progress to a more spiritual understanding of life on this planet. What this transformation must entail, of course, is a more enlightened approach toward the creation of more positive values in our relationships with one another and with all life on this planet.

Indeed, I find it very ironic that many religious doctrines of today preach world unity, while criticizing others for their seemingly divergent beliefs. Many people are so busy criticizing others that they don't take the time to actually practice what they profess to believe in.

Jim Anderson
Lincoln

Liberal views obsolete

Eric Peterson's column (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 9) is a masterpiece in anachronistic rhetoric. Although the purpose of the article is obscured in a swirling eddy of fashionable liberal double-talk, I think Peterson intended to decry the growing conservatism of the nation and college campuses in particular.

For some reason, he is trying to make us feel guilty that the early 1970s have become nothing more than an unfortunate footnote in American history. If liberal and leftist activity has disappeared from the campus, perhaps it is due to a realization that times have changed and that the empty promises of the left can no longer be taken seriously. Perhaps the recent parade of Soviet-inspired perversions of Marxist ideology spreading across the globe like so many festering sores on the body politic has made us a bit more cautious in our criticism of democracy.

I am tired of silly assertions that political conser-

vatism leads to cultural mediocrity. Peterson's rose-colored years of political activism brought us such monumental cultural achievements as Warhol's glorification of a soup can on canvas and the torching of university buildings as avant-garde theater of the macabre. Mozart, El Greco and Shakespeare hardly came from the most liberal of societies yet their work is of a quality unparalleled in recent years. It could easily be argued that the trivialization and vulgarization of American culture can be traced to the sorry trends toward liberalism characteristic of the late 20th century.

Maybe I'm just trying to say that we want to work through the system now, not around it. Maybe we want our children and professors in the classroom, not in the streets like a swarming mob of deluded lemmings. Maybe we are tired of the violent excesses of pampered children playing at social revolution because it is the "in" thing to do. Maybe we are sick of the pitiable self-loathing that characterizes liberal ideology. Maybe the debasement of traditional values by those with no solutions has left us unimpressed. Maybe we are proud of ourselves and our nation and the time for guilt is over. Maybe we just want this country conservative.

Daniel A. Zariski
senior
political science

Science has limits

I expected creationist response to Krishna Madan. I am surprised, however, to see a reply from a physics student. It is always disappointing to realize that students can pass through modern science curricula without understanding that science deals only with natural phenomena. Creation is, of course, a supernatural phenomenon, and consequently it is outside the realm of science.

Les Lane
associate professor
plant pathology