

Editorial

Citizens must lead U. S. back to morality

The *New York Times* reported last weekend that Roberto D'Aubisson, a right-wing candidate for president of El Salvador, still is active in directing the activities of El Salvador's death squads.

It has also been reported that the commander of the Second Brigade in El Salvador's army ordered the execution of four American nuns.

That was four years ago and the accused murderers have yet to be brought to trial.

Let's face it. The government of El Salvador is made up of hoodlums and gangsters. They make Al Capone look like a saint. And these are our allies.

A reasonable person (and there doesn't seem to be many of them around these days) might ask why the United States has chosen to support such a

government.

The best answer our government can give us is that the government of El Salvador isn't communist and must not become communist.

This is the kind of narrow-minded, asinine thinking that has guided our foreign policy since the end of World War II.

Only a fool would argue that the average Nicaraguan was better off under Somoza than he is now. Certainly the Sandinista government has committed human rights violations, but look at the overall picture. The illiteracy rate has dropped dramatically. Health care has improved and people are able to make a decent living.

We have to recognize that evil exists at both ends

of the political spectrum and it should not be the business of the United States government to support foreign leaders merely because they are anti-communist.

If an El Salvador, a Guatemala, tortures and murders its citizens, the United States should cut off all aid to that government, not only military, but economic as well. Often the economic aid is just as important to the survival of a government as the military equipment and training it receives.

The tragedy of all this, besides the pain these governments are inflicting on their people with the help of the United States, is that it is also a betrayal of the American people and the ideals they hold.

— Jeff Goodwin



Changes in human relationships outweigh high-tech advancements

Any serious study of the future should focus on the really fundamental changes in store for us, i.e. changes in the relations between people.

Although the latter is less easy to grasp, it is more important than simple technological and material change. A look at the differences that exist in our world today will illustrate this.



Krishna Madan

Here at UNL we have foreign students who come from villages that do not have electricity. Yet some of these students are now studying advanced electronics.

It only took them a little time and effort to master the technological and material differences between their native communities and that of Lincoln.

The same would be true if we could transport a European from the 12th Century to modern America.

Our time-traveller would be surprised by cars, airplanes and computers at first but would soon learn to master them if she were given the required training.

What our time-traveller would find most bewildering would be the relations that exist between people in modern America.

She would be surprised by the independence of women, the existence of the vote and the lack of closeness among friends and members of the family. It would take her a lifetime to adjust to these things.

Since historical change is accelerating tremendously, we might be similarly surprised at the nature of American society 50 years from now. In order to lessen this surprise, we need to understand some trends in our society.

The first is the natural desire of

women to contribute their talents in areas outside of the family. This is putting a severe strain on the nuclear family since it is hard for two working spouses to take care of their children and do household chores.

Three developments are relieving this strain. The first two are the increased use of daycares and the growth of "babysitting pools" in which parents take turns taking care of each other's children.

* These developments are important because they mean that a significant percentage of the early rearing of the child is increasingly being done outside the home.

The third development is the emergence of new non-blood social units in which people of different ages and marital statuses live together and take turns with the chores, help with the children and, sometimes, pool financial resources.

The second major societal trend is the construction of multi-family dwellings in which families share a home that contains private bedrooms and bathrooms but common kitchen, dining and living room areas.

The result of all these trends and developments is that the nuclear family will be broken down and replaced by a quite different basic social unit.

As people learn to live together, help each other out and share, a new consciousness will emerge that will be opposed to the extreme individualism, selfishness and competitiveness of capitalist society.

Representational democracy — the political backbone of capitalism — will come under attack. It will be destroyed not by guns but by computers which will enable citizens to communicate with each other and vote directly.

Politically and economically, future society will resemble the council democracy of revolutionary Paris (1871), Russia (1917-1921) and Spain (1936-1939) more than it does the present.

Commonwealth undermines faith in state government

As one who first deposited money in Commonwealth Savings Co. early in 1983, I would like to make the following observations in response to your editorial of March 5.

First, if I had known the true information about Commonwealth, I would

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not have deposited my money there. However, it is now apparent that the true financial information was not available to potential depositors. Commonwealth's financial statements were inaccurate and the state banking department, which knew of the institution's significant problems several years ago, would not give any indication of those problems to potential depositors for fear of a run on the institution.

I do not think it should be necessary for a person making a deposit in an institution such as Commonwealth to have to question the guarantee of a seemingly independent insuring organization (the Nebraska Depository Institution Guaranty Corp.), especially one that was required by law to advertise the guarantee. I think it is reasonable to assume that those who made that law would also make sure that there was proper regulation of the insuring organization so that the guarantee would be met. I sincerely doubt that many depositors investigate the FDIC or FSLIC before making deposits in member institutions.

Even if all the information were readily available, I think it is unrealistic to expect all potential depositors to be well enough trained in accounting to be able to fully understand the implications of all the items on the financial statements of institutions such as Commonwealth and the NDICG. In fact, part of the rationale for government regulation is that most depositors would not have such ability.

Secondly, the management of Commonwealth is, of course, also responsible for its failure, but state government

is not blameless. The state Department of Banking had responsibility for monitoring the activities of Commonwealth and the NDICG. Neither worked very well. The report prepared by John Miller and David Domina documents what most reasonable people would consider at least lax supervision. Mr. Miller, Mr. Domina and the three members of the State Claims Board have all implied the strong possibility of state liability. Given all this, it is difficult for me to see how you can conclude that the state has no obligation to Commonwealth depositors.

Thirdly, obviously the state senators have obligations to their own constituents. However, even if they have no constituents who are Commonwealth depositors, it seems to me they ought to be concerned about the depositors for several reasons:

- The NDICG has successfully assisted other institutions in Nebraska.
- A liquidation of the assets of Commonwealth would have a detrimental effect on the economy of Lancaster County and other parts of the state.
- As taxpayers, the depositors of Commonwealth have contributed to programs (both state and federal) that have been beneficial to other than just their own districts.

• The reputation of the state will be severely damaged if a fair solution to the problem is not enacted.

Finally, for me, the most disappointing and disillusioning part of the situation is the destruction of one's faith in the good will of people, especially those governing us. We read about what is legal or illegal, constitutional or unconstitutional. I realize this is necessary in a complex society in which consideration must be given to the rights of all people. However, I am disturbed that we read or hear very little about what's right or wrong, what's fair or unfair. It does not seem right or fair that the depositors should bear the burden of the mismanagement and possible fraud at Commonwealth, the inability of the NDICG to meet its guarantee, and the failure of state government to take timely action.

Warren Luckner
assistant professor and director
actuarial science



Letters

Article lacked reality

This letter is in response to Krishna Madan's column on Soviet "democracy" (*Daily Nebraskan*, March 2). It is one thing to postulate that democracy exists in the Soviet Union from the security of academic conjecture. Reality is quite another thing.

I am a first-generation American. My family left the Ukraine in 1949 and arrived in this country in 1951. Because of their German ancestry, my grandparents, uncle and father were to be executed, but fled.

Mr. Madan, it would be easy to en-

gage in "scholarly rhetoric" and hurl my own symbols of thought. Our premises differ. I do not hate; I am interested in truth. Unproductive bitterness creates a Soviet Union. If you should desire the experiential perspective please give me an hour of your time. I hope to transfer to UNL this fall when I may find security through pursuit of academic truths.

Charles W. Martel
Concordia College
Seward