

Editorial

Springsteen songs plead political message

Bruce Springsteen didn't even mention the Cornhuskers. When he spoke to the audience packed into the Bob Devaney Sports Center Sunday night, he spoke of Central America, the hungry and our responsibility for others. Springsteen tried to turn his audience's attention to some of the social issues of which many of his songs are filled. "If I was you, I'd watch out what's happening down in Central America," Springsteen said. "Last time it was my generation. This time it'll be your generation." It could very well be ours if the United States invades Nicaragua. The signs that

invasion is imminent are there, and yet it seems the American public doesn't take it seriously. The public is leaving the government to play with our lives as it wishes. As Springsteen said, "Blind faith is a dangerous thing." And blind faith is exactly what the American public has in its government. We blindly believed government officials when they said they had no plan for invading Nicaragua, when in fact reliable sources have said the government did have a plan which they decided not to implement before the election. We blindly allowed our government to ignore the plight of drought-stricken Ethio-

opia for the duration of the four-year drought in Africa. Government officials denied Ethiopia aid because of its Marxist government and its Communist ties. Did we give our government the right to use food as a bargaining unit with starving people? We are only in this country and away from war and starvation by benefit of birth — not by some God-given superiority. Only now is the United States giving food to Ethiopia. We can no longer allow our government to ignore the wishes of its people. Do we want to invade Nicaragua? Do we want to let Ethiopians starve? Or do we even care? Must we wait until we are thrown into

war to become concerned? Must innocent people who happened to have been born in the wrong country starve to death before we care? Springsteen shows his concern by example. During his concert Sunday night, he urged the audience several times to support the Lincoln and Omaha Food Bank and to live up to its responsibility for others. He followed up his plea by donating \$10,000. As Springsteen said, "Nobody wins unless everybody wins." **Stacie Thomas**
Daily Nebraskan Senior Editor

November tradition deserves better than ugly 'farina of fowl'

This is the season when all Americans begin talking turkey. I have no problem with that. What I have a problem with is eating turkey.

With due apologies to the 44 million birds who have given up the gobble for this year's feast, I believe that the turkey's only reason for living is as a repository for stuffing.

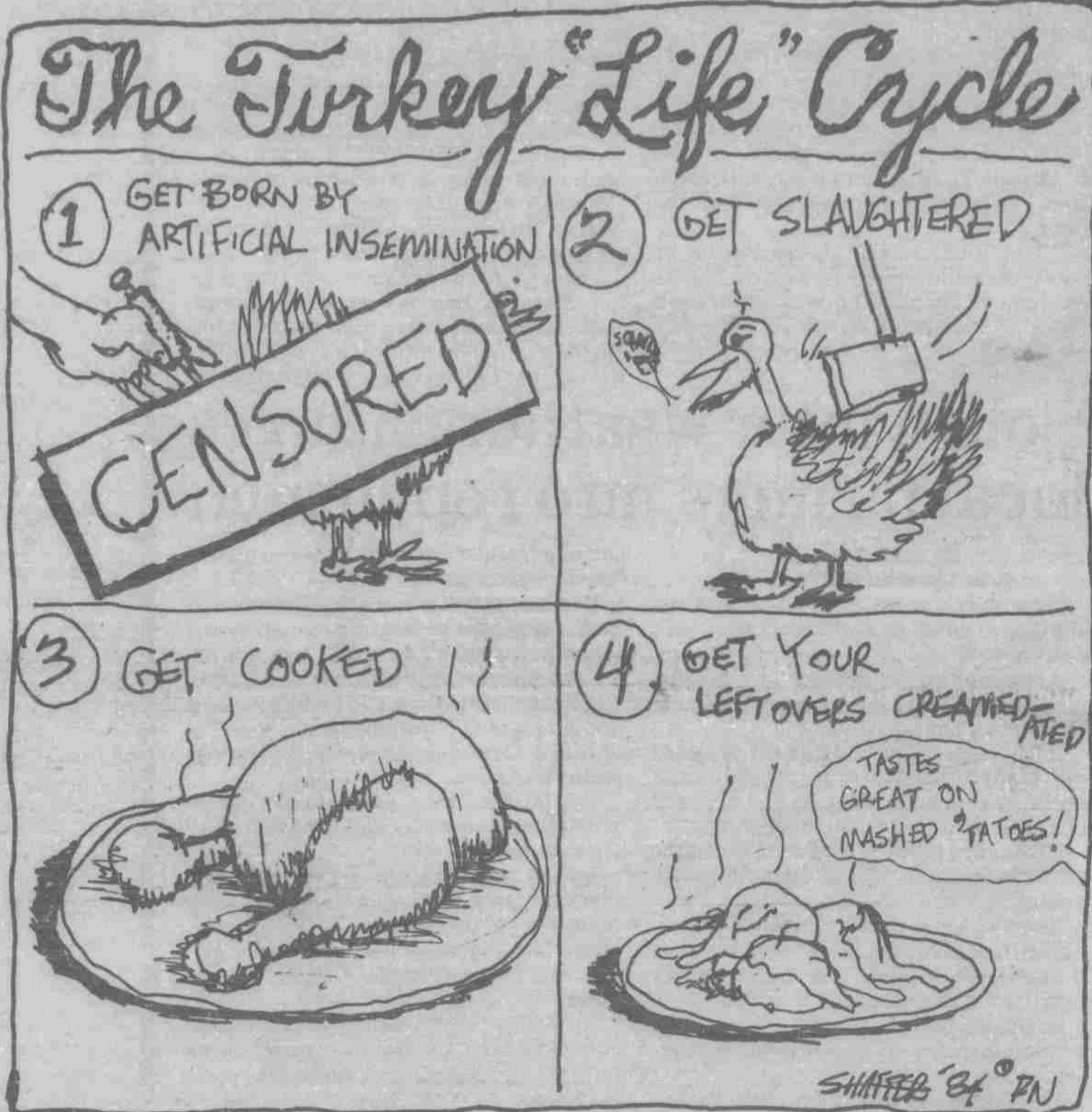
The turkey is the single ugliest creature ever eaten by a human being with the sole exception of the monkfish. It is inconceivable that millions of Americans would

this day, you can identify the alumni of this and similar campuses by the way they upbraid themselves on various playing fields, exclaiming "You turkey!"

But I didn't take a dislike to turkey because of the people. Quite the contrary. The reality is that I am not alone in heaping scorn on this bird. If everyone loved turkey, we never would have invented gravy. If everyone loved turkey, there wouldn't be so many leftovers.

Indeed, leftovers are the strongest argument for my case. In the days following Thanksgiving, the average American turkey continues to grow, rather like zucchini. The culinary history of America is colored by imaginative attempts to disguise and therefore disperse leftover turkey to the unsuspecting. My own family has made turkey into everything short of a lamp. It takes, on average, three days before the remains of the creature are mercifully lowered into a pot of water to become soup. I have been told on good authority that the 75-pound turkey that broke the Guinness Book of Records in 1973 is still being shared by a very large and unhappy English family.

I realize that by disparaging the turkey I am attacking an American tradition. The turkey is a native. When it was exported to Europe, no less a gourmet than France's Brillat-Savarin proclaimed in the 18th century that, "The face of the turkey...is clearly that of a foreigner. No wise man could be mistaken about it." Our own Benjamin Franklin once made a bid for the turkey to become the national bird on the theory that the bald eagle had a "bad moral



Ellen Goodman

long to bite the neck of this foul thing if they confronted a live one. The standing turkey is about as delicious a culinary idea as a genetically engorged iguana.

Mind you, I do not hate the turkey once it comes out of the oven. You can only hate something which has character. It is possible, for example, to hate liver or squid, or snails (although it would be mistake). Turkey, however, is the Muzak of foods, the farina of fowl. It is worthy of supreme disinterest.

My family, long aware and tolerant of my disdain for the Thanksgiving centerpiece, attribute this flaw to years misspent in an effete Eastern college. There, the common and dismissive phrase about a fellow human being was, "What a turkey!" An anthropomorphized turkey was combination of jerk and loser with a little airhead thrown in. To

character." He had never eaten an eagle. I know I know: At Thanksgiving we are not only eating food but devouring tradition. There is an atavistic desire on the part of a family to break the same bread together or, more accurately, to share the same kill. But to be perfectly frank about it, the traditional claim is a bit weak. The domestic Thanksgiving turkey is only a distant cousin to the wild turkey, a distant Mex-

ican cousin. The majority of table turkeys have been inbred to such a degree that they can no longer breed on their own. It is an artificially inseminated tradition, which isn't quite the all-American way. More importantly, those of us who live within rough proximity to the first Thanksgiving site must report that there is no evidence to prove that the Pilgrims and the Indians actually ate turkey during their three-day feast. Must we cravenly follow an event of our

own creations like a collection of you-know-whats? From what we do know, the Pilgrims and their Indian guests had the following items on the first Thanksgiving menu: venison, duck, goose, seafood, white bread, corn bread, leeks, watercress and eels. Hamm — the Thanksgiving eel? Now there's an idea I could sink my teeth into. ©1984, The Boston Globe Newspaper Company/Washington Post Writers Group

Young America supports Reaganomics, not abortion stand

The prevailing myth of the past election year was that the phenomenal popularity of Reagan among America's youth was because of the growing hedonism of this age-group. Young voters, so the myth went (and still goes), were voting selfishly rather than for the "common good."

Jim Rogers

In fact some surprising evidence exists that, contrary to popular sentiment, the Reagan youth vote can be better seen as young America's rejection of the pervad-

ing narcissism of the seventies. The evidence was contained in a Journal-Star poll published a little over a week ago.

One of the fundamental propositions ostensibly demonstrating "Reagan's hedonic youth vote" argument was that while young people supported Reagan's economic policy, they were by-and-large opposed to the social agenda which he had set. A key issue on this agenda is a constitutional amendment overturning the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision, which essentially legalized abortion on demand.

The Journal-Star poll indicates that this proposition, at least among Nebraska youth, is false.

While people between the ages of 26 and 64 — according to this poll — were evenly split on the question "would you support or oppose a constitutional amendment further restricting abortions" (about 45 percent for each group), youth between the ages of 18 and 25 supported further restrictions on abortions by almost 20 percentage points more (about 63 percent). At the same time opposition dropped to a scant 38 percent. (The figures add up to 101 percent because of rounding.)

These figures are very encouraging respecting the political future and bear witness to the fact that perhaps America's youth are concerned with more than simply individual futures. The manifest

desire to protect the unborn and more or less unseen human from the obscene violence of abortion is indicative of a remarkable depth of caring on the part of America's youth. Indeed, the most difficult person to love and protect is almost prototypically the unseen person who will never express thanks.

Most of the time the basis for the alleviation of suffering in our world is based upon observing the suffering. Witness, for example, the massive aid going to Ethiopia, which began only after the Ethiopian government allowed the BBC to film and show the starvation extant in the country.