

Miami's vice includes cocaine, commerce

"Look," says the mayor, turning at the lunch table and gesturing toward the window and beyond at this city's erupting skyline. "If it's so bad, how come the big players in real estate are here?" And he rattles off a list of those players.



George Will

Well, maybe some of the real-estate boom derives from the fact that there is a lot of bad money looking for things to buy. And one reason many banks and corporations have offices here is the same reason a few things are bad here: Latin America is just over the horizon. So are the drug traffickers.

"Look," says Mayor Maurice Ferre, 49, using a knife to draw a line on the tablecloth. "Draw a line due south of the South Pole. Every major airport in South America is to the east of Miami. If you want to fly from Lima to Los Angeles, the quickest way is through Miami." And among the things coming through Miami is a flood of "controlled substances," which barely are. Controlled,

that is. The drug traffic continues in spite of Crockett and Tubbs, the characters — and how! — on the television show "Miami Vice."

Viewing that program is like being locked inside a rock video with two boys who, having overdosed on chocolate donuts, are hyperactive and should be sent to their rooms. Crockett and Tubbs are police officers. Sure they are. When not roaring around in a speedboat, they are roaring around in a Ferrari, and in \$500 Italian linen jackets and sleeveless, peach-colored T-shirts.

Does this shoot-'em-up portraying Miami as crime-ridden bother the mayor? No, he says equably, people are trying to explain Miami's vitality in terms of the wrong chemicals. It started with Dow, not drugs.

About 15 years ago, he says, Dow Chemical Co. decided it could not efficiently run its Latin American operations out of Michigan and did an elaborate study that highlighted Miami's advantages. That study circulated widely, and soon the city's commercial base achieved a critical mass, with European and American banks and corporations creating "symbiotic energy." The mayor is in his sixth two-year term, and like the city, is revved up.

Energy, symbiotic or others, Miami has, some

people think, in excess. It had ample energy even before Castro flooded it in 1979 with refugees lacking proper character references. But the mayor insists that Miami is a Latin American city only the way Boston is Irish or Milwaukee is Polish and German.

Miami has been called "the Hong Kong of Latin America," but the mayor prefers to compare it to Beirut — before the civil war, he hastens to add. He says Miami is to Latin America what Beirut was to the Arab World: a center for commerce, pleasure and cosmopolitanism. The big difference, the mayor says, is "the American flag" — the FBI, the Constitution, the law. But some Miamians think the difference is not as big as it should be.

Of the drug money sloshing around Miami, the mayor says: "Is it a great part of Miami? Of course." Look, he says, Miami is the cocaine capital of the world only because the United States is the main cocaine market.

If all international cocaine merchants formed a single American company, that company would rank with the Ford Motor Company near the top of Fortune magazine's list of largest corporations. It would be three times larger than the movie and recording industries — com-

bined. Recently some cocaine was found here in the cargo on a Columbian 747 airliner. The street value of the cocaine was \$600 million — five times the value of the 747.

Drug runners have the best boats, planes and electronic equipment. Miami, says the mayor, cannot help but be awash with drug money. Dealers can load the cash into jets and deliver it to numbered accounts in Bahamian or other "offshore" banks and then have it transferred, electronically, back to Miami. And such laundering is not always necessary. If someone comes into a showroom offering \$60,000 cash for an automobile, not many salespersons are going to call the police.

Look, the mayor says cheerfully, geography is destiny and Florida always has attracted adventurous spirits because it is "the end of the line." So it is, and so it has been home for aviation pioneers, land speculators and other high-spirited folks including, it is safe to say, America's only mayor who compares his city to Beirut — before the roof fell in, of course. The end of the line: That was the Wild West when it was a frontier. Miami is a sort of frontier. It is the Wild South and the sheriff wears a sleeveless, peach-colored T-shirt.

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Letters

UNL needs renovation, not veterinarian school

I would like to compliment the Daily Nebraskan on the editorial, "Vet school wins, NU students lose" (April 15). I also would like to expand that and say that the faculty, state and taxpayers will lose when it is approved in the future. I would have supported the vet school four years ago because I was seriously planning it as a career and I couldn't have afforded to go out of state. But, with the way conditions are at the university now it is absolutely, without a doubt, unfeasible whether they raise tuition or not.

The university doesn't need to really expand during the next three or four years. It needs to improve what it already has. A few examples are Morrill Hall, Neihardt Residence Complex and almost all of the parking areas. These all need attention and money to restore, fix and better existing problems.

It just seems like the regents only vote for what they want to see done and not what the students, faculty and taxpayers expect and want done.

Jeff Stone
freshman
geology



Forum identifies problem

Foreign-American student interaction meager

New Zealand, Afghanistan, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Pakistan, The Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Vietnam, England, France, Germany, Poland, Spain, Cameroon, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia, Columbia, Cuba, The Dominican Republic, Equador, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico and Venezuela.

If you were patient enough to tally them up you would have counted 35 countries in all, spanning five of the seven continents. What do they have in common? They are all the homelands of one-fourth of Selleck Quadrangle Residence Hall's 540 students.

have lived in Selleck, I have seen that this fear (and discomfort) need not take such control. The Americans in Selleck are lucky enough to eat their three-to-90-minute meals with Selleck's foreign residents. In this setting our growing familiarity with one another allows us to replace our fears and anxieties with companionship. Of all the foreign residents in Selleck, half have close American friends to dine, dance, intellectualize, travel, study, celebrate and dream with. And the list goes on.

Some of you would be surprised to find out how much most non-Americans know about our politics, culture, history, personal interests and so on. With this knowledge in common, initiating and sustaining worthwhile conversation is often quite easy.

At times trying to communicate with foreigners can be an irritable task. On those days, for example, when you're several chapters behind in all your classes and your tolerance is low, a given foreigner's thick accent may be more than your attention can cut through. His painful search for the precise word to use may take up more time than your sanity can spare.

These are the days when you are probably better off plugging your mind into "Three's Company" and tuning out the rest of the world. These may be the days to avoid your foreign classmates and in the company of your native friends give thanks to God for his gift of small

talk.

It is on those days when you're ahead of the game and you have nothing to do that one of more of UNL's 1,170 foreign students will be there to offer what he or she has seen of life, complementing what you learn in the books.

If most foreign students would remain in the United States indefinitely, I wouldn't have written this editorial. However, most students leave soon after their studies are complete. It will only be the fortunate minority among us who end up in a career position working with such a diverse group of people such as those in Selleck.

After receiving the go-ahead from several of Selleck's foreign students, I wish to extend something of an invitation to all open-

mined UNL students to drop by sometime, possibly during lunch or dinner, like several hundred other non-residents do each day, and talk with those foreign students who look like they may have the free time. Neihardt as well has 115 foreign students in the International House, who want to engage in cultural exchange.

While I have seen how easily friends can be made in residence halls, I certainly wouldn't rule out the possibility of making the acquaintance of those foreign students you may meet in the lecture halls, walking to class, relaxing in the union or any other place in Lincoln.

Joe Hayman
junior
social work

Guest Opinion

Several issues dealing with foreign/American students relations were discussed April 16 at an International Educational Services-sponsored forum, comprised of a panel of five foreign UNL students and four American students, including ASUN President Gerard Keating. One of the largest problems agreed upon by both sides of the panel was the lack of personal exchange between most American and foreign students at UNL.

The fear of interacting with people of different nationalities was an often-cited barrier in the way of changing this situation. In the 2 1/4 years I

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