

Editorial

Fast-food franchise would benefit union

The Nebraska Union should bring in a commercial fast-food restaurant and update the Harvest Room cafeteria to cut growing losses.

The Nebraska Union food services lost more than \$100,000 in the last three years. Union officials have compensated for last year's losses by cutting costs and using some student fees, which usually pay for non-income-producing activities.

Union officials plan to survey students to find alternatives. Current plans include remodeling present food services or leasing union space to a commercial fast-food restaurant.

The most feasible solution would be to remodel the cafeteria, and also bring in a commercial fast-food competitor.

At Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo., the student center's volume increased \$500,000 after a Hardee's restaurant leased space in the newly remodeled cafeteria last year, said Bob Brookover, CSU associate director of finance.

Colorado State's union receives 10 percent of Hardee's annual gross, with a guarantee of \$75,000 a year. And if Hardee's makes \$1 million or more in a year, then 13 percent will go to the union.

Nebraska Union needs a fast-food restaurant, as well as its merchandising and marketing skills. After all, the booming fast-food business contributed to the decline of the union food services.

Nebraska Union officials fear that an outside commercial restaurant would compete with other union food services.

But since the union would be earning partial profits on the fast-food franchise's income, the union would not lose money. If the new franchise failed, the union still would have a guaranteed income, like the one at CSU.

Competition also would not be a problem because the fast-food outlet probably would sell hamburgers, pizza or tacos. An updated Harvest Room could continue to sell meals, and offer an improved salad bar and better service.

Renovation could save the Harvest Room, which has not been updated for 17 years. But renovation alone would not increase Union Square's profits.

Flashy surroundings don't improve the taste of hamburgers, just as the mirrored walls of the new University Bookstore do not make textbooks more educational.

Bookstore renovators brought in new products, such as computers, more food and additional clothing to make the bookstore more popular. Like the bookstore, the union needs more variety, and a fast-food restaurant could provide it.

Students' opinions of franchises could be sought in next semester's survey.

With student input, union officials could select a restaurant that would make profits for itself, as well as the union.



SORRY, BUT THE WEST GERMAN PRESIDENT IS IN BED WITH A BUG!!!

Pornography control needed

The case of Robert E. Hunt Jr., the convicted killer whose death sentence was overturned by the Nebraska Supreme Court, has received a lot of attention recently. In April of 1984, Hunt, a Norfolk resident of five years, was charged with the murder of Beverly K. Ramsport. On April 12, 1984, Hunt forced his way into the woman's mobile home by threatening her at the door with a BB gun. He picked Ramsport out because her picture had appeared in the engagement section of the Norfolk Daily News.

According to the written opinion of the court, once he was in her house Hunt tied her arms and legs with nylon rope and stuck two pair of women's underwear in her mouth. He dragged her into her living room, removed a nylon stocking from the cassette case he had brought with him and strangled her with it. After she had lost consciousness, he sexually assaulted her. Finally, finding a weak pulse, Hunt carried her to the bathtub and held her head under a foot of water until she was dead.

Later that night the police were summoned by Hunt's wife. Hunt told Officer Doug Dekker, "Doug, I killed her. I can see her. She's in the bathtub and she's dead." Officer Dekker asked Hunt if he had done anything else to the victim. Hunt replied, "Yeah, I sexually assaulted her after she was dead."

The death sentence was overturned because, in the words of the majority opinion, the murder was not "heinous, atrocious or cruel" enough. The deci-

sion is under heavy fire. But I am less troubled by the reduced sentence than I am by what precipitated the murder itself.

When Hunt's house and car were searched, police found a number of "sex-oriented magazines." In fact, during the time Hunt was sitting in his car waiting to approach Ramsport's house, he allegedly was leafing through the sex magazines he had brought with him. Hunt told Dekker, "I always see them girls laid out in the pictures with their eyes closed and I just had to do it. I dreamed about it for so long that I just had to do it."



Colleen Holloran

According to court records, Hunt told another officer that prior to murdering Ramsport he had admitted to his wife that he had an urge to kill a woman and have sex with her after she was dead. He explained that he had experienced these urges in the past. On these other occasions he would gather up the cassette case, together with sex magazines and a large kitchen knife, and go "out looking for a female to do this with, but on those occasions could not find one."

It may be unclear as to the First

Amendment rights of pornographers, but the effect of pornography on women is far from unclear. Pornography condones and promotes violence against women. Consider Hunt's words: "I always see them girls laid out in the pictures with their eyes closed and I just had to do it."

Most studies conclude one of two things; either pornography desensitizes people to violence against women, or it doesn't. Ask 20 people and you'll get 20 different answers. But now is not the time for philosophical banter or intellectual posturing. Pornography has long been laced with the blood of innocent victims, and it has got to stop.

I am realistic about two things: Pornography denies simple definition, and censorship is unconstitutional. Throughout the nation, city ordinances that attempt to define and suppress pornographic materials are regularly overturned on constitutional grounds. But just as I am in favor of minority quota systems — reverse discrimination if you will — I am willing to risk a possible First Amendment toe-mashing on the grounds that we as a society need to get a handle on pornography, now.

The "gosh, what-will-be-next?" argument doesn't wash with me. Naming pornography and getting rid of it doesn't signal the imminent death of the free press. Call it an emotional response, but in my book pornography constitutes a concrete harm that justifies the creation of a new exception to the First Amendment.

Holloran is a graduate English student.

South African reforms too slow

Hard by the railroad station is the office of the Black Sash, an organization founded by white women to help black South Africans cope with the law — in particular, the so-called pass laws that specify where blacks can live. In theory, offenders of the pass laws must go to jail. In practice, many do.

At this moment, a mountainous black woman is sitting on a stool before a desk. Behind the desk is a Black Sash worker named Beulah Rollnick. In an attempt to persuade the authorities to allow the woman to live in the Johannesburg area, Rollnick is preparing an affidavit — a document that will be skeptically read more for what it doesn't say than for what it does.

"Are you married?" Rollnick asks. The woman says she was. "Do you have a boyfriend?" With pride, the woman says she does. Rollnick has an idea. The woman should marry her boyfriend and thus qualify for residency by marriage. The woman frowns. "But he not a single man," she says.

"Then you must wait five years,"

Rollnick says. "My God!" the woman exclaims. "By then I would be dead."



Richard Cohen

By then, the odious pass laws may themselves be dead. An influential businessman here says that even within the ruling National Party the real question is not whether to end the pass laws, but when. In the meantime, they persist — a Kafkaesque labyrinth of regulations that brings about 25,000 persons annually to Black Sash offices throughout the country. So complex are the laws that in the Johannesburg office only Rollnick and another woman have mastered them. An American volunteer says it takes two weeks of observation before you can even begin to offer advice to the people who come

to the office. And the people come. On the day I visited, they were lined up in the outer office and occasionally drifted into the hallways, seemingly confused.

Tip O'Neill once said that all politics is local. I am writing for Americans, not South Africans, and my thoughts are of what President Reagan has said: How he thinks the system here is being reformed. It's true that there have been changes, even in the pass laws, but reform is a relative term, especially if it is glacial in movement and, in many ways, inconsequential.

For the woman who wants only to live near Johannesburg — and who, incidentally, is forbidden from living in the city itself — the reform that counts is hardly on the horizon. The time that South Africa wants to work out its problems is being deducted from her life. She had it about right in her interview with Rollnick. By the time true reform comes, she may be dead.

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