

Editorial

Foundation leader deserves thanks

Students and faculty members can thank D.B. Varner, chairman of the NU Foundation's board of directors, for suggesting that the American Stores Co. plant in Lincoln be donated to the foundation.

Tim Thietje, spokesman for the foundation, said Varner knew the meat-packing plant had been closed since Dec. 2, 1982, so he sent a letter to American Stores Co. officials in Salt Lake City to suggest the plant be donated to the foundation.

The foundation received the plant — the largest such gift it has ever received — primarily because of Varner's efforts and the generosity of American Stores, Thietje said.

The foundation now hopes to find a new tenant for for \$10 million plant and put it back into the packing business.

At its peak, the plant employed 700 to 900 people. The foundation cannot sell the plant for three years, but can sell or lease the equipment, valued at about \$1.5 million.

Varner's work should benefit the state and the university. The plant could provide jobs for Nebraskans and generate money for NU.

With the NU budget still on the chopping block, projects like this are needed more than ever.

Thank you, D.B. Varner.

Final push needed

As the amendment reducing the NU budget cut from 3 percent to 2 percent nears final approval, students and parents must begin one final push to eliminate or further reduce the cut.

NU students, faculty and administrators are on the right track — they succeeded in lowering the cut from 3 percent to 2 percent.

Joe Rowson, NU director of public affairs, said UNL, UNO and NU Medical Center students have helped turn things around for the university and have influenced public opinion.

But they shouldn't stop. Students and parents can have more influence on senators' thinking than NU officials, who already have made their case. Still, NU officials must continue to speak out for the university and emphasize its contributions to the state to draw support from all Nebraskans.

University supporters should make it clear to senators that they appreciate the 1 percent reduction of proposed cuts, but more is needed.



AND HOW LONG WERE YOU KIDNAPPED AND DRUGGED BY THE CIA BEFORE YOU COULD MAKE IT BACK TO FREEDOM?

Of Diapers and weapons Two proposals for U.S.-U.S.S.R. summit

With the upcoming summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, speculations are legion as to the results we can expect and the hopes we rightfully can harbor.

The rhetorical wars and media blitzes leading up to this occasion have, to my knowledge, been unprecedented. Everyone has a lot to gain; everyone has a lot to lose. And everyone is trying to make darn sure he gets the former, while his "distinguished colleague" gets the latter. Sounds like a real promising setup for progress to me.



James Sennett

The art of diplomacy baffles me. Such matters as diplomatic etiquette, proper representation and the like simply leave me cold. When I have a problem with someone, I go talk it out until we reach a solution that is equitable and liveable. There is no fanfare or hoopla. We don't know any better than to think we can solve our difficulties by talking about them. Apparently that doesn't work with the big boys. I guess I've got a lot to learn about communication and problem-solving.

I do have some suggestions about setting the summit atmosphere for maximum efficiency (atmosphere is another important diplomatic notion). It seems to me that a thorough exami-

nation of what puts people at ease with each other is needed. There just seem to be universally appealing situations which bring out the human being in all of us.

The greatest thing that could happen at the summit is for the chief moderator, or whatever they call him, to come in on the first day with a new-born baby in his arms. You know and I know that no two human beings can find anything to disagree about when they are goo-gooing and purring over nine pounds of pink wrinkles. The most important subjects in the world at that time are the brand of disposable diapers being used and the always-hot debate over formula feeding versus God's way.

Let's play dirty — bring out the grandpa in these two rock-hard world leaders. And, while they are oozing with "gitchi-gitchi's" and "look at those little hands," let's hit them with Star Wars and medium-range warheads. I can just hear them now: "What? Oh, sure — that sounds great to me. Do whatever you want; would you just look at those tiny feet? Oh you are a precious little snookums, aren't you?"

Or maybe we could appeal to the gambling spirit latent in the most pious of us. Let's bring Gorbachev over and let him experience the thrill of anticipation and the exhilaration of utter helplessness as one exercises his right to complete desolation through the great U.S. institution of The Wager. Give him a quick run-down on the intricacies involved in a good bet — the point spreads, the injury

charts, etc. Then let's tell him all about the incredible University of Kansas football team, which knows no end to its winning ways.

In the interest of sport, we will be willing to wager all of our most precious summit agenda items on the huge chance that Kansas will be upset by the pitiful Nebraska Cornhuskers (Mikhail has seen pictures of Nebraska — it won't be hard to convince him). All the Soviet Union has to do to get its way is be willing to bet all its proposals on the fierce Jayhawks taking one more in their relentless march to a national championship. Of course, to make the matter palatable to those in the White House less inticed by the games of chance, we will have to be given 24 points. Who wouldn't jump at such a deal? The whole business could be settled in one enjoyable afternoon at Memorial Stadium. I'll even buy the hotdogs.

I just don't know what all the fuss is about. We ordinary folks don't go through all this irrational nonsense to make decisions. But, then again, we don't have billion-dollar budgets to back up our delusions of grandeur. If my suggestions are taken to heart, I humbly request that all money saved in the transaction be forwarded to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earmarked "Survival Fund." Maybe we could get more cooperation on the national level than we've gotten from the state.

Sennett is a UNL graduate student in philosophy and a campus minister of the College-Career Christian Fellowship.

Truth exists despite politics

Occasionally, we all join in a vast conspiracy in which a lie is accepted as a truth. For completely understandable reasons, that happened when the murdered Leon Klinghoffer was treated as a hero and



Richard Cohen

not as a victim. So complete was this fiction that hardly a murmur of dissent was heard when Sen Alphonse D'Amato, using Klinghoffer one more time for political purposes, recommended him for a Congressional medal.

Now we have an example of an even greater conspiracy. It concerns the case of Miroslav Medvid, the Soviet sailor who jumped ship Oct. 24. Even

though he twice tried to escape, even though he had prepared for his swim by wearing shorts, even though he apparently tried to slash his wrists after being returned to his ship and even though a Ukrainian translator said Medvid was seeking asylum, most of us have chosen to decide otherwise. This is a conspiracy of cynicism.

It also is, of course, a conspiracy driven by political values. In this case, the value is to avoid a showdown with the Soviet Union over the fate of a single sailor. Given conflicting statements, most of us would prefer to think that something aside from a lust for freedom prompted Medvid to twice plunge into the Mississippi. Maybe, someone suggested, he was just seeking to go home on another ship.

This is understandable. It would be tragic if a single incident could derail plans for the upcoming summit conference at Geneva. There is much at stake, including the promise of an eventual

arms-control agreement.

Medvid apparently forgot that in life, timing is everything. Had he chosen to jump ship just one year earlier when the president was seeking re-election, he would have been jetted, dripping wet if necessary, to a Rose Garden meeting with the Gipper-in-Chief. But the president's eye now is on the judgment of history, not re-election, and history, alas, cares nothing about the fate of a single sailor.

Political values also play a role in what little criticism the administration initially received for its handling of the Medvid incident. Most of that came from the political right. For instance, the ultra-conservative Washington Times, which believes no good can ever come of a summit meeting, consistently has featured the Medvid story as a front-page human-rights drama. In comparison, the Washington Post and

Please see COHEN on 5

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