

Editorial

Daily
Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vicki Ruhga, Editor, 472.1766
Thom Gabrukiewicz, Managing Editor
Ad Hudler, Editorial Page Editor
James Rogers, Editorial Associate
Chris Welsch, Copy Desk Chief

Model U.N. Speaking skills honed

UNL's Model United Nations program is a good example of a campus activity that helps prepare students for the working world.

The program, scheduled to begin Feb. 12, includes groups of students who represent countries in a mock-U.N. General Assembly session. They discuss real-world problems, such as the arms race, in a way that attempts to duplicate the actual organization.

In the program, participants research their respective countries' characters and dispositions and try to form opinions on the issues based on that research, rather than relying on their American point of view. This makes the Model United Nations program a good instrument for decreasing students' ethnocentrism: They're forced to think and contribute toward a non-American viewpoint. That's something more federal-level politicians could use.

Speaking in front of a large group also strengthens students'

communication skills.

Model United Nations participants often speak without a prepared speech. They have to think and reason on their feet, convincingly delivering speeches.

Unfortunately, chances to do this are few and far between on a campus as large as UNL's. Speaking to larger groups increases speakers' confidence in handling themselves among crowds of strangers — a trait some employers look for during interviews.

UNL graduates today face tight competition in job markets. Employers have thousands of graduates to choose from, several of them more than qualified.

Communication skills are important. UNL's Model United Nations program is worthwhile because it teaches students those skills.

Students interested in the Model United Nations program can contact Georgia Panos in Nebraska Union 200 or 237.

Family Feud

Politicians must cool animosities

Opinion polls consistently show that politicians are not highly respected by the public. Although many politicians have lamented this fact, the public is right to respond, "Physician, heal thyself."

The public's low opinion of politicians simply mirrors the politicians' own opinion of themselves. Continual feuding and personal nitpicking demonstrate a lack of esteem for fellow politicians.

The ongoing feud between Gov. Bob Kerrey and state Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh bears sad testimony to how personal acrimony sours the decision-making process.

Recently the bickering boiled over into a banking committee hearing where, after a sharp policy exchange occurred between DeCamp and Kerrey, a noticeable and uncomfortable silence ensued. DeCamp reportedly broke the silence by saying to Kerrey, "But we still like each other, don't we?"

Kerrey tersely replied, "No." He then left the hearing room.

Although Kerrey cannot be held solely responsible for the

public display of acrimony, some observers have noted that his public temper has shortened considerably since he announced he would not seek re-election. Not only has the number of sharp replies increased in his dealings with other politicians, but he has been increasingly short with the media as well.

There is little excuse for his behavior, and it serves only to justify the already significant cynicism with which the public views politicians.

The public has a right to demand that its leaders don't pursue pettiness. Civility in the public policy process has marked off great legislative periods from poor ones. When politicians manage, even under the strain of considerable divergences of opinion, to rise above personal grudges, they deservedly are called statesmen.

Given the crisis facing Nebraska today, the state's citizens deserve having their problems come first in the politicians' minds and having personal disputes between our state's politicians be put aside — at least for the duration.

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1986 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Vicki Ruhga, editor; Ad Hudler, editorial page editor; Thom Gabrukiewicz, managing editor; James Rogers, editorial associate and Chris Welsch, copy desk chief.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university,

its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper.

According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.



Community cure for alienation

Personal freedom's cost is detachment from society

'Tis all in peeces, all coherence gone; All just supply, and all Relation: Prince, Subject, Father, Sonne, are things forgot, For every man alone thinks he hath got To be a Phoenix, and that then can bee None of that kinde, of which he is, but hee.

John Donne (1611)

Well, as anyone knows, one thread does not a garment make, and now the emperor of the modern era — the individual — is chagrined to discover that he has no clothes. Modern society had proclaimed itself "rich, wealthy and in need of nothing," while all the time it was wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

The modern term applied to this condition is "alienation." Its significance and its link to the utilitarian spirit of the 19th century is now observed by thinkers irrespective of ideological boundaries.

Radical philosopher Robert Paul Wolff articulated this thought in his provocative essay, "Beyond Tolerance": "Dialectically opposed to the liberal philosophy and speaking for the values of an earlier, preindustrial, age is the conservative philosophy of community.

Forty years ago, Karl Polanyi wrote on *The Great Transformation*, a term he applied to the destruction of the Anglo-Saxon social fabric by the political implementation of the "self-regulating market" in the beginning of the 19th century.



Jim Rogers

He argued that culture responded spontaneously to this misguided economic policy and now "in retrospect our age will be credited with having seen the end of the self-regulating market."

While Polanyi deserves credit for his insight, ironically, he failed to grasp the full social depth and breadth of the transformation that had taken place — as well as the length of time that culture would need to begin healing from the wound.

The 19th century did not simply shear the person from the social fabric only in respect to economic relationships, the person was shorn from the entire weave of the social fabric but was told that his one bare thread was a beautiful garment.

"The involvement of each with all, which to Mill was a threat and an imposition, is to such critics of liberalism as Burke or Durkheim a strength and an opportunity. It is indeed the greatest virtue of society, which supports and enfolds the individual in a warm, affective community stretching backwards and forwards in time and bearing within itself the accumulated wisdom and values of generations of human experience."

In their 1985 work "Habits of the Heart," three sociologists, a philosophy professor and a theology professor document the Americans' attempts to create and sustain social commitment in the face of a powerful "culture of separation." They also document a deep yearning on the part of many for the "meaning and coherence" of "the

idealized small town."

While they note that the physical aspect of this ideal is lost, they nonetheless argue that it is "worth considering" how the traditions enmeshed in this ideal can be "reappropriated in ways that respond to our present need."

Renewed interest in a revitalized social fabric also can be seen on the right in the rebirth of Burkean conservatism. For example, the right-wing American Enterprise Institute has published a number of thoughtful works on "mediating structures."

As AEI president William Baroody recently wrote: "There is more to our society than just government and individuals. There is a range of structures in between that are meaningful, legitimate, efficacious, dynamic, and under the rubric of what we might call the old politics — generally ignored."

The filtering down of this renewed emphasis into public discussion was recently seen in the focus upon community and values in the discussion among black leaders after Bill Moyers' documentary on the disintegration of the black community.

The 19th and 20th centuries represent a period of overreaction to the overly authoritarian past. Centuries from now, I think, our epoch will be viewed as an ironic and tragic period, where the human spirit was cruelly crushed, all in the name of its liberation. As Prof. Wolff heralded in 1965: "There is need for a new philosophy of community, beyond pluralism and beyond tolerance."

Rogers is a UNL graduate student in philosophy and a law student and Daily Nebraskan editorial assistant.

Letters

Governments should learn from victims' heroic example

It is a wonder to me how the deaths of the heroes and heroines aboard the space shuttle instantly pulled a nation together.

As the nation mourns, these peoples' ideals now become the nation's ideals, which are pure and upright, full-blown red, white and blue.

Even the hatred for communists is put aside as Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev gave a message of grief with more understanding and sentiment than a Hallmark card.

The Soviet Union and the United States love their heroes and heroines. This is true because heroes and heroines do not stand for the filth in national policy and diplomacy. They stand for what "should be." Both countries should have internal friendship between individuals and between the government and its citizens.

The United States and the Soviet Union should be friends with the global village, and not at odds with any nation that lives up to the "should be" of having these internal friendships be-

tween individuals and between the government and its people.

The "should be" of humanism should be erected — that of the arts and culture, not to mention science.

Lastly, both countries should lead the other nation in signing a contract of absolute peace. Seven people died leaving a legacy of ideals that "should be."

James Schwaderer
senior
arts and sciences

Irresponsible students 'trash' opportunities for others

Each year, the Women's Law Caucus sponsors a fund-raising party to celebrate the birthday of suffragist Susan B. Anthony.

One of the most difficult tasks connected with the production of "Susan B." is finding a hall suitable for our needs. Last year, we found the ideal hall — the Lincoln Knights of Columbus.

Unfortunately, neither the WLC nor

any other student group will ever again be allowed to use the hall because an unnamed student group "trashed" it in an end-of-semester party last spring. Our complaint is not with the Knights of Columbus, but with the irresponsible student group.

The actions of these few have taken away a wonderful opportunity for many. I would like to remind all student groups that they not only represent

themselves as individuals or as a particular group, but represent every student, student group and college.

To the student group in question: I hope you were happy with your actions. Your few moments of pleasure were at our expense.

Denise Harrell
junior
law
secretary, Women's Law Caucus