

Editorial

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'Shoah' teaches Film shows war's reality

UNL students can see what some critics call "one of the best movies ever made" this weekend at the Sheldon Film Theatre.

With the 9½-hour documentary film about the holocaust of World War II comes a lesson often forgotten: People must keep memories of atrocities vivid in their memories so they have little chance of recurring in the future.

"Shoah" takes the viewer to the scene of the infamous concentration camps. It includes interviews of survivors from those camps and interviews with former SS officers who reflect on how it felt to help kill the Jewish victims of Hitler's insanity.

More than 40 years have passed since World War II; 30 since the Korean War. Few UNL students probably remember much detail of any war. Few remember how it felt to lose relatives in war.

Some newspaper columnists over the years have expressed concern that the country's prospective leaders — college students — have little insight about international conflict because they haven't experienced any of the ramifications and sadness associated with war. For that reason, some theorize, those people won't be as careful or reluctant to avoid such problems in the future. Through age, we easily become removed from the past.

That is why it's important for people to continually learn about the past. That's why the media covered the anniversary of the fall of Saigon so heavily. Society learns from its past mistakes.

"Shoah" lasts 9½ hours. Part one will be shown at 12:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Part two will be shown at 7 p.m. on those days.

Ellis Island

Build tributes, not tax shelters

Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca's battle over Ellis Island cost him a job, but it might have helped preserve a historic U.S. landmark.

Iacocca, who was fired as chairman of the Statue of Liberty advisory commission, protested the commercialization of Ellis Island. The 27-acre island was the first taste of America for about 16 million immigrants, including Iacocca's parents.

The National Park Service wanted to use only nine acres of the island as a monument to

ethnic groups. The rest of the island would have been converted to a hotel and conference center.

To many immigrants and their children, the island is as important a symbol of U.S. freedom as the Statue of Liberty.

Instead of turning the island into a tax shelter for the rich, government officials should build a tribute to the United States' melting pot of cultures.

Iacocca lost a job, but he stood up for what he thought was best for the United States.

Locker rooms dirty

The Daily Nebraskan has received several letters expressing students' concerns about the men's and women's locker rooms in the Coliseum. Their complaints of dirt and dilapidation are warranted.

A walk through the locker rooms shows walls that need painted, broken lockers and dirt in corners. One man even was caught by the campus police peeping through a hole in the wall into the women's locker

room.

UNL students pay fees that supposedly help pay for building maintenance and repair. True, with recent budget cuts, UNL maintenance officials can't do any extensive renovations, but simple detergent or plaster doesn't require much money.

Several UNL athletic teams use the Coliseum to compete with teams from other universities. Deteriorating facilities don't speak well of UNL.

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

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



OF COURSE WE SELL ARMOR-PIERCING BULLETS... WHO KNOWS WHEN YOU'LL SEE A DEER DRIVING A SHERMAN TANK?

Ronny's World is not far away

Nice car, cute children, a wife at home, and missiles

There is a mythical land not too far away that we all can visit. Come with me. I'll take you there and I promise I'll bring you back. I promise.

The place is called Ronny's World. To get there, we take a mythical trip into the mind of president Ronald Reagan.

When Ronny thinks of his world, (Oh, it is a beautiful image) we see visions of peace, rainbows and silver-lined clouds. But this is only a facade, and behind this facade is reality. But let's not talk reality. Ronny doesn't.

Imagine with me a scene in Ronny's World.

In this scene, we see a cute two-story home at the foot of a rainbow, beneath silver-lined clouds. Isn't it pretty? A car drives up to the cute little home and a man steps out in an attractively-tailored dark blue suit, a white man. See, there are no minorities in Ronny's World and so no need for affirmative action programs.

As the man (Daddy, we'll call him) steps out of his car, two cute little children and a dog run over to greet him. The children bounce around joyfully as Daddy walks to the house.

And it is a nice house. In Ronny's World, everybody has a nice house.

Since Ronny doesn't seem to see homeless people, we don't see any provisions for them in his world.

Oh, look. There is an attractive woman in a size 4 designer house dress stepping onto the porch of the home. Isn't

she attractive? Let's call her Mommy. Mommy wipes her hands on the dish-towel she is carrying and smiles pleasantly as she pecks Daddy on the cheek. Then Mommy shoos the entire family into the house for dinner.

Mommy has spent four hours preparing dinner. Mommy doesn't work outside the home. She enjoys doing this for her family. No women work outside their homes in Ronny's World. In Ronny's mind they don't need to.



Randy Donner

During dinner, Daddy reads the newspaper. Mommy sees a story concerning a "wall" of missiles that is being built around the country to protect Daddy and his family from an evil empire. Mommy wonders about the necessity of such a thing. Finally she asks, "Dear, why do we have to build a wall of missiles against our enemies? Aren't we supposed to be at peace? That doesn't sound like peace to me."

Daddy, astounded that Mommy commented on such a matter, pauses before he answers.

"Well, dear, you women just can't understand missiles, defense, or politics."

"You're probably right," Mommy responds, pondering the thought. "Would you like some more roast duck?"

See, in Ronny's World women aren't involved in politics. Nor are they supposed to be able to think rationally about politics. In fact, women aren't supposed to think about anything at all, except their families and their homes.

The oldest child pipes up and asks her daddy to explain the phrase "poor people" that she read in a history book. Daddy, of course, knows how to answer.

"Poor people," he says, "are something that we don't have. We used to, but then the government quit providing assistance for the poor people to live. So, we don't have them anymore."

"Oh," she said, not knowing what to think.

The rest of the meal was silent. Mommy and her daughter thought about justice and peace (but didn't voice their thoughts), and Daddy kept his nose in the newspaper.

Now that we've had this brief view of Ronny's World, it is time for us to leave. Come back to reality with me. Of course, this trip was pure fantasy. But sometimes fantasy parodies reality. Isn't it unfortunate that Ronny's idea of reality is a fantasy.

Donner is a senior journalism major and a Daily Nebraskan associate night news editor.

Nerds get revenge: Athletes to study

In Texas, high school athletes are being asked to pass their courses before suiting up for games. In Georgia, a one-time teacher won a \$2.6 million award from the University of Georgia after being fired for opposing favored treatment for athletes, and the NCAA has raised eligibility requirements for athletes. Something is happening. Call it the "Revenge of the Nerds."

All across the nation, high-school and college sports programs are being scrutinized and awful things are being found. A professional football player, an alumnus of a fine school, is arrested and found to be functionally illiterate. College coaches complain their athletes are graduating from high school unable to read play books. At the University of Georgia, the now-celebrated Jan Kemp says that athletes were admitted who received a flat 400 score on their college boards — what you get for merely having a pulse.

Cynics can celebrate. America can claim to have abolished sexism in the exploitation of young people. Both men and women are now exploited for their bodies — catching passes in their own distinctive ways. But pardon me for suspecting that the effort to reform

school sports had little to do with exploitation of men, women or — in particular — blacks. It has to do, instead, with the nagging sense that the nerds were right all along: that we have been celebrating the wrong values.



Richard Cohen

The thing about excellence in sports is that it seems to be, and very often is, a gift. You either have it or you don't. If you have it, and if you're young, you don't have to work very hard at it. Certainly that is the message conveyed by, say, Jim McMahon, the quarterback for the Chicago Bears. He drinks, he parties — and he hits his receiver the next morning.

That sort of thing makes sports a target. The U.S. celebration of the extemporaneous, of the carefree — of all things associated with youth — has cost us. Japan, to us a nation of nerds, is beating us all over the place. The Japanese may play baseball well and

ski like champs, but in this country they are seen as the antithesis of what youth culture stands for. They work hard. They study. A U.S. student gets an average of a half-hour a day in homework; in Japan it's two hours. In the United States, 32 percent of 4-year-olds attend school. In Japan the figure is 63 percent. The typical U.S. student has one year of high school math; in Japan it's three.

The figures don't necessarily speak for themselves, but the results do: The average U.S. student is spoiled. That is the popular judgment, too, of the U.S. worker, especially the blue-collar worker — the ones who made all those shoddy cars. It hardly matters that both the worker and the student are scapegoats for awful decisions made by others (management, school boards). The fact remains that the judgment is in: America has to work harder. Japan, for one, says so.

The result is that sports has become something of a scapegoat. As Georgetown's basketball coach, John Thompson, has pointed out, the real problem is not the occasional athlete who enters college an illiterate and exists the

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