

Editorial

Daily
Nebraskan

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jeff Korbek, Editor, 472-1766
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Block 35 wins battle War on redevelopment lost

In her book, "The Life and Death of Great American Cities," community-planning critic Jane Jacobs argues compellingly for the superiority of natural downtown development over a sterile, planned, "rational" downtown. The key to her argument is that naturally developed downtowns are heterogeneous and, thus, are intrinsically more interesting than those projections from the minds of planners.

Jacob's thesis, sometimes stated, sometimes implicit, has been the basis of this paper's objections to Lincoln's massive redevelopment project that is now moving into high gear.

While the war apparently has been lost, one battle in the struggle to preserve the uniqueness of the area for as long as possible has been won: Businesses in Block 35 — the businesses between 10th, 11th, P, and Q streets — have been allowed to stay, at least until Nov. 1, 1988.

The decision is a stay of execution, not a pardon. These businesses nonetheless represent a unique instance of businesses that can only thrive due to the proximate location of downtown and the university. Enjoy it while you can.

Nation honors King

Hero gone, but dream still understood

"Freed at last, freed at last, thank God I'm freed at last." —inscription on the tombstone of Martin Luther King, Jr.

For many university students, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was no more than an image on a television newsreel or a picture in a textbook. Many would have been only 2 or 3 years old when he was assassinated in April 1968 in Memphis, Tenn. Most were probably not even born when he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Even though many didn't know the man, hear him speak or fathom what he was telling us, we understand today. He had a "dream" of whites and blacks living together in peace. Racism probably wasn't in his vocabulary.

Today, the nation will pay tribute to this great man. This is the second year King's birthday has been a federal holiday. Last Thursday, his official birthday, he would have been 58. He died when he was 39.

President Ronald Reagan told the nation in a television address that King "never reached his 40th birthday, yet during his short life span he touched the lives of every American and helped dismantle the legal vestiges of discrimination and racism."

King has been labeled the leader for the black civil-rights movement during the 1950s and '60s, but his non-violent campaigns were directed towards everyone regardless of race, creed or color.

King's memory will live on.

Opinions wanted

DN asks for letters on abortion issue

Last semester, two Daily Nebraskan columnists wrote on abortion, one pro and one con. In the following weeks the DN received several letters condemning and praising both columns.

You've read what various writers at the Daily Nebraskan have to say about the issue. It's

time we turn our typewriters over to you, the readers. The issue is controversial, and that's putting it mildly. We hope you take note of our request on the front page and offer your opinion.

Remember, be brief and to the point. The deadline is Wednesday at 1 p.m.

Letter Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names from publication will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1987 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.



'Amerika' from the other side

'Ivan' explains why the Russian people will not 'mellow out'

Dear Jeff Mirowski, Shawn Dawson and other friends of the film "Amerika":

On behalf of the Soviet people I would like to thank you and the makers of "Amerika" for your ever-so-enlightening 14 1/2-hour entertainment and your brief but telling comments in last Wednesday's Daily Nebraskan. The film was, as promised, diverting and just loaded with rustic charm. But it was also quite educational.

As you put it, Mr. Mirowski, "It made me see the reality of why we spend money for the arms race." I had no idea fantasy epics had such an effect on you people. It is a wonder films like "Godzilla" don't cause chaos and anarchy in the streets. It made you see "reality," did it?

Indeed, I myself had no idea it would be so simple to overpower America's meager nuclear arsenal, but to mention the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the National Rifle Association, the Elks, the John Birch Society, the assorted rednecks and all of the other fraternal orders of your nation who store up massive arsenals in their pickup trucks and trailer homes. My comrades and I always assumed that when we finally came, these brothers, led by their Grand Exalted Whatchamacallits, would take to the hills with 20 tons of chewing tobacco, enough venison for a lifetime on the run and a Sears store

full of goose-down vests. From their camouflaged vantage points, these defenders of democracy would pick us off as we attempted an orderly takeover.

Charles
Lieurance

But we see by "Amerika" that your fiber, your underbelly, has softened. The gravediggers, the libertarians, the feminists, the giver-uppers and other pallbearers of the American way of life, have dealt their blow of pessimism and despair. In missiles lie optimism and hope; happiness is a well-fueled arms race. I take it that when the viewers of "Amerika" say the movie made them feel patriotic, they mean it made them feel "warlike." In Reagan's America these two terms have become interchangeable.

It was also refreshing to note that, in Mr. Dawson's words, the Russians in "Amerika" are "human." It is good that the American youth are now confronted with a human "red menace," not the old, mechanical, humorless breed of cinema Bolshevik. Of course, our humanness should not make you feel any less "patriotic." Maybe in this

context, since "patriotic" means "warlike," "human" means "an ability to be killed with almost any size firearm."

My favorite quote about "Amerika" is, once again, from Mr. Mirowski: "Russia will mellow out after the movie is shown. They just wrote the story in their own minds before seeing it."

And why were we, the Soviet government, angry about "Amerika" to begin with? Because it made us out to be invaders, because it endangered Soviet attempts to hold talks that were constructive in more than a rhetorical sense to slow an arms race that has reached a monstrously suicidal pitch, because Americans believe their entertainments in far more active ways than they believe facts.

And what has been the effect of even this first screening? Well, the youth of America now see the "reality" of why they spend billions on their nuclear arsenal. They see us as potential invaders.

Certainly we will now "mellow out." One final note to Mr. Mirowski: We can promise you that if things actually were to come to the pretty pass that "Amerika" illustrates, there will be no shortage of, as you put it, "blood and guts."

Yours sincerely
Ivan

Lieurance is an English, philosophy and art major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

Letter

Student priorities separate UNL, Ivy League; quality of faculty will challenge students

If anyone is stupid enough to listen to Chris McCubbin, (Jan. 13, "Big Red Exit") and leave the university because of a few hard times, then I hope that person goes far away and never comes back.

The author seems to think that money is all that separates this university and the Ivy League. The truth is that even if UNL had all the money it would like, the student body is nowhere close to that academic level. We have the faculty that gives us an Ivy League opportunity, but the student body, on the whole, does not give an Ivy League effort.

Having received undergraduate and law degrees from UNL as well as nearly completed an M.A., I feel that I am in a position to assess not only the abilities but the attitudes of my past and present classmates.

In the fall, the average student's priorities revolve around football games and dates. Heck, even the athletes try harder in the classroom than the average student. Not that the average student's priorities are wrong, but people cannot continue to have those attitudes toward their academic life and hope to be considered in the Ivy League category.

It was my impression that the few of us who had Ivy League ability did their best to get the most out of the school, but that the rest of you made it easy by being relatively lazy, which made it easier for us to stand out. This was mainly my impression of my fellow undergraduates; those whom I went to school with in law or graduate school could not be said to have had this attitude problem.

What I am really trying to say is that if you have the ability to do Ivy League

work, then UNL can and will challenge you because of the quality of the faculty, not because you will be pushed by your fellow undergraduates. No amount of money will correct this attitude problem.

My solution? Gut the undergraduate programs and give most of the money to the graduate and professional students since they are the only ones with the desire to bring the school close to the Ivy League level. It would also be wise to set up an extensive undergraduate honors program that could cater to the 1 percent of students who put forth the type of effort that is commonly seen in the Ivy League. Let the rest of the students watch tapes of classes and take Keller-plan tests.

Michael B. Kratville
Attorney