

Dizzying reversals seen

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China's is a revolution from below, a brush-fire rebellion which the leadership is desperately trying to put down. To be sure, the revolution originated from above, with economic reforms now almost a decade old. But these have now taken root in society and threaten to outgrow the control of the Party. First, farmers are allowed to sell to market. Then factory managers are given control of their enterprises. Now students demand democracy.

Marx was right. It really is change from below — in material conditions, economics, social structure — that ultimately creates revolution. Deng started by introducing a hint of capitalism. With Western-style economic liberty comes the hunger for Western-style political liberty. Thanks to Deng, China has incubated a democratic-capitalist revolution, 200 years late.

China's system of socialism is "feudal or semi-feudal in essence," said Marxist theorist Wang Ruowang. (Saying it was one of "the five major mistakes" for which he too was purged, reports Chinese television.) Add a bit of capitalism — and Marx prophesied, as did Deng's hard-line colleagues, precisely what comes next: "bourgeois liberalization," the demand for freedom.

China's curious time warp is reflected even in the poverty of the language of political dissent. A recent pro-democracy speech by Fang is as stunning for its anachronisms as for its courage. Declared Fang, "Men are born with rights." It was a discovery as touching in its innocence as if some isolated aboriginal tribe had just now come upon the idea of the wheel.

Can totalitarianism undo itself? I am not very sanguine, even about China. It lurches from campaign to campaign, every swerve in party line announced in the morning newspaper, dictating what thoughts may safely be worn that day. 1984 saw the "anti-spiritual pollution" campaign. The Democracy Wall movement of 1978-79 was suppressed in 1980. The anti-rightist campaign of 1957 sent to labor camps several million people who spoke up during the predecessor "let a hundred flowers bloom" campaign.

The reversals are again dizzying. In spring 1986, Hu said "Let a hundred flowers bloom" — again. Now another flower harvest. Hu is cut down. Fang, Wang and gang are purged. And the most chilling repressive device of all, confession, is back in operation. The People's Daily set the tone by criticizing itself for having published last year an article calling for more democracy. Reports have begun to come in from the provinces of self-criticism by professors and teachers. The tale of woe begins again.

Yet the turmoil itself is reason for some hope. Gorbachev has his revolution firmly, depressingly in control. He lights the fires. In China, the students lit the fuse, and so many are burning that the party had to call out the fire brigade. Can it extinguish every spark? I doubt that I will live to see the first anti-totalitarian transformation. But I am cheered by the thought that somewhere in China today there is a baby who might.

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Letters

Harrah hailed and hated

Face consequences, responsibilities of sex

Although I'm usually not a fan of Scott Harrah's articles, his piece on AIDS (DN, Jan. 26) was well-written. He is indeed right on target when he says, "Wake up, America." It's about time we realized that sexual activity has quences and therefore responsibilities to contend with.

Our nation's casual attitude toward sexual promiscuity has led us into an untold number of heartbreaks. Due to our lack of responsibility, unwanted pregnancies are rampant and have led to the tragedy of abortion. We have abandoned the sanctity of the marriage bed, creating numerous emotional problems as well as a 50 percent divorce rate, and the diseases, AIDS, herpes and others, that accompany extramarital sex. This is not to mention the increase in deviant sexual practices including homosexuality, child molestation and bestiality (where AIDS probably originated). Our nation has abandoned its sexual morals which protected us from many problems we could not foresee and now face. We have traded emotional security and responsibility for pleasure-seeking and tragedy.

So "wake up, America." Let us use our brains and see through the myths of the sexual revolution. Its consequences surround and are about to destroy us.

Rob-Roy D. Murray
senior
mechanical engineering

Aid should be for all who are able to achieve

On the front page of the Jan. 21 edition of the DN, the story entitled "Tax law will be felt by those seeking aid" begins with the statement, "There is no free lunch." The statement perhaps should have read, "There is no such thing as equal opportunity in our educational system." More and more the ideal that the ability to obtain education should be conditional upon how you perform academically is distorted to a point beyond recognition. Increasingly, what determines the availability of education is not academic ability but economic background. The new tax law and reformed student-aid programs are direct descendants of this unfortunate state of affairs.

This dangerous shift in attitude has occurred not just because the political situation in the country has put uncaring people into positions of power, but also because of the gross apathy of the student body in general. The general decline in any kind of academic spirit in the university setting has given rise to not just a "get by" attitude but one of complete unawareness of the forces that shape one's life. What kind of clothes, haircut or car one possesses, what fraternity/sorority one belongs to, and/or how much alcohol one can consume before vomiting become all-important aspects of most students' lives and scales by which other people are judged.

Matthew Mulford
junior
Latin-American Studies

University wastes funds; students fear for future

Where is your money going? Taxpayers and those of you who are pay to send your children to the university should take a closer look. Parents and students who are paying hundreds of dollars to get a degree, do you really know what you are buying? Plenty of departments here at UNL are lacking professors. Because of the lack of professional educators, post-doctorates (who may have no experience in teaching) were told by the university they must teach. Even though they are very knowledgeable about the subject, they cannot convey this subject to the student as well as professional educators.

Is it that the university cannot afford to pay for professors? The university claims that it is at the receiving end of numerous budget cuts by the state government. While this may be true, how can the university afford to buy two multi-thousand dollar buildings that are going toward recreational facilities only?

It's true that private institutions will have to pay for what the government can no longer afford because of economic decline.

Julie Sarringar
physical therapy
freshman

Roberta Schmechel
biology
senior

Reader cans Harrah for putting out 'garbage'

During my first semester here at UNL, I was under the impression that the DN was a somewhat good newspaper, considering the fact that it is independent of the College of Journalism. But with the introduction of "Harrah's Hollywood," I have lost all respect for the DN.

Since my arrival here I have been fair in my judgment of the DN. The one prevalent good point of this paper, I felt, was that it was not printing sloppy journalism, such as horoscopes and gossip columns. But upon my return for the second semester, the first thing I read was this piece of non-journalistic garbage put out by Scott Harrah. I have to admit I never have held much respect for Harrah's writing, but this one takes the cake. His new column is something I would expect to read in the supermarket while waiting in the check-out line instead of in a major college newspaper. My first reaction to this column was to burn it as soon as I was finished throwing up; instead I decided to throw it out with last night's pizza. The next day I reluctantly paged through the paper, hoping that this column was not a daily thing, only to find two-week-old pictures of the Sugar Bowl.

Chris Shipwash
freshman
journalism

The Hottest Winter Night (TONIGHT)

EVENT	PLACE	EVENT	PLACE
7:00 Tex Nord (Rope Twirling)	Main Lounge	9:45 Curt Angove (Hypnotist)	CDR
Model UN Int'l Trivia Bowl	Georgian Suite B	Sho-Rei-Shobu-Kan (Karate)	Main Lounge
7:15 Dennis Taylor (Singer)	Crib	10:00 Scarlet & Cream	Centennial Room
7:30 Billard Exhibition (Paul Gerni)	Centennial Room	Trickle Trickle (Singers)	Crib
Music Committee (Barbershoppers)	Main Lounge	10:15 Peter Niclous (Juggler)	Main Lounge
7:45 Talent Show Performers	Harvest Room	Shirley's Boys (Band)	Harvest Room
8:00 Comedy Shop	Regency Suite	10:45 Society for Creative Anachronisms	Main Lounge
Caricature Artists	Main Lounge	Susan Simon (Singer)	Crib
Model Security Council	Georgian Suite A	11:00 Talent Show Winners	Crib
Jello Eating Contest	Main Lounge	11:15 Eddy Strange	Ballroom
8:30 Trash Can Alley	Ballroom	11:30 Lil' Safe Driver (Band)	Harvest Room
Int'l Folk Dancers	Main Lounge	Essence (Belly Dancing)	Main Lounge
Ho-Ho The Magic Clown	Crib	11:45 Kevin Koci (Magic)	Crib
9:00 The Raves	Harvest Room	12:30 Verandes (Main Band)	Centennial Room
9:15 Paul Mesner (Puppeteer)	Crib		
Wheel of Fortune Contest	Main Lounge		



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