

Editorial

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Curtis gets a chance

Gov. Orr backs the 'Year of Education'

On Tuesday, the Curtis High School band played and everyone cheered. Maybe they were celebrating the "Year of Education."

Gov. Kay Orr backed her designation of 1987 as the "Year of Education" Tuesday when she announced that the Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture in Curtis should remain open.

That gave the folks in Curtis — and the rest of the state — something to cheer about.

Orr decided to keep the school open despite pressure from some senators and business leaders. They've been calling for the university to "reduce its scope" — a euphemism for taking the ax to programs to save money.

In order for Nebraska to grow economically, it must educate its students in fields they can apply within the state. This will keep students in the area after they graduate instead of leaving for more lucrative fields.

As a state-owned university, it's NU's obligation to the state to give its greatest resource — its people — an education. Curtis officials have been trying to tell Orr and the Legislature the same thing for about seven

months. NCTA officials have been fighting to keep the school open since last spring, when the NU Board of Regents voted last spring to stop university funding of the school because of budget cuts.

And the battle ended Tuesday in Norfolk, with Orr telling the Legislature to make room in NU's current budget and in next year's to support the school. Specifically, she's seeking amendments to the 1987-88 biennial appropriation in the amount of \$350,000 for the current fiscal year and \$1.4 million for the following year.

But Orr's sense was more important than the dollars. She said Curtis should remain open because Nebraska's economy is linked to the state's educational efforts.

Her decision, which she delayed once this fall, has caused some problems for Curtis officials. Officials complained that because the future of the school was uncertain, they were unable to recruit high school students for upcoming semesters. Only 58 students currently attend the school, and recruiters need all the time they can get to boost enrollment.

Officials bombarded with conflict

European chiefs send U.S. officials, military different signals

At the presidential Republican debate in Houston a collision occurred when the subject came up of the forthcoming INF treaty, which is designed to eliminate from the European scene theater nuclear weapons of a range in excess of 300 miles. Vice President George Bush reaffirmed his approval of the treaty by citing the approval of it by European leaders. I have just come back, he said, from a trip to Europe where I spent time with the chiefs of government of Italy, West Germany, Great Britain, France . . . and all of those leaders welcome a treaty.

Flash to Gen. Alexander Haig. Well, he said, he had just come back from a similar trip to Europe, he had visited the same leaders, and he reports that they look on the proposed treaty with dismay. Gen. Haig, sitting six inches from George Bush, looked him straight in the eye, and Vice President Bush, sitting six inches from Alexander Haig, looked him back straight in the eye; and they both held their ground.

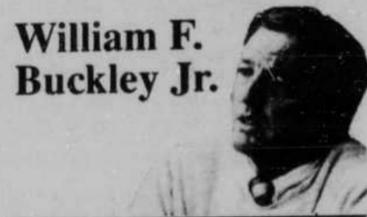
Now, in such a quandary there is no obvious solution. Bush does not lie, and in any event he would hardly elect to lie about this, should it occur to him to begin lying. The chiefs of governments involved are publicly recorded as approving the proposed treaty.

On the other hand, neither is Alexander Haig, running for president of the United States, likely to make something out of whole cloth. And the observer, doing a little thinking on his own, has got to acknowledge that sensible Europeans can hardly rejoice over a treaty that disarms them from the capability of returning a Soviet conventional offensive with a touch of nuclear grapeshot. Why would Europeans be willing to trade such weapons as cruise and Pershing II missiles

for bombers and submarines, let alone strategic weapons fired exclusively at the will of a U.S. president?

One arrives at the conclusion that Thatcher et al. are saying one thing officially to Ronald Reagan and something quite different to Haig and to others in whom they confide. Why the difference? Because since the reduction of intermediate nuclear forces is perceived to be a step toward disarmament, the European public inclines to applaud any such development. This need not coincide in any respect with private convictions of Western European leaders.

William F. Buckley Jr.



So, seeking further perspective, the questioner addressed Haig in Houston: If it is true that Western Europe will be much weaker after an INF treaty than it now is, why can't we count on representatives of the armed forces to make that point in their testimony before Congress? Are they intimidated by protocol? Or by loyalty to the commander in chief, or both?

Haig answered: both. The American public is left with a problem of some gravity. If indeed most of the friendly leaders of Western Europe deny the advisability of removing our Pershings from Europe in return for the destruction of the SS-20s, we can understand that their domestic political concerns will prevent us from knowing this. But shouldn't our own military speak up and give their opinion of the question?

Americans will argue that if indeed a general or an admiral saw the projected situation as truly serious, he would reach beyond protocol and communicate his doubts publicly, prepared to pay the price of premature retirement in return for doing his duty by his conscience.

The trouble with that facile reassurance is that there are those who believe that loyalty transcends objective analysis. When, at the same affair, Bush was asked whether he would describe those situations in which he, as vice president, disagreed with Ronald Reagan, as president, his reply was simple: "Yes, I could, and no, I won't." Here is an extension of the concept of loyalty that reaches over to the point of subordinating one's judgment about national security. One wonders whether members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will be guided by the same hierarchy of felt obligations.

There is no way to know in advance the ultimate costs of removing the Pershings from Europe, and one would rue the day when a military officer would consider his first obligation to be that of telling the truth as he saw it. The appropriate gesture would be first to resign from the Army (read Navy, Air Force) and then testify to what exactly is on one's mind.

Not easy to do. The career is forfeited, and the day after tomorrow, life becomes lonely. But it is reassuring to think that we could count on the loyalty of our Navy, Air Force and Army admirals and generals sooner than we can count on the loyalty of Thatcher and Mitterrand. Our military witnesses would lose a great deal, but they would sleep better; and so would Europe.

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Decisions of life, death, tuition hike debated

Letters

Men often absent

This is in response to the uproar caused by Nanci Hamilton's letter (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 30), which addressed James Sennett's anti-choice editorial.

I have many valid pro-choice arguments that could be presented here. However, I would just like to offer the following observations.

All the letters I have read opposing Hamilton's views have been written by men, members of the population who will never have to make difficult and possibly devastating choices regarding an unwanted, unplanned pregnancy.

In addition, the prevalence of single mothers who are heads of households gives support to the assertion that men are notoriously absent from child bearing and child rearing in the United States.

H.E. Hayden
junior
special education

Who decides life?

This is written in disbelief of the response to James Sennett's column on abortions (Daily Nebraskan, Oct 30).

I do not see how anyone can just dismiss another human life, a possible Nobel Peace Prize winner or president of the United States, because it will cause a woman nine small months of discomfort out of 60 years of her life.

A couple knows what they're doing, and no pregnancy is a surprise to the mother. A mother is what she

becomes, not five days later or three months later, but at that moment. From then on, there is not one but two lives to consider. All I hear is how it will affect the lives of the parents. What will they have to sacrifice to give this child's life? The small amount of pain, time, gossip behind their backs, and letdown to those around them will end in less time than it would have taken to give another human life a chance to make a difference somewhere in this world of ours.

Maybe the couple should start thinking of what is going to happen to them before there is another life to consider.

Hamilton brought up ineffective birth control or babies resulting from rape. I can't believe that God would create a life in any situation unless there was a very special purpose for that life. Where did we get the idea that we choose who lives and who dies because it will be an inconvenience in our life?

Polla Ita
junior
food science and technology

Babies need chance

This is a response to Nanciana Hamilton's letter (Daily Nebraskan, Oct 30) in which she advocated abortion.

Yes, a woman has the right to choose whether to have children, but she does not have the right to take the life of another human being. If she can't handle the responsibility and "burden" of a child, then she shouldn't put herself in a situation where she could get pregnant. You say abstinence isn't a social reality. Well, maybe we'd better do something about that. Among unwanted pregnancies, venereal disease and AIDS, it's becoming stupid and downright

dangerous not to abstain in many situations.

As for women who get raped, that's a tragedy that society needs to work on preventing. It is also not the woman's fault. But killing a defenseless baby is not going to help matters anyway. Chances are it will give the woman an added sense of guilt. And compared to a lifetime, nine months is not a long time.

The decision to give up a baby admittedly would be a very hard thing to do. So why is it so easy to kill the child? Women who give up their babies aren't cruel and heartless. They are the warm and caring ones, because they truly want the best for their child. The people who abort babies — including the doctors, boyfriends, family, friends, etc., who help make the decision or actually perform the murder — are the cruel and heartless ones.

I am an advocate of women's rights, but more than that, I'm an advocate of peoples' rights, including the unborn. They can't fight for themselves, so we have to fight for them. They deserve a chance to live the same as any of us, and I honestly cannot see how anyone could consider it to be in the best interests of someone to be dead. Women and men both have to realize that pregnancies involve three people: mother, father and child. The parents must behave responsibly enough to prevent an unwanted pregnancy. It can be done, and believe it or not it's really not that hard or inconvenient.

Elaine Connelly
freshman
undeclared

ASUN hike a joke

I can't believe ASUN's proposal to increase tuition to faculty salaries could seriously be made. This is a land-grant university, not a private

college. It is the unicameral's responsibility to finance this institution in such a manner that it provides a quality education at a reasonable price, promotes the public good and maintains itself as a research facility to aid in the economic growth of the state.

If the unicameral is not doing this, why should there be any attempt to relieve them of their responsibility? Rather, the attempt should be made to get them to accept the financial problems of this university and solve them according to the economy of the state. If these problems are so big that they can't be solved, then the unicameral should abandon the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to suffer the fate of the Agriculture College in Curtis and turn UNL into a private institution.

Since I doubt anyone is ready to scrap UNL at this point, I must assume that the financial problems are solved by the Legislature. I really doubt that any kind of gross example by the students such as a self-imposed tuition hike should be considered. In real dollars, that could drive many students out of the state or into accepting more student loans than they could afford to repay.

The Daily Nebraskan reported that Regent Nancy Hoch apparently supports such a tuition hike. What a crock. If that's the best answer she can come up with, she should resign her seat and give it to someone who will support the ideals of this university. The regents already force the students to do their own lobbying, isn't that bad enough? Why does Hoch think that this student action will indicate the importance of a faculty pay hike? Is she herself incapable of making that importance known to the Legislature?

Although I feel Pete Castellano's ASUN bill is a joke and that he should be impeached for suggesting it, it does point to a growing student dissatisfac-

tion for the work the regents and the Legislature are doing to resolve the economic woes of UNL.

Our dear governor, Kay Orr, has called this "The Year of Education." If the students want to get involved, then they should stop cutting their own throats and draft propositions to get the NU Board of Regents off its dead butt and go in force down to the Legislature to make its case there.

Douglas Engh
graduate student
education

Students broke

In response to the "tuition for salary bill" editorial (Daily Nebraskan, Nov. 2):

Students and faculty of UNL need to make their voices heard. Everybody will agree that a good institution is based on a good faculty, not a championship football team. Then why do we continue to flood our athletic programs and leave education behind? What is even more absurd is that our own ASUN proposed the already-broke student body pay \$5 a credit hour more.

Andy Pollock, I ask you to tell that to the thousands of students still waiting for their GSLs, those with further decreased financial aid and those who have to pay for their educations out of their own pocket.

It is time we decide to make the decision for our state and federal legislators, regents and governor. Recalls are on the rise and the 1988 elections are around the corner. Education is the future, not defense, or football, or a senator's or representative's pay raise. The students and faculty have bit the bullet enough.

Jim Brisnehan
junior
architecture