

Space swap

NU should trade capsule for artifacts

Just when the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was ready to say bon voyage to the Apollo 009 space capsule, the swap hit another snag.

The NU Board of Regents voted Friday to delay sending the Apollo to the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson, Kan., for at least a month.

In so doing, regents expressed hope that the University of Nebraska could raise enough funds to restore the deteriorating capsule.

In the midst of a budget crisis, finding the necessary \$200,000 to \$400,000 to repair the capsule and additional money to house it properly seems impossible.

While raising private donations on Apollo's behalf is a more acceptable scheme, the likelihood of raising that much money is slim. The controversy surrounding Apollo's deterioration has failed to spark widespread interest.

Even if the money could be raised through private donations, it simply is too late. NU had its chance to manage the Apollo properly years ago, but it failed to do so. Any attempt to make up for past wrongs would just emphasize those mistakes.

The proposed swap would bring \$1.5 million worth of space artifacts to NU in exchange for the Apollo.

Granted, a variety of space doodads is not the same as an actual space capsule. But the trade seems reasonable for a capsule in as shabby condition as the Apollo 009 is.

And the longer the regents delay action on Apollo 009, the more shabby it becomes.

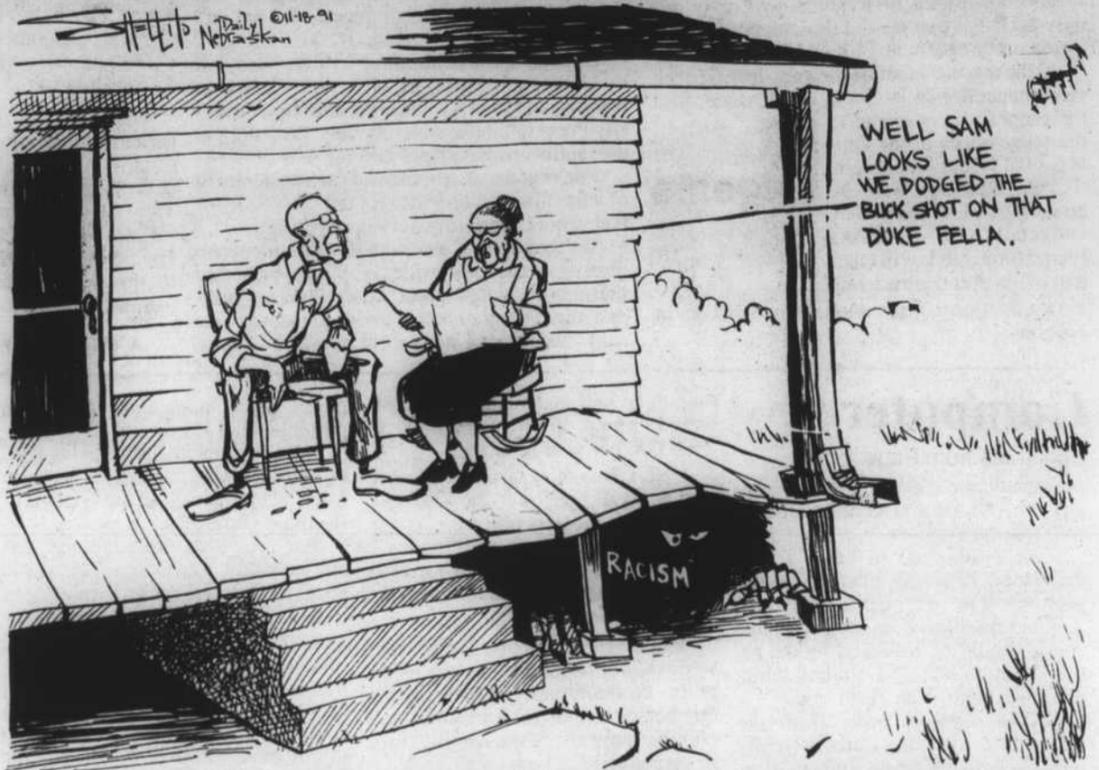
Max Ary, director of the cosmosphere, said that if NU continues to delay restoration of the capsule, it could become damaged beyond repair.

"Whoever ends up with the responsibility to restore the craft must do it within weeks," he said.

Further delays also test the patience of cosmosphere officials, who have waited more than a year for the trade to be finalized.

The debate over what to do with Apollo 009 has lasted long enough. Let it blast off in peace.

—J.P.



JAMES ZANK

Shortages threaten planet

The cornucopia is often used as a symbol of Thanksgiving. The horn of plenty symbolizes the abundance of food and prosperity, as was recognized by the early European immigrants to the New World.

It is a symbol that is out of date. At the very least, it doesn't reflect the current situation anywhere on Earth. When the cornucopia was adopted as a symbol of the pilgrims' prosperity, the world's population was fewer than 1 billion people.

Now, a few centuries later, the world population is about 5.5 billion, and it continues to increase. Where once there seemed to be abundance, there now seems to be shortage. Prosperity has become wanting in many parts of the world and in our own country.

The plentiful resources found centuries ago still are being used today. But these resources are finite and will not support unlimited growth. There are simply too many humans for this planet to support, and the number of humans is increasing.

The truly frightening aspect is that no matter how much we recycle or develop alternative forms of energy production, we won't have solved these problems until our population is at a sustainable level.

World population didn't make it to the 1 billion mark until about A.D. 1810, but the population doubled by 1927. In the last 64 years, a net total of about 3 billion people has been added to the Earth. Unfortunately, many are living in impoverished conditions, as there are too few resources for far too many people.

As population increases, demands upon the planet's ability to support life are equally amplified. As more people are brought into the world, more food is needed to feed them. More crops are needed, which require more water, as do the new people and the cattle they will want to eat.

More buildings to house the increased number of people are needed, as are more resources to clothe them. More energy is needed to transport these people to their jobs, to light their homes and to build the cars they drive and the televisions they watch.

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so do the consequences of energy production. More nuclear power plants mean more nuclear waste. More coal-burning plants translate into more air pollution. More cars provide more carbon dioxide to worsen the greenhouse effect.

More demands for energy mean more energy expended to mine the coal, the uranium to produce the energy. More energy is needed to pump the oil from the ground, to transport it, to refine it and to dispose of its waste products.

All of this presumes that there will be additional, currently untapped supplies of these resources. There are not.

Although there are a variety of predictions, there is growing concern that the earth's oil supplies are rapidly dwindling. Supplies of clean, fresh water are reaching limits, even in the United States. California, Arizona and Florida already have water conservation programs.

It is a popular misconception that the population explosion is confined to undeveloped countries. It's true

that finite resources and population growth hinder a country's ability to sustain development. But this is true in undeveloped nations and the United States as well.

The United States is quickly losing ground in providing the resources it needs to survive. Oil is one resource on which we are heavily dependent. We divert many economic and political resources to maintain our dependency on this fossil fuel.

We don't invest very heavily in finding other energy sources, nor do we do anything to bring the demand for oil down. We do next to nothing to solve the basic problem of consumer demand. We allow unlimited growth in the numbers of consumers while remaining dependent on finite goods.

Other nations spend far more on family planning than the United States. In the 1980s, Bangladesh spent 3.1 percent of its budget on family planning. Yet, with the exception of Japan, all industrialized nations have cut their expenditures for family planning services.

That makes the United States look a little shabby. While we represent a small but growing fraction of the world's population, we consume a majority of the world's resources. Still we let our population grow uninhibited.

Undeveloped countries must compete with the United States on the world market. A few have seen that part of the key to their solution is to limit growth. They must survive with far fewer resources and limited amounts of technical expertise than what the United States squanders.

This creates an unfair situation for the undeveloped nations of the world and a dangerous situation for all people. Countries such as Brazil are forced by economic constraints to clear-cut tropical rain forests to help pay debts to Western banks, yet the entire world risks a runaway greenhouse effect from Brazil's action.

The cornucopia is being emptied quickly. Unless humans recognize the limits to growth, the species will be in danger of making itself extinct.

Zank is a junior art and English major, and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

Sexuality, feminism compatible

This is in response to Dionne Searcey's article ("Playboy interview reveals naked truth on sex-toy role," DN, Nov. 15). Kudos to Searcey for her startling journalistic acumen. She's truly blown the lid off the Playboy publication. I'm sure I'm not the only DN reader to be bowled over by her discovery that women pose naked in these pages — here all this time I thought everyone was buying it for the articles.

Searcey's account took us through the phases of this revelation from the sighting of the naked breasts to her realization that breasts like these will be "ogled by men for weeks." I would argue that the majority of University of Nebraska-Lincoln women were hip to this fact before they ever walked through the door, myself included. I didn't do it because I'm a narcissist; I didn't do it to get back at my parents for sending me to a parochial high school; I did it because I thought it would be interesting, and I was not wrong.

I posed for four pictures, two of which were bathing-suit shots. I didn't think it out of place when photographer David Chan looked at my bikini-clad breasts because they were on level with his eyes and that's his job. Unlike Searcey, I entered the inter-

view fully prepared to have my exterior attributes evaluated for publication potential at some point. That is, after all, why these people were in town.

As far as your feminism is concerned, knock yourself out being one — go for it. But why do you feel that feminism must be mutually exclusive from expressions of sexuality? Maybe the breasts Searcey saw in suite 1504 were naked because their owner had burned her bra. You are only a sex toy if you allow yourself to be one. Maybe the owner of the breasts, and many of the other applicants like me, saw this as a chance to demonstrate our belief that intelligence and sex appeal are not incongruous states, as much as our culture would like us to believe.

The bottom line is, if you're not comfortable with it, don't do it; but don't pigeon-hole those of us who were able to walk away from the experience without Searcey's apparent moral turbulence into a category of "non-feminists." No, I'm sure Chan cares nothing for my intelligence, and neither will the men who buy the issue. The important thing is, I care.

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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.

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 will not be granted.

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