

SAM KEPFIELD

Clinton's vocabulary deceiving

Call me unpatriotic. I don't want to "sacrifice." I refuse to "contribute." I am wary of "change."



This is only the beginning of a litany of lies and broken promises, and is one facet of a massive rewrite of history that would make Orwell and Joe Stalin beam with pride.

That, in the prevailing political lexicon, makes me an evil minion of "business as usual." But, given the tactics being used by the Clinton administration, I could just as easily be a "double-plus-ungood thought criminal."

George Orwell correctly observed 50 years ago that control of language was the most powerful tool available to those who would lead us. By defining the vocabulary, you define the debate.

You also get to define your enemies. Clinton has mastered this form of class warfare. His State of the Union speech, assailing the rich, was nothing more than a southern-fried two minute's hate. Ah, were he only capable of such brevity.

The White House has embarked upon a program of national brainwashing taken straight out of "1984." It began during the campaign and continued apace through the transition. The truly amazing thing is that people seem to be buying into it.

Remember in the primaries when Clinton attacked Paul Tsongas and later Ross Perot for a gasoline tax? Remember when Clinton made a middle-class tax cut the centerpiece of his campaign, and vilified the Bush campaign for suggesting that tax increases might extend down to \$36,000-per-year incomes? Remember when he attacked Tsongas again for allegedly wanting to means-test Social Security?

How short is the memory of the American people. Clinton is now backing an energy tax. Clinton's own press secretary admitted that people making \$30,000 would probably see their taxes go up, not down. And Clinton wants to raise the percentage of Social Security income subject to taxation from 50 percent to 85 percent, and he has the gall to call it a "pending cut"

ing for socialist welfare state programs. This is good.

- Consumption: Private spending by individuals on things they want with money they earn. This is bad.

- The rich: Clinton originally said everyone making over \$200,000 per year was rich, and that millionaires would pay a 10 percent surtax. Now, everyone making over \$180,000 per year is "rich," and the surtax will be on those making \$250,000 per year.

- "The 1980s" (also known as "12 years of Reagan-Bush"): A dark and dismal period in our nation's history when we had 93 months of sustained growth, lower interest rates, lower inflation, more taxes being paid by the rich, and 20 million jobs created; the root of all evil today.

If one still wants to blame the "12 years of Reagan-Bush," look at the Constitution, Article 1, sections 7 and 8, which gives the Democrat-controlled Congress the power to tax and spend. Deficits soared when Congress voted tax increases in 1982 and 1990 and then wretched on promised spending cuts.

The problem is not "the decade of greed," and the solution is not "sacrifice" and "contribution." The problem is that in this country, government has consistently failed to distinguish between what is essential — defense, and what is merely a good idea — the National Endowment for the Arts.

The problem is too much government. The solution is not sacrifice, but that the government sacrifices.

It will be a difficult task to remember this for the four-year onslaught of Clinton's newspeak. I offer my list as a public service, subject to addition and revision at any moment — or eradication by Big Bubba. Remember it in 1996, when we escape from "1984."

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rather than what it is, a tax increase. This is only the beginning of a litany of lies and broken promises, and is one facet of a massive rewrite of history that would make Orwell and Joe Stalin beam with pride.

The revision and the language alterations are so pervasive that one needs a dictionary to keep pace. Here are a few of the more blatant, over-used terms.

- Contribution: This means "taxes" in ordinary English. "Broad-based contribution" means high taxes.

- Sacrifice: This is a reformulation of the old "misery index." Liberals and staists want to sell their program on pain and guilt, as a penance for "the 1980s" (see below).

- Change: We were told that the country was on the wrong track, that we had to have "the courage to change," but we were never told what that "change" was. Now we know. If you loved the late '70s, change is for you.

- Investment: Government spend-

DEB McADAMS

UNL wasteful spending abounds

Going to college is like living in a shell. Every day there are deadlines. Sneeze and you get behind.



Poor financial insight on the part of UNL means that Richards Hall will cave in while UNL swallows up real estate like The Blob.

Survival makes 20,000 of us into little centers of the universe. Some days the tantamount challenge for a student is getting out of bed. We lose sight of the challenges faced by the other 99 percent of Nebraska's population, the people who pay for this university.

Some of them have been scrounging up the payment for a combine that's stuck up to the axle in a muddy field of \$2.10 corn. Elsewhere, people look at an expanse of shredded crops waiting for a hail insurance check. These people have really benefited from the classics department of their local land grant university. Their objections to UNL budget cuts are forthcoming.

Locally owned businesses, the lifeblood of small towns, are folding in the shadow of Wal-Martdom. The types of job opportunities created by giant discount chains pay about 60 cents an hour after child-care and ordinary employment overhead. These people will gladly shoulder a greater tax burden for a college that they can't afford to attend, especially when the president is going to take them by their collective pant legs and shake the change out of their pockets.

The country, the state, UNL and a lot of individuals are suffering a hang-over from the compulsive spending of the '80s. We all got something that should never have been invented: lines of credit. We all counted on something that never materialized: growing income. It was the age of financial planning at its finest.

Poor financial planning, in my household means more bike rides and

Taxpayers will be eager to foot the bill for the new monolith that is replacing the old Malone neighborhood. Will our good friends at Dow bankroll all of those geneticists for the Beadle Center? Will Pioneer Seed hire the Merry Maids to clean it? Has a kindly benefactor set up a trust fund to cover the services of Recycle with Michael, or maybe Gino's Genetic Refuse Service?

The utility costs alone for the Beadle Center will probably be enough to finance the classics department in perpetuity. The biggest ticket item on all new construction is "cost overruns." Taxpayers never see the actual figures, but the "cost overruns" on a project the size of the Beadle Center may be enough to rebuild Richards Hall and Love Library.

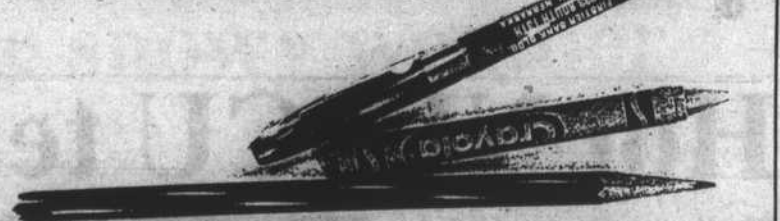
It behooves our student leaders to be photographed telling those evil legislators that UNL cannot survive more budget cuts. It certainly appears to be more dignified than shrieking about prayer at commencement, and it allows the administration to relax while their student body bulldog chews on the mailman's leg.

Twenty thousand centers of the universe can object to budget cuts until they're blue in the face. The reality remains. Those cuts are imminent. Students would be better served by inundating their chancellor with lists of the wasteful spending that they see.

Since we already have the cheapest toilet paper on earth, I'll start by suggesting a chartered bicycle the next time one of the regent's progeny needs a tutor.

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P.S. Write Back



The Daily Nebraskan wants to hear from you. If you want to voice your opinion about an article that appears in the newspaper, let us know. Just write a brief letter to the editor and sign it (don't forget your student ID number) and mail it to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 'R' Street, Lincoln, NE 68588-0488, or stop by the office in the basement of the Nebraska Union and visit with us. We're all ears.

Summer Editor In Chief

The Daily Nebraskan is accepting applications for the 1993 summer editor in chief. Applicants must have one year of newspaper experience, preferably at the Daily Nebraskan, and be a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this spring, summer or fall.

The editor in chief formulates editorial policy, determines guidelines for the daily operation of the newsroom, hires the senior editorial staff, helps determine the content of the editorial page, prepares the editorial salary budget and reports to the Publications Board.

The Daily Nebraskan is published weekly during the two five-week sessions plus a New Student Enrollment issue.

Applications are available in the Daily Nebraskan office, basement of the Nebraska Union, and must be returned with writing samples by 3 p.m., Feb. 26.

Daily Nebraskan

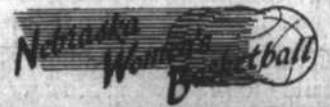
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Bring a date (or a friend) to the UNL Women's Basketball game Sunday, Feb. 28, at 2:00 p.m. and sign up to win dinner for two at Bum Steer Steaks. You must be present to win, so come to the game and support the Huskers in their quest for a Big Eight title as they battle the Cyclones of Iowa State!

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