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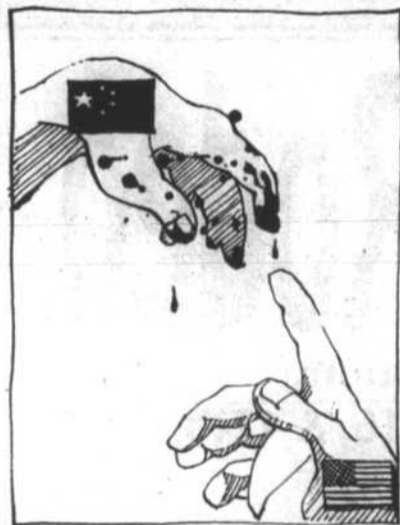
EDITORIAL

## No business

### Human rights more important than money

In tough economic times, it is often difficult for a nation to live up to its own standards of what is right.

Such is the dilemma faced by the United States and President Clinton regarding China. We must balance doing what is right against our pressing economic needs.



David Badders/DN

China is one of the most repressive countries in the world. As demonstrated in Tiananmen Square, the Chinese have little qualms about human rights and no problem in killing their own citizens.

The United States, a nation that believes in human rights and has pledged to protect them around the world, should not associate itself in any way with China. We should certainly not aid them through trade.

But China is a large customer of American goods in a time when fewer and

fewer nations are. The Associated Press reported that Friday, the Chinese agreed to buy \$800 million worth of airplanes from the Boeing Co. On Tuesday, they will negotiate with Detroit to buy 24,000 cars worth \$500 million.

The Chinese indicated to Boeing that they expect to need 800 more airplanes over the next 15 years.

Boeing needs the business. The company laid off 10,000 workers last year and announced that 28,000 more jobs would be eliminated in the next year and a half.

The trade moves by the Chinese are part of a strategy to pressure Washington to continue normal trade status with China. They are working on U.S. business interests, which are pressuring Clinton and the Congress to avoid any moves that might antagonize the Chinese.

Clinton has until June 3 to make a decision on renewing China's most-favored-nation trade status for another year. If the Chinese lose MFN status, they will face higher trade barriers in the United States.

Last year, President Bush used his veto power to beat back efforts by congressional Democrats to impose human rights conditions on MFN for China. During the presidential campaign, Clinton criticized Bush's move and sided with those in Congress who favored sanctions against the Chinese.

He criticized Bush for "doing business as usual with those who murdered freedom in Tiananmen Square."

Now Clinton — and the United States — face the challenge of dealing with economic reality and what is right. We must decide if we will stand by what we believe in or do what is politically expedient.

The United States should not renew China's MFN status. We should not grant special privileges to a nation that kills its own people.

China may be the world's largest growing economy. And we may be a nation that is badly in need of economic growth.

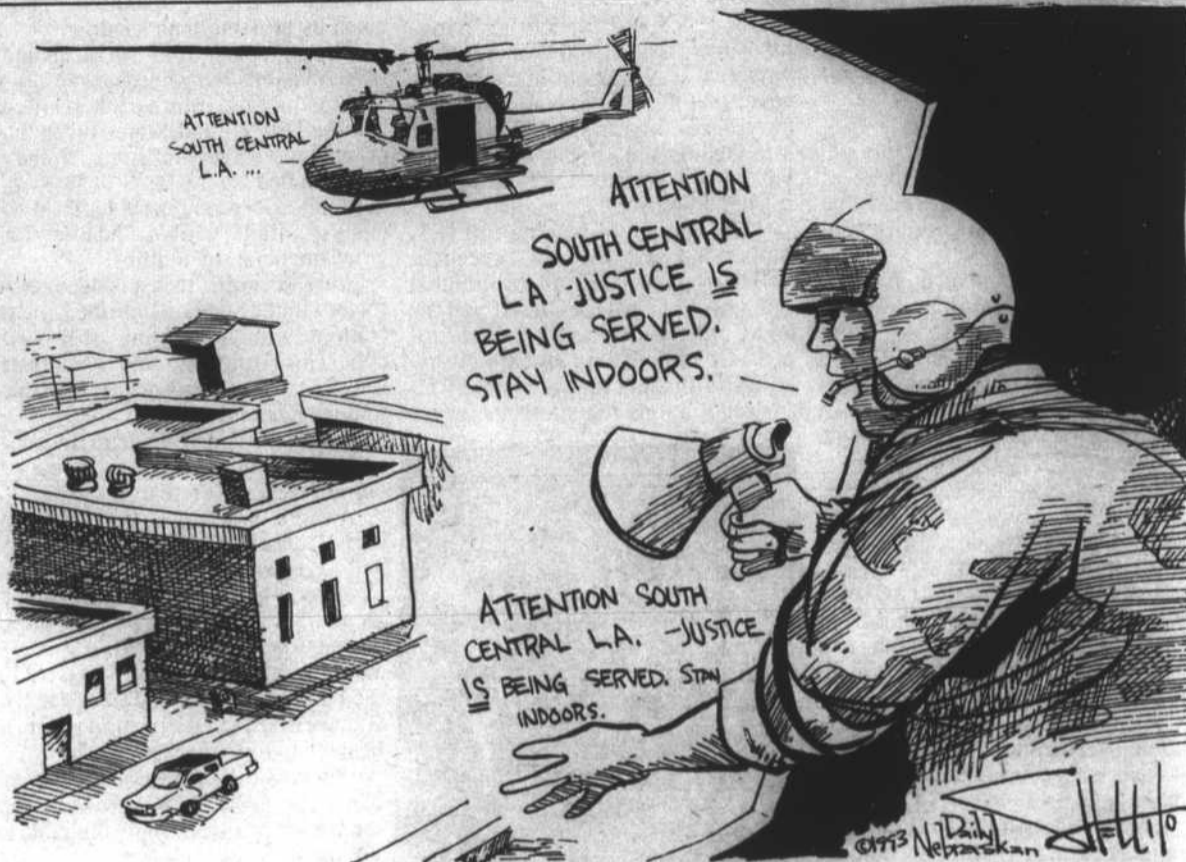
But some prices are too high to pay. Trade with a nation that has blood on its hands to further our economic interests is one of them.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Half editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1993 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. Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.

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 or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted. Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



MICHELLE PAULMAN

## Freaking out can be sickening

O y veh. I'm sick. I'm tired. I've been sick and tired for weeks. I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired.

So I exclaim, "Oy veh," a popular Yiddish expression that can mean either "No, you schmuck, I said one kosher dog WITHOUT relish" or "I think I'm going to die."

In my case, since I like my dogs with relish, I think I'm going to die. Of what I have no idea.

Neither did the health center. Last week they screened me and my blood cells for mono, anemia and pregnancy. I had a greater chance of having prostate cancer than being pregnant.

Of course, I shouldn't joke about that. With my luck, I might grow a prostate and then develop cancer in it.

Since I stumped the panel at the health center, I sought the opinion of a truly professional group — my friends.

One mused that I had either walking pneumonia or the boogie-woogie flu. The other told me I was pregnant.

Lacking more friends, I turned to a specialist. He looked in my ears, nose and throat. He told me if four bottles of antibiotics hadn't cured me, I probably didn't have an infection. Heck, my friends could have told me that.

So he sent me away with a fifth round of drugs, more potent than the others, which means the side effects probably include nausea, decreased breast size and making my head spin around.

Being sick is bad enough. Not knowing why you're sick adds a whole new dimension. Besides being sneezy, sleepy, dopey, phlegmy and pukey, I'm also crabby and mopey because the doc is snowed white.

To make matters worse, I'm older. As of Friday, I'm now 23 years old. If I'm an average human being, that means about one-third of my life is over. Of course, the optimist would tell me two-thirds of my life is still left in the glass. Then I would hack a loogie on him.

Birthdays don't usually get me down. I like to think of them as a good excuse to act half as old as you really are.

But when, on the day that old Fa-



Neither did the health center. Last week they screened me and my blood cells for mono, anemia and pregnancy. I had a greater chance of having prostate cancer than being pregnant.

ther Time tacks another one on your tab, you feel like death warmed over, you can't help but wonder if you'll ever get to cough out your birthday candles again.

The trauma of spitting mucus on my keyboard and not knowing why and the trauma of being a year closer to meeting my maker kind of swirl together in my brain until they create a third trauma: fear.

The optimist would tell me I have nothing to fear but fear itself. I would say, "You're absolutely right." Then I would make him very afraid of short-haired women with phlegm in their lungs.

But what if this phlegm never leaves? What if I have tuberculosis? What if I have bubonic plague? What if I have prostate cancer? What if I have cancer of something else? What if it's that chocolate Easter bunny I ate? The little bugger had 21 grams of total fat. What if this is the end? Thanks, Easter bunny.

Supposing I live, what then? What if I flunk a class? What if I don't like

my job in Ohio? What if I contract bubonic plague in Ohio? What if my friends, having the time of their lives this summer, forget all about me suffering from plague in God-forsaken western Ohio? What if I return and my friends decide, plague or no plague, that they just can't associate with short-haired, phlegm-clogged women anymore?

Oh, let's not forget what might happen after we leave the alma mater. What if I can't find a good job? What if I can't find any job? Supposing I find a job, am I doomed to spend the rest of my life stuffing those pimento-things into olives?

And what about the rest of my life? What if I forget to have kids? What if I DO have kids? What if one of them contracts bubonic plague at summer camp? What if they grow up to be olive stuffers, Branch Davidians or, worse yet, columnists? What if one of my kids becomes a columnist, then reads this and chastises me on the pages of the New York Times? What if it's the Sunday edition?

You see where the "what if" roller coaster is going — nowhere.

A little fear is perfectly natural. Without it, we would cross busy streets at whim, bungee jump with dental floss and eat the mystery-meat dishes at the cafeteria.

But constantly worrying about things beyond our immediate control is a useless enterprise known as "freaking out." Many of us freak out at some point in our lives, especially when change, such as the end of the school year, rolls around.

Take a deep breath, talk to friends, write it down, scream Yiddish sayings or spit on a specialist. Worry only about what needs to be worried about today.

Fear becomes cancerous if it goes unchecked.

That would mean I DO have cancer. Oy veh.

Paulman is a senior news-editorial and history major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist and photographer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Holy days

This is in response to Russ Barger's letter (DN, May 8, 1993). Barger is claiming that the fact that UNL does not cancel classes on Good Friday is discrimination against him. Since the university cannot honor all the religious holy days of all the religions in the world, it does the right thing by not canceling classes for any of them.

He also thinks that we should not forget our roots and what makes us

"Midwestern Christians." He should realize not everyone at this university is a "Midwestern Christian." With this statement he is blatantly ignoring many people on this campus who do not share his origin or beliefs, including foreign students, other religious groups, agnostics and atheists, all of whom pay to attend this university.

Finally, he claims that in this democratic society, the majority rules. This does not mean that the majority has the right to force its beliefs on every-

one in the society. Honoring religious holy days at a public university is a subtle way of telling those who do not subscribe to that religion that there is something wrong with them for not being in the majority. These are the kinds of things that lead to intolerance, rather than the acceptance, of minority groups.

James Gustafson  
senior  
Spanish