

Speaker says U.S. must take global role

By Brian Sharp
Staff Reporter

America is in danger. As the gap between our nation's responsibility and its willingness to get involved continues to grow, said Gerald Seib, a Wall Street Journal columnist and news editor, the United States is in danger of missing out on opportunities to shape a better world.



Seib

In his speech, "America: the Reluctant World Custodian," Seib said the United States would pay the price in the long run if the country didn't get involved.

In the next five years, he said, major global questions will develop and the United States could play a key role in providing the answers.

Seib said the future of Russia and China, the involvement of nuclear weapons there and in Japan and Germany, the end to four decades of war between Arabia and Israel and Africa's economic growth were issues to be dealt with.

"If America doesn't tend to its duties now, sometime down the road they may look back and see that they've let this happy state of affairs slip away," he said.

But first, he said, someone has to take the lead.

"It doesn't happen automatically," he said. "It basically falls on a president to do that."

Seib said President Bill Clinton had allowed his foreign policy to be dictated by domestic policy — and it had failed.

"If he doesn't (assume leadership), others will step in and do it for him," he said. "And it's not going to be the kind of result that he would like or that the American public will be satisfied with."

Clinton needs to take charge in the area of national defense, he said. American defense

spending has declined so much over the past decade that no action will result in no influence.

"There soon could be considerable doubt as to whether American forces have the size and strength to carry out an operation like Desert Storm," he said.

Losing that power for fear of the dollar cost is dangerous, he said. But keeping that power means responsibility and risk.

"Is there a danger of overextension? Absolutely," Seib said. "Is there a danger of spending too much of our money or our blood abroad? Absolutely. If this is the way the world is going to be, then let's make sure it's a safe place."

Seib said, however, any intervention must be thought out and a reason for it must be found.

"I think you have to make some decision as to what are true crises, and what are problems that will always be with us," he said.

Answering questions about the situation in Bosnia, Seib said a lack of leadership prevented action by the United Nations.

The United States needs to decide if the trouble in Bosnia is a priority and then decide what to do about it, he said.

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—Seib

Wall Street Journal columnist and news editor

MASA

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Griesen said he accepted the reasons behind MASA's actions.

"I understand the message they are trying to deliver through this boycott," he said. "It's a message with which I have sympathy."

Maestas said the unequal representation left some students out in the cold.

"Students don't feel comfortable without being able to relate to someone like them," she said.

Griesen said he understood students would like to see more people of similar races in faculty and staff positions.

"It would, in fact, make our Chicano students feel more like a part of the university if more people looked like them," he said.

Griesen said Maestas was asked to write down specific concerns so they could get to the problems quickly. He said he would be meeting with Latino

"This is a serious matter."

—Maestas
MASA President

and Chicano staff members to discuss the problems.

Maestas said that in the meantime, the boycott of the multicultural office would continue.

"This is a serious matter," she said.

However, Maestas said MASA was coming together with other options and offices to provide the same services offered by the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Maestas said neither the Affirmative Action and Diversity Office nor the Office of Multicultural Affairs had responded to the boycott.

Eric Jolly, director of the Affirmative Action and Diversity Office, did not return calls to the Daily Nebraskan Tuesday.

NEWS BRIEFS

Dennis Smith begins four-day Lincoln tour

From Staff Reports

Dennis Smith, who will become the president of the University of Nebraska on March 1, begins a four-day Lincoln visit today.

During the visit, Smith will meet with current NU President Martin Massengale, members of the Nebraska Legislature, the chancellors

of the four individual NU campuses, minority staff and faculty members, faculty and Academic Senate chairs and Gov. Ben Nelson.

Thursday morning Smith will have a press conference.

This is Smith's fourth visit to Nebraska. He will move to Lincoln in late February.

Open forum on bike dismount zone tonight

From Staff Reports

Students wishing to voice their opinions on the proposed bicycle dismount zone have yet another opportunity to speak today at 6:30 p.m. in open forum at the ASUN meeting.

Keith Benes, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, encouraged students to give their opinions about the proposal.

"If students are still interested about the changes, they should come out and get their input in," Benes said.

He said an ASUN student representative to the Parking Advisory Committee would be at the forum to field questions.

In other action, ASUN senators plan to discuss a proposed resolution dealing with the evaluation of graduate assistants.

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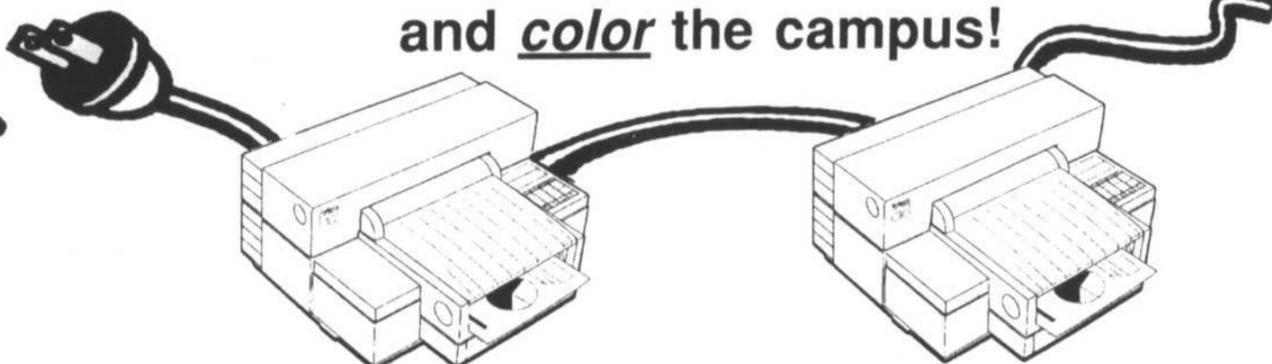
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