

# Fear rules Singapore, says UNL professor

By BRIAN CARLSON  
Staff Reporter

Christopher Lingle counted on the ability of Singapore's government to withstand his editorial criticism.

Instead, he became embroiled in a legal Catch-22 and had to bolt the country and his post as a university professor on the island in southeast Asia.

Lingle, an author and economics professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, spoke at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on Friday on "Capitalism and Authoritarianism in Singapore."

Lingle arrived at the National University of Singapore in 1993 to study the nation's economy and political structure. In 1994, he wrote an editorial in the International Herald Tribune charging that Singapore's government used a "compliant judiciary to bankrupt opposition politicians."

Lingle was immediately charged with libel. He fled the country to avoid a prison term, and in January 1995, he was convicted while not in the country.

In court, the government admitted it had prosecuted and bankrupted opposition politicians. It successfully argued this proved Lingle's allegations were aimed at Singapore's government, and therefore deemed them libelous.

"I alluded to what many people think of as a very benign regime, and they came down on me like a ton of bricks," he said.

Lingle said this episode is an example of the realities, as opposed to the perceptions, of life in Singapore.

Lingle coined the term "phobocracy" — rule by fear — to describe Singapore's totalitarian government. He said that in addition to controlling political opposition, governmental restrictions inhibit intellectual freedom and the economy.

The government's presence in Singapore's universities has led to a "brain drain" and an unwillingness to debate politically sensitive issues, Lingle said.

"In my career, my respect has been for people who had original thought, asked difficult questions and probed for answers," he said. "I didn't meet any of them in Singapore."

Many economists have pointed to Singapore's economy as a model for developing nations, Lingle said. But he claims these attitudes are based on outdated thinking and ignore stringent governmental restraints on the economy.

Singapore's economy is a free market only to the extent that it is very open to and protective of capital, Lingle said. But he said tight controls on domestic business affairs have hurt the economy by stifling entrepreneurship.

Because he has focused on identifying universal values during his career, Lingle is most disconcerted by Singapore's exploitation of the public's mistrust of Western culture.

"Singapore's government has become very good at using 'newspeak' — using Western vocab as a way of legitimizing their regime, but with Asian variants."

# Student travels to depths of underwater excitement

By ERIN GIBSON  
Staff Reporter

The first civilian student invited to ride aboard the nuclear submarine USS Nebraska returned wide-eyed to Lincoln Tuesday with stories of his 36-hour voyage on the ultra-powerful submarine.

Rick Provaznik, a mechanical engineering senior, said he was excited to have been chosen for the VIP cruise, but not intimidated by the 24 nuclear missiles, each with 12 warheads, carried aboard the sub.

"I realized this is what it takes to have peace," Provaznik said. "They don't just give it to you."

The submarine's mission is to hide as an invisible, peace-keeping threat, he said.

Once aboard the USS Nebraska, Provaznik joined 145 crew members — all Nebraska Cornhusker fans. He ate in the "Cornhusker Cafe," found Herbie Husker emblazoned on the shirts of commanding officers and saw autographed NU footballs on display.

After a short orientation, Provaznik was allowed to tour all

parts of the vessel, he said. He gave up sleep to spend extra time in the sonar room, learning to detect other ships by the noise from their propellers.

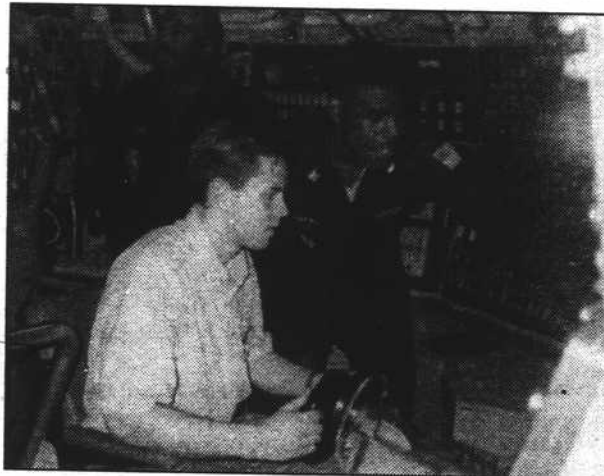
Provaznik witnessed torpedo-launch drills that were just as loud and tense as the movies, he said. He even sat behind the wheel of the \$1.2 billion vessel for a few nerve-racking moments.

But Provaznik said the friendly crew, especially the guys in the sonar room, was the best part of his trip.

The sonar-room crew is the eyes and ears of the submarine and "the cockiest guys on the ship," he said. Provaznik said the crew's overwhelming dedication also impressed him.

"Everyone took pride in their job and did their jobs perfectly," he said.

The high-tech USS Nebraska is the largest, most powerful submarine in the world and the same type of submarine featured in the movies "The Hunt for Red October" and "Crimson Tide," Provaznik said.



COURTESY PHOTO  
**RICK PROVAZNIK**, a senior mechanical engineering major, sits behind the controls of the USS Nebraska.

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