

Lincoln Envisioned Unshackled World

Editor's note: This article was prepared by Gwynn Showalter as part of the Young Republican's observance of Abraham Lincoln's birthday tomorrow.

By GWYNN SHOWALTER
"As I would not be a slave so I would not be a master" . . . Abraham Lincoln.

There are times these days when we must search in the replica of his kindly face — and in the mold of his strong, homely body for something of the courage and the honor and the vision that were his. In his immortal words — now over a century old — is a promise to all mankind for days yet to come.

In his words, "As I would not be a slave," we know that this man saw as we must see, beyond the selfish borders of a nation. That in the grandeur of his soul, he envisioned a world unshackled, all men set free. And thus a mission and task is seen. This freedom is not for us alone — not selfishly for America. The light that Lincoln saw cannot burn for the few who are free, in the ugly shadow of anguished millions enslaved. Through the years men have risked the infinite sweetness

of life, that there shall be no masters, that the dignity of man shall in the end prevail.

One hundred fifty-four years ago was born a boy. He was born amid the primitive conditions then prevalent in pioneering America. His father was shiftless and illiterate, but his mother could read and write. This knowledge she imparted to her son. The son read, absorbed, and learned.

When he first came to Washington, one of the aristocrats said, "We will have an easy time with this uncouth clown." The same aristocrat closed the dying eyes of the "clown" with these words: "Now he belongs to the ages."

Simple Man
The simple man, who never attended even a grade school, is so well remembered that one of his addresses is engraved upon a tablet of bronze upon the walls of the University of Oxford, England, and is known to the world over.

Shortly before his death this simple man, after a long and bitter war, said in his second presidential inaugural address: "With malice towards none and charity to all let us dedicate ourselves to the task of the binding of wounds and the healing of the nation." Simple words of a simple man.

Lincoln's character is not easy to understand. It was full of paradoxes, of strange secrecy, of failings sharp as his manifest virtues. He was shy in strange company, unsocial and retiring. Yet in a backwoods country where storytelling was an art, he was the master storyteller of them all. His was a homely face, dark, leathery and sad. Yet when he spoke, his eyes flooded it with beauty. He had the coolest, most logical head of his times.

Lincoln, as a young man of 22, learned for the first time that failure is easier to

achieve than success. As a partner in a middle west store, he had lost every penny of seven years' savings. Determined not to repeat the mistakes which had forced his former partner into bankruptcy, he did just that. His new partner wasted all the profits within two years. He faced an indebtedness which he knew would crush him. Lincoln refused to go into bankruptcy and paid the last dollar of his obligations on his thirty-ninth birthday.

Destiny seemed to have singled him out for failure. The most crushing blow of his career enveloped around the death of his first love. He then was on the verge of insanity. "At this period of my life I never dared to carry a pocket-knife," he wrote long afterward. He was then nursed back to mental health. Brief success in his election to Congress was followed by failure to be re-elected.

Failure To President
His nomination to the U.S. Senate seemed inevitable when a last moment party split caused his defeat. Two years of heartache, disappeared when he lost the senatorship through a series of open-air debates. In his own estimation he was out of politics at the age of 50. These years of heartache, disappointment and failure were compensated for with his election to the Presidency of the United States on the Republican Party ticket.

Lincoln showed his nation how to use a sense of humor. In spite of the trying days of the war, and the many problems that beset Abe Lincoln, he always managed to find time to brighten the lives of those around him with witticisms. An old friend from Springfield, after an evening in the White House, drawled: "How does it feel to be president of the United States?"

"You have heard about the man tarred and feathered and ridden out of town on a rail?" replied Lincoln. "A man in the crowd asked him how he liked it, and his reply was that if it wasn't for the honor of the thing he would much rather walk."

Then there was the time that a foreign diplomat replied at Lincoln's condemning a certain Greek history as tedious: "Indeed, it may be doubted whether any man of our generation has plunged more deeply into the sacred fount of learning." "Yes," remarked Lincoln. "or come up dryer."

In observance of Lincoln Day, the Young Republicans have arranged for a display in the south Union entrance showcase. Among the items on display are a rare bronze cast of a statue of Lincoln from the Gen. John J. Pershing collection and some rare Lincoln pictures. Abraham Lincoln will be recognized at their meeting Thursday at 7 p.m. Charles Thone will be the speaker.

Lishner To Begin Rehearsals

Professor Has Lead In 'The Labyrinth'

Leon Lishner, professor of voice at the University, is in New York this week to begin rehearsals for his lead role in the premier performance of Gian-Carlo Menotti's "The Labyrinth."

Lishner, a member of the University faculty since 1956, has the distinction of being the only singer to be identified with creating the original lead roles in four of Menotti's operas.

The new opera will be videotaped Feb. 24 by NBC-TV after two weeks of rehearsals and then telecast nationally on March 3.

Lishner is the only artist selected by Menotti from outside the New York area. The other seven lead roles were cast with members of the Metropolitan or New York City Opera companies.

He will play the part of Death, who appears in the opera as a hotel clerk. The theme depicts life as a labyrinth through which man must travel.

The two weeks of scheduled rehearsals will be strenuous, but stimulating, since the music is only partially ready, Lishner said. "Menotti keeps adding, deleting, and writing new arias up until the time to perform the opera. He writes his own ticket, so to speak, at NBC and can do about anything he wishes," he added.

Lishner came into contact with Menotti in 1950 when he auditioned for the role of the secret police agent in the original Broadway production of "The Consul." He later performed this role between 500 and 600 times, during the Broadway run, and on television.

Other roles he has played in operatic productions are: King Balthazar in the opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors," Don Marco in "The Saint of Bleeker Street," and the leading role in the opera "War and Peace" by Prokofiev. Lishner has played 55 roles in operas in addition to singing with leading symphony orchestras and in recordings by national record companies.

Dramatists Will Visit Campus

The Nebraska Speech Association will sponsor a Spring Drama Festival featuring student-directed plays by colleges and universities Friday and Saturday at Howell Memorial Theater.

Prof. N. S. Eek, director of the School of Drama at the University of Oklahoma, will evaluate each play immediately after its presentation.

The performances will begin at 8:30 p.m. Friday and will continue on Saturday morning.

Sports Car, Cycle Spotlight Europe

A foreign sports car and a motorcycle dominate the Union main lounge — after vigorous efforts exerted Saturday by custodians, Union officials and members of the Union Trips and Tours committee.

Verne Holoubek, Trips and Tours Assistant Chairman, found it a tight squeeze as he backed the car through the north doors of the Union.

To surmount the obstacle of the steps, determined workers attached ropes to the rear bumper and all joined in for the big pull.

Once the landing was reached the trip to the main lounge was easy. The workers rolled the bright blue car while Holoubek steered. It now stands as a Union first beside a shiny red motorcycle.

Why all this bother? The display includes brochures and pamphlets giving estimates of travel abroad. There is also information concerning employment in Europe.

"We're not trying to push any special tour," said Susie Pierce, committee chairman. "We wrote to several different companies and have information from all those that replied."

The display is in conjunction with International Student Week, sponsored by the Union.

Campus Calendar

TODAY

UNICORNS meeting, 7 p.m., 345 Student Union.

DELTA SIGMA PI annual spring smor for all male students interested in a professional business fraternity. Business Administration, 7 p.m., 1141 H Street.

TOMORROW

FACULTY RECITAL by Dr. Larry Lusk, 7:30 p.m., Union Ballroom.

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Nebraskan Applauds

Newly initiated members of Delta Sigma Pi are Steven D. Luthy, Charles S. Cuttler, Stephen P. DeVere, Bill J. Inghram, Pat J. Kennedy, Donald E. Morris, Richard J. Musil, Mike Niday, Douglas Tixstine, Gary C. Rosenback, Gerald Rouse, John Sandstredt, Roger L. Soucie, Patrick R. Sullivan and Byron Vanier.

Alpha Zeta, Ag Honorary, and the twelve newly-initiated members.

The new initiates include: James Connor, Roger Christenson, David Dorman, R. Doug Downs, Russell Hahn, Larry Hammond, Calvin Messersmith, Ron Hanthorn, Richard Slama, Larry G. Smith, Byron Wilson and Dave Zimmer.

Dr. William S. Kramer, Dental College, chairman of the section on Pedodontics for the American Dental Association and examining member of the American Board of Pedodontics.

New officers of Unicorns: Byron Almquist, president; Jean Tilman, first vice-president.

Arnold Air Society officers: Terry Miller, commander; Glenn Schaumberg, executive officer; Steve Caruthers, operations officer; Larry Pope, administrative officer; Doug Mosel, comptroller; Bill Ewald, informations officer; Jim Connor, material; Bob Raichstadt, liaison, and Ken King, special service.

Newly elected officers of Delta Sigma Pi, professional business fraternity: Dan Slaby, president; John Skold, senior vice president; Dennis Johnson, junior vice president; Gary Olson, secretary; Gerald Schapman, treasurer; and John Felton, historian.



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