

'A Little Grave'

—Shakespeare

A man died Sunday, a potentially great but an actually very petty man. Born Malcolm Little, he made it even less, and became known to the nation and the world as Malcolm X.

Newspapers generally referred to him as "Militant Malcolm X" or "Fiery Malcolm X" and gave him the publicity usually reserved for statesmen and leaders.

Malcolm X was neither a statesman or a leader. He was a racist, and the fact that his racism was of a different hue than is normally associated with the term makes it only a little excusable. Born and raised on racial violence, Malcolm made it his way of life—it answered him in his brutal death in New York Sunday, just as he had predicted.

His sin was in trying to fight fire with fire, rather than with water. He was what he hated, and he advocated what destroyed him.

The violence he advocated and which resulted in the bloody mass on the rostrum is the very thing most civil rights workers are trying desperately to avert. His cause was, considering his background, understandable, but his methods were intolerable.

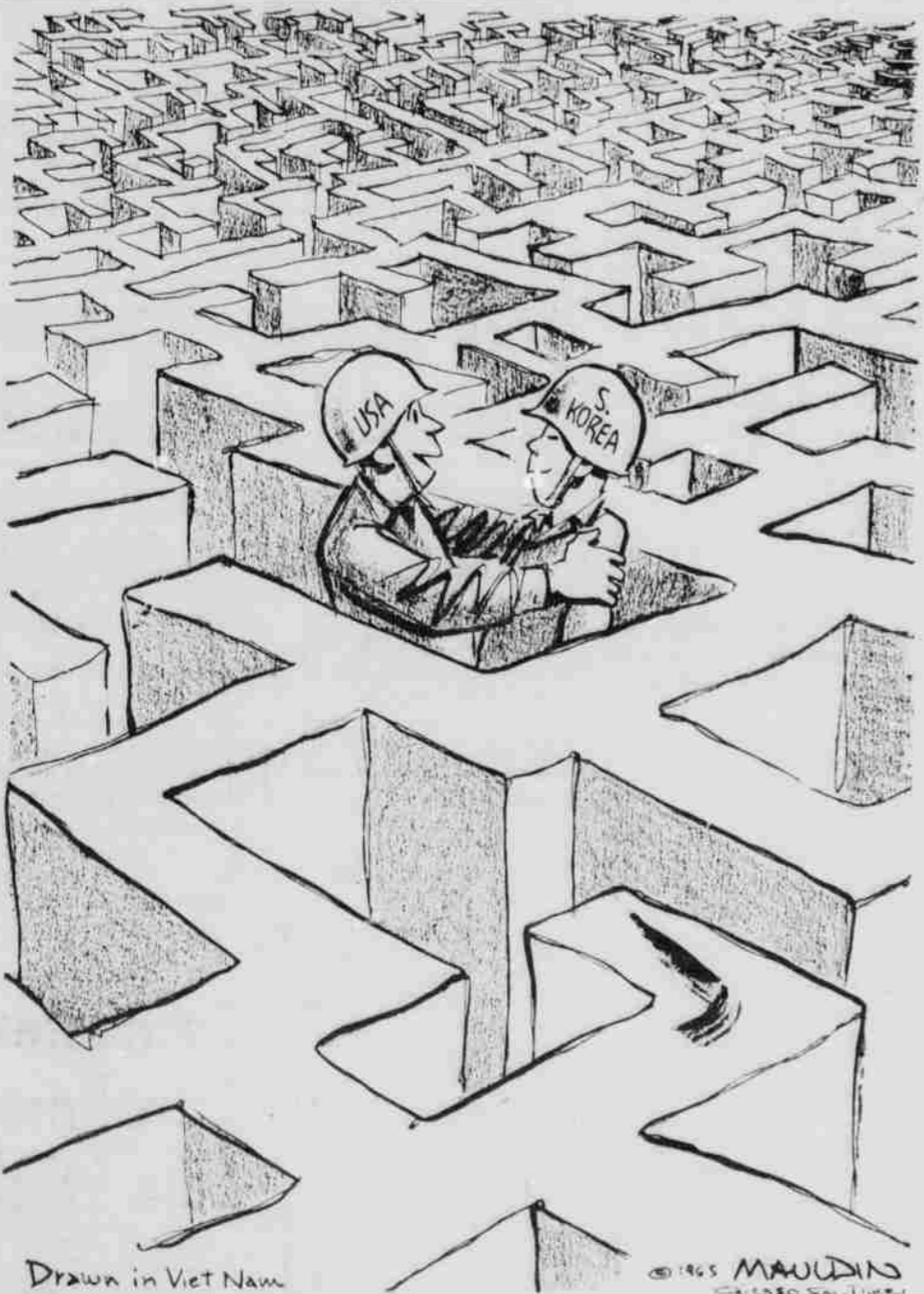
Malcolm was described as militant. We assumed him to be a wild-eyed radical of the hell-raising revival variety, and he gave this impression on the rostrum. But we had occasion to attend a small news conference at which he spoke last July, and the hate for which he has become characterized was not apparent.

He spoke softly and his words were those of an educated man. He expressed sincere concern for his cause, and for the "immorality" among members of the Black Muslims, which he said caused his voluntary departure from the group.

It was this meeting that impressed us with the man's born abilities. We mourn the man's death.

But we express no concern for the things for which he worked, and we wish they could have died with him. The racial problem will never be solved without a spirit of cooperation and love and personal ethics. Taking a lesson from the life and death of Malcolm X, we commend those, both in Lincoln and across the nation, who are sacrificing what many consider expediency in favor of a peaceful, lasting answer.

For "He that liveth by the sword shall perish by the sword."
● FRANK PARTSCH



Drawn in Viet Nam
"THANKS FOR COMING. DO YOU HAPPEN TO REMEMBER THE WAY?"

Squee's Squabbles

By Susan Smithberger
Here it is again — that old question. It seems to exempt no level of government all the way from national to state, to local and surprisingly, it has now popped up on Student Council.

Is it mandatory for elected officials to represent the district from which they are elected? Are they commanded to represent the unit as a whole? What about their personal concerns and convictions?

Until a year ago, every young coed and gunning student elected to Student Council was assumed to be representing the district from which he was elected, or even more, the demanding, clamoring persons within that district.

And then a bright, rebellious vice president upset the whole apple cart by stating that Council members should serve the University first, and the district second.

This sent shudders of horror down many a spine of councilors who wanted to stick to the old traditional ways. They were terrified at the thought of rising up and risking re-election.

Gradually this idea began to be accepted by more and

more of the members — partly because the upholder of the idea was a dynamic, emphatic leader, who proved he could act effectively with this ideal, and partly because the councilors discovered, or realized, or finally admitted, that their constituents didn't give two tiddlywinks about what they were doing anyway.

Both of these methods of representation are now existent, and should be existent, on the Council.

But another one has cropped up this year — or maybe it's been there all along, it's just that some persons disguised it a little. This is the idea of representing oneself and one's friends. This columnist is not trying to say that standing up for one's own convictions is wrong, quite the contrary. But this is a difficult — and dangerous — method.

We've seen it used to the good — one must point out Larry Frolik's stand on discrimination; when he walked into the Council meeting on pure intestinal fortitude and walked out with the Council's overwhelming support. And we've seen it used to the bad.

I cannot disagree more

violently than I do with some of the stands that have been taken on the grounds of this type of representation. And yet, I must agree with their right to stand up for what they believe.

My main question now is, do they really believe it? Or are they acting as they do because of some petty concerns or prejudice? Are they using "convictions" as a shield for acting in a manner that will result in better friends — and absolutely no bitter phone calls or nasty letters?

CORKers

If all the descendants of one pair of houseflies lived from April through August, they would total 191 quintillions, an entomologist has figured.

The average lifespan of a buzzard in captivity is 32 years.

A researcher has discovered that it takes about 4 hours to hardboil an ostrich egg.

A female halibut usually weighs 10 times more than her mate.

Mr. President

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles by Student Council President John Lydick, dealing with Student Government at the University.

By John Lydick

The byword most commonly attributed to the student body is apathetic. However, if one spends only a few minutes reviewing the channels for student interest, he is forced to conclude that this term, apathetic, is an overgeneralization.

Our student body interests are subdivided into living unit interest, college honoraries and clubs, service projects and organizations, political affiliations, etc. Looking into these projects, clubs, movements, and organizations we can find very little apathy.

Inspection of the student body interests and strata also points to the fact that there is an area of interest yielding unification to the student society. This is the area of student government. And strangely enough the average student is apathetic to his own government.

Student Government cannot demand your attention if we do not carry out our

responsibilities to you. This year your forty Student Council representatives have concentrated in areas of direct benefit to you. We have not discussed the "drinking issue", and we have not conducted forums on the Viet Nam crisis; rather, we are attempting to give some direct voice and aid to the students through the mechanisms of Student Government.

In addition to Student Council, twenty-two representatives to the Constitutional Convention have spent the entire year developing a more progressive and efficient structure for Student Government.

For the remainder of this semester and for the next year, your Student Government is going to need interest and valid criticism if we are to accomplish our purpose.

The problem of apathy, as discussed, is the biggest hurdle that we face. The purpose of this article and following articles, then, will be to give you a few reasons to give us additional interest and motivation. Who knows, you might even come to appreciate the fact that your Student Government representatives spent 4,000 man hours working for you last semester.

CAMPUS OPINION

Mish-Mash

Dear Editor:
After perusing gently through that mish mash you are serving the student body, for the last 2½ weeks, I have decided upon my own initiative to write to you regarding my feelings on the subject. You know, I kind of like it.

PJS

Too Closed

Dear editor:
In your recent editorial "Closed-Mouth Test?" you wrote: "Whatever he (the professor whose political opinion you solicited) said, however, would not have changed our opinion or our vote."

As it stands, the implication of this sentence is that at some point in time prior to that classroom experience you decided that no argument or display of facts exists which would change your mind.

This implication is obviously inconsistent with the context of your editorial; I doubt that you had or have any such attitude.

Yet this is a clear implication of that sentence.

Perhaps you meant that the fact that the political opinion is expressed by a professor would not intimidate you into an irrational acceptance.

But why formulate it in the way you did?

I hazard the guess that your intentions was to counter the cry of "They are polluting our minds!" The rest of your editorial answers this by pointing out that an atmosphere of freedom of expression is conducive to thought and not to thought-control. But this sentence seems to be a pacifier for those who would not accept the above. "Don't worry about the expressed political opinion of professors; they don't influence us anyway," is the counter to the objection of freedom of political expression in the classroom offered by this sentence.

The sentence in itself is insignificant, but the thought that political opinions of students are not influenced by political opinions of professors is ridiculous, and any argument for the freedom of political expression in the classroom based on a ridiculous premise is dangerous.

Jay Zimmer

Editor's note: As you said, it is insignificant, but we will agree that you are probably right. The sentence should have read "... would not necessarily change our opinion or our vote."

Sylvia 007

Dear editor:
Having read with interest the keenly perceptive analysis of the men of NU and their aspiration to emulate 007, which appeared in a recent issue of the Nebraskan and, if nothing else, explained the recent popularity of shoulder holsters in campus fashions, I was immediately concerned at the lack of a

Uncle Tom's Corner

Ray A. Shepard

Somewhere, in the wheeling and dealing of the great society, there is a rusty spoke.

We have all heard the country and western voice thundering across the nation stating that we are the strongest nation in the history of mankind. The voice rolls on to praise the power of the military and the serenity of our economy that we are enjoying. Yet within the interior of this great society people are being denied the most cherished of all American dreams — their right to vote.

One can not help but ask how strong the strongest is, when she fails to protect those who try to exercise their basic civic right.

If the federal government is concerned about the people of Russia, if she is willing to intervene on behalf of the Cuban people, if she defends the people of South Viet Nam then she can do more than observe the oppressions of voting rights and suffering, of her own people within her own country.

Over a hundred years ago it was necessary for legislations to say that all people had the right to vote. Again in 1964 it was necessary to say all people had the right to vote. Yet today the federal government has done little to enforce these legislations.

Hundreds of Negroes stand in line for eight or nine hours a day waiting to register. A Civil rights worker tries to give food to the people waiting in line; he is stopped by a state official. Across the street an FBI agent, representing the strongest nation in the history of mankind, observes and refuses to act.

A small group of Negroes walk toward the line. A cracker voice of a state official orders them to disperse or be arrested for unlawful assembly. The Negroes walk one behind the other and join the line.

Another group of Negroes approaches the line, a depu-

world are in a state of upheaval.

Sylvia and 007 are no doubt harbingers of life in the future and the culmination of their efforts could easily be the outlawing of marriage and the establishment of compulsory espionage instead of P.E. at our very own university.

We boys have already started putting sharp rocks in our snowballs and carrying nitroglycerin in our attache cases. Girls, the next move is up to you.

T. M. Larson

About Letters

The DAILY NEBRASKAN invites readers to use it for expressions of opinion on current topics regarding campus life. Letters must be signed, contain a verifiable address, and be free of libelous material. Pen names may be included but lessen the chance of publication. Lengthy letters may be edited or omitted.

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ty sheriff, his mouth full of tobacco, orders them to walk single file. They refuse and are subjected to the indiscriminating electrons of a cattle prod.

Inside the registrar's office a Negro is being asked: "If no national candidate for Vice President receives a majority of the electoral votes, how is a Vice President chosen? In such cases how many votes must a person receive to become Vice President?" The Negro answers incorrectly, fails the literacy test, and can not vote. And so the registrar slowly moves about performing his duties of registering a few, if any, Negroes.

Scenes like these are taking place today in Marriion and Selma, Ala. It is the responsibility of the federal government to guarantee the rights as stated in the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments of the constitution.

Of course the FBI has more responsibility than voter registration, but if their other duties are too consuming, a new agency should be created to oversee the registration process, and to make sure that literacy tests apply equally to both black and white.

The United States has to protect herself against the communist threat in the Americas and in other parts of the world. But she must also protect herself against the tyranny of Alabama and Mississippi. She must liberate her own enslaved people if she is to be a great society.

The Daily Nebraskan

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