

—NEBRASKAN LITERARY SECTION—

A Blue, Cheap World, A Man And A Horn

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following short story was submitted to The Nebraska Literary Society by Boyd D. Howells. The Nebraska staff feels that this manuscript is more than worthy of presentation in our pages...

By BOYD D. HOWELLS

The July day turned broadcloth shirts into sponge-like membranes soaking up, becoming saturated with perspiration—perspiration having the viscosity of castor oil and all of the purging, stifled hotness of acid poured down water.

The new city was playing its summer blues song. The big man on the street corner and the quiet, small audience in the midst of a population of stage hands and lighting men and backstage flunks.

The two were waiting for a streetcar. In a way, they were not really waiting, but just standing there like people who are in a particular hurry.

A little bell said, "ching-ching-ching, ching-ching-ching." An antique streetcar rolled, rambled down the street, stopping at corners like a mechanical toy to pick up people with newspapers and umbrellas.

The man set the trumpet on the dressing table. The horn was still in its cloth sack—a sack which should have contained corn meal or flour and which, eventually, should have become a part of a Negro tenant farmer's wife's dress.

"First thing you've gotta remember," the manager said this as if he had said it many times before, "is that these people don't give a damn that you've played New York. They don't give a damn what your name is unless it's Armstrong or Teagarden. And they don't give a damn about anything else except your horn and the music it makes."

The big man looked down at the same kind of manager that he had known many times before making the same kind of speech that he had heard many times before.

"You could do with a hit tonight, you know," He knew. "A hit might put you back on the road to New York. Oh, I know you boys (he meant niggers) all right. You're all dying to get to Harlem. Especially the ones like you who've been there once and know what it's like to be high on the hog."

The big man began to play without too much soul, saving his lip for the real performance. As Aquaguettes Elect Holden As President

he blew the horn his mind wandered back to the time when he had been taking the cure. Lying on his little cot, with a dozen horns blaring off-key in his feverish brain, the big man had had a dream—a blue dream of life and death tangled up together?

Like a clean room with a clean girl in a lacey, white veil dancing on its walls, the strange death wagon surged on, not feeling the heat, not straining. He rested his head on the pillowless, bed-like arrangement of sateen soaked with scented salts. Smells were the last experiences that he remembered—remembered vividly—remembered smelling like a florist shop as he lay serenely in front of a backdrop of wire and wood and ribbon and flowers. People came to view his corpse—people with heavy shoes, stomping—stomping—stomping. Each of them must have been different. Some wept—he heard them. The ones who had loved him sobbed as if adrift in a familiar molasses world—where had he known that molasses world before? Then the men with the cold, tickleless hands came and picked up his box and arranged his hands. He wanted to move his hand himself, but he was dead; so the dead fishes did the job. He had lived like a coward, like those people who fiddled around him now with deadfish hands and sawlow complexions and dark, sunk-in eyes. He relaxed. And the death wagon hummed along the highway; the death wagon was not sad at all.

"You're on," a white man's voice said. The boy had wiped the golden horn off with a clean, dry cloth while he was waiting for the man's turn to go on stage. The big man knew that here was a good boy.

On stage the big man unfolded the trumpet from his bosom. He made a wheezing sound through the horn. Then he kicked a tin can through the instrument just to see if it would fit. Then, slowly, he began to push his soul through the horn. Whiskey bottles were neglected by the patrons as the little knots in a string through a molasses world—a blue world that was suddenly becoming bright and gaudy alive and, most of all, cheap. He made them love

'Y' Travelers Add Pleasure To Activities On Late Trip To U.N., U.S. Government

A chance to listen on the earphones which carry five languages. They visited the post office in the UN, where they purchased stamps honoring the organization. In their spare time, the group attended the Radio City Stage Show, "Easter Pageant" and they saw the Rockettes, a famous dancing group featuring 60 girls. They toured the Rockefeller Building and rode on the Staten Island Ferry Boat.

Ginny Robertson, Chlorey Ode, Lee Spencer, Carol Haerer, Amy Palmer, Mary Sue Lundt, Jerry Jensen, Dale Hutchins, Gerd Hofmann, John Greer and Rex, Dick Gaty, sponsor, were the students who visited the east coast from Nebraska.

Twenty-seven colleges from 17 states were represented at the seminars. The groups spent three days in Washington and four days in New York.

The purpose of the trip is to acquaint the students with the functions of the government and give them a chance to see it in action. They traveled by bus from Nebraska to the coast.

Upon their arrival in Washington, the delegation was greeted by the Nebraska senators and representatives and had breakfast with them. They also visited these men's offices.

their cheapness—the cheaper the better. He made them love their blues. They had all come here looking for something—themselves—in a fifth with setup. How they were finding themselves, not in a bottle, but in a sweet horn. All kinds of walls fell down, crumbled, in a glory-glory way as the brass cried big tears. The trumpet cried on, higher and trumper and higher.

Backstage, the boy listened to the sweet horn and stared with those big, wonderful, nigger-boy eyes at the Negro, Joe, in charge of the stage-door. Joe was a hollow man, not good for much anymore. The music had ruined his stomach long ago and his false teeth and a paper lip had kept him out from under the spotlight for so long that had forgotten how to sweat. He said, like stage-door-men do, in a rickety, old desk chair with his feet propped on the doorkill, barring the alley entrance. He was paying no attention to the sweet horn as he read "Dime Western." He hated cowboys.

The big, black Negro coughed into the mouthpiece, held the spit-valve open, let saliva dribble onto his pin-striped vest, wiped the saliva away with his hand, and then stood quietly erect with his horn shining in his big black hands. The people were hurting—hurting! had.

The applause was not even at all, but riotous. The big man did not bow. He received their screams and clapping with a gratification that pulled his eyeballs back into his head until he felt that he could almost see out of his ears—if only these damned eyeballs would turn sideways. His body broke at the knees. The big man folded slowly until he was on his knees with his head bowed and his golden horn, wet with perspiration, clasped to his bosom. Maybe he wept.

The boy took the horn with the perspiration on it from the dressing table and began to wipe the bell. The big man sat quietly with his eyeballs lost in his ebony head. Out from a young Negro woman, a newcomer, was singing the blues.

"Usta wonder, Usta wonder, Usta wonder, They play the blues all day." Dumm on the stage. One of the interesting highlights of their stay in this city was that their hotel room was only a block away from Broadway.

The Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra and they attracted many of the visitors. One number of the group congregate, "Since my visit I am more interested in the news and the United Nations. I now realize the great work going on in our government. It was a wonderful trip stage play which some members will be interested in seeing many students will of the group attend. Some of the other members saw Irene next year."

Laboratory classes meeting for several continuous hours on one or two days shall meet for examinations as follows: Classes meeting on Monday and Tuesday shall be examined on the date scheduled for the first hour of their laboratory meeting; Wednesday or Thursday classes on the second hour of their meeting; Friday or Saturday classes on the third hour.

Unit examinations have been scheduled for all sections in the following subjects: (1) Business Organization 3, 4, 21, 141, 147, 190; (2) Civil Engineering 219; (3) Economics 11, 12, 103, 115; (4) Education 61, 62; (5) Electrical Engineering 124, 198; (6) English A, B, 1, 2, 3, 4, 106; (7) French 12, 14; (8) Home Economics 41, 42; (9) Mathematics 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 41, 42, 105, 106, 107; (10) Mechanical Engineering 1, 6; (11) Spanish 52, 54. If students have regularly scheduled examinations conflicting with the above specially arranged schedule, arrangements to take such specially scheduled examinations at another time should be made with the department concerned on or before May 18.

For example: If a student is scheduled for an examination which conflicts with a specially scheduled examination in French, arrangements should be made with the French Department to take such French examination at another time.

Black Masque Handicap

Table with columns: Horse, Stable, Trainer, Odds, Comments. Lists various horses and their details for the Black Masque Handicap.

Thirteenth Annual Handicap

Table with columns: Horse, Stable, Trainer, Odds, Comments. Lists various horses and their details for the Thirteenth Annual Handicap.

NUBB THURSDAY

University convocation, 8 p.m., Union Ballroom, Dr. W. Richter, speaker. Filings close for Daily Nebraskan.

Concert by East High School Choir of Sioux City, Iowa at 11 a.m. in Union Ballroom.

FRIDAY

Cornhusker filings close at noon. Street dance in front of Union at 8 p.m. No admission fee.

Final Exam Schedule

Detailed exam schedule table listing dates (SATURDAY, MAY 23; WEDNESDAY, MAY 27; THURSDAY, MAY 28; FRIDAY, MAY 29; MONDAY, JUNE 1; TUESDAY, JUNE 2; WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3; THURSDAY, JUNE 4; FRIDAY, JUNE 5; SATURDAY, JUNE 6) and subjects for various departments.

Technical Institute Entries Begin For Foreign Students

Foreign students, desiring to participate in programs of technical co-operation may apply for a special Institute to be held this summer.

The Institute, sponsored by Point 4, United Nations, local governments and private industry, will be conducted by Michigan State College, at East Lansing, Mich. Lasting seven weeks, the Institute will begin June 22 and run to August 7.

Weekly Seminar Series To Feature A. T. Anderson On 'Russian Policy'

"What Should Our Policy Toward Russia Be?" A. T. Anderson, assistant Professor of History, will discuss the proposed solutions to this problem Monday at 4 p.m. when he appears as guest speaker of the Weekly Seminar Series.

Final NUCWA Meet Scheduled

Installation of new officers and new board members of NUCWA will follow a special dinner meeting Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Union for all NUCWA members.

The dinner will be held in Parlor X and is to be the final meeting of the organization for this school year.

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WEDDING STATIONERY

Printed, Embossed, Engraved As low as \$10 for 100 sets Goldenrod Stationery Store 215 North 14th Street

QUICK RESULTS WHEN YOU USE

Daily Nebraskan Classified Ads To place a classified ad Step in the Business Office Room 20 Student Union

THRIFTY AD RATES

Table showing advertising rates for classified ads: No. words, 1 day, 2 days, 3 days, 4 days, 1 week.

FOR SALE

1952 Ford Victoria, completely equipped, 6,000 miles Joe Kruse, 2702 "E", Phone 2-7742 after 5 P.M.

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