

Daily Nebraskan Editorials:

Unshaken By Shapiro

The Washington Post and Times Herald had the story first last Tuesday. They said that Karl Shapiro "looked at the younger generation and accused it of 'intellectual cowardice' and apathy."

The Post reports that Shapiro branded the students of today as "these tired young people," whose only reaction to the recent Hungarian revolution was to raise a few banners on the campus.

Shapiro told Washington Post reporters that young people have lost their ideals, their illusions have been discredited or destroyed.

But Professor Shapiro failed to note in his interview in our nation's capital that student, perhaps, take a more realistic view of what can be done about the world situation.

Lincoln's Sunday newspaper interviewed some students whose reactions went from "We've moved from the idealism of the 20's to the realism of the 50's" to "I can't see any reason why a student should be expected to take an interest in things which he has no need to be concerned about."

The Daily Nebraskan makes two observations on the whole problem.

First of all we question whether Shapiro has taken an adequate sampling of the Midwest; whether he can make a statement like the one he presents to the nation with any authority.

believe Mr. Shapiro knows what he is talking about. After all, how long has he been in the Midwest and didn't he say, "There is a fine literary atmosphere here" when he arrived at Nebraska?

Secondly, were the students the Sunday paper spoke with representative of the situation as it exists on the campus? Was it a fair cross-section of the campus? Half of the students are freshmen (and with all due respect to freshman judgment) and might not be able to grasp the presence and absence of intellectualism on the campus.

Shapiro probably feels that because there is little concern over what he has said that he is right. No, rather, the American student is cautious. Shapiro was conditioned in his youth most likely by the radicalism of the 20's.

Today's young people are wary of snap judgments; they move slowly but surely.

And yet we should not take lightly the challenge that we have become apathetic to conditions around us. Perhaps some soul searching should be done rather than excuse making.

If we have been told that we are cowards intellectually then we should examine our lives and our studies and see how much truth lurks in such a charge. American youth can remain silent as long as the idealism it harbors in its heart is not challenged.

But as soon as we are taken to the block for our ideas and ideals then it is time to do some fast and heavy talking and even more, to do some furious and motivated acting.

Niebuhr's Talks

One of the country's leading theologians—Dr. Richard Niebuhr—is on the University campus this week as the 1957 Montgomery Lecturer. He is now Sterling professor of theology and Christian ethics at Yale University.

Dr. Niebuhr has been brought to the campus through the Lectureship, designed to generate constructive thought on contemporary problems. The problem he will discuss is the "problem of religion," probably the most vital to any civilization, and one largely overlooked in our present one.

It is too often the attitude of the modern-day collegian to look on religion as something to be put aside for a time while concentrating on intellectual pursuits, if he bothers to look at it at all. Religion is taken for granted, or as something one can do without in newfound intellec-

tual maturity. In doing this the individual is failing to face up to religion as one of modern-day intellectualism's greatest and most far-reaching problems.

In religion the student, or anyone else, can find the basic human values too often missing in our basically materialistic civilization. These values are based on faith, a quality either scorned or abandoned as "out of date."

As it often does, the Daily Nebraskan expresses its delight in welcoming such an outstanding figure as Dr. Niebuhr to the campus. It is never too frequent for University students to be exposed to a person of his prominence. But what is important is what Dr. Niebuhr will have to say to the University, rather than what he has said or done.

Speed's Aftermath

Now that the press has calmed down somewhat following the President's whit through Maryland American journalists and interested parties are able to evaluate the action of the chief executive in the light it belongs under.

The Chicago Tribune, which has always been an ultra conservative outfit, said that it is beyond the point of arguing whether he was right or wrong. He won't get a ticket, according to Maryland police.

The Daily Nebraskan feels three major objections to the president's speeding.

1) It is morally wrong to endanger lives of those along the highways no matter who you

are. In many states, speeding constitutes an ipso facto reckless driving charge.

2) Not only the president but the entire caravan was endangered by the speeding. And although policemen told the newsmen to slow down, these same newsmen who were evidently speeding were not given tickets. Guilt by association reversed to innocence by association, apparently.

3) A public official is expected to be "above average in his respect for the laws. When he breaks a law, the public is "down on him" and if he is not prosecuted it is bad for the morale of the country.

From The Editor's Desk:

A word or two before you go . . .

By FRED DALY Editor

The recent journalistic excitement over Professor Karl Shapiro's remarks on the "intellectual apathy" of present-day college students has aroused comments on both sides of the fence.

Some students feel there are grounds for Prof. Shapiro's remarks, others disagree, and a third group has no opinion at all.

It is this third group we should worry about.

People can have "no opinion" for any number of reasons. Some feel unqualified to speak, some would rather weigh opinions from both sides, a few have no opinion on anything and some just don't know what is going on.

Perhaps it is this "no opinion" group Prof. Shapiro is worried about. At this University, as at any other, one can meet students (and perhaps instructors) who don't really know what is going on around, both intellectually and in world affairs, and wouldn't know what to think of things if they did know what was going on.

This, of course, extends in-

wardly as well as outwardly. People who don't care about things outside the University oftentimes are equally as apathetic about things inside the University sphere, including the budget, the quality of their instructors, physical facilities or even the much-belabored subject of academic freedom.

They become really concerned only with those things pertaining directly to their own particular interests. It is rather like being part of a big machine.

And, of course, there is one thing about being criticized. If you get mad enough, maybe you can do something about it. If it isn't too much to ask, that is.

With the increased scope of Spring Day, and its tie in with the Farmers' Fair, Ivy Day and the Union Birthday, the chance for independent men to participate in singing competition may not be too far in the future.

Dorm singing groups have been petitioning to get into the Ivy Day sing competition for a number of years, now that independent interest in such things is slowly building up. For one reason or another their petitions have been approved.

With the hope of stirring up some sort of discussion or the formulating of better ideas, this tentative plan is submitted for the Powers That Be to kick around. That independent men's groups, thinking particularly of the houses in Sellsick Quadrangle and the co-op houses would have their own singing competition. This could be held either on Ivy Day, or better yet on Spring Day.

Keeping it separate from the fraternity sing would prevent that particular competition from becoming overloaded and terribly boring.

There are now 16 houses in the Dorm, each with 50 to 75 men. Another Dorm of equal size would probably increase the number to about 30. Co-op houses would add a few more participants, if interested.

Thus, both fraternity men and independent men would have competition each would be interested in. As it stands now there is little independent interest in the competition, for obvious reasons.

Peanuts . . .



Commandments: Thrilling

By DICK SHUGRUE Editorial Page Editor

Cecil B. DeMille deserves commendations he has received from the press all over America for his production, "The Ten Commandments."

De Mille has created a masterpiece in motion picture entertainment which, I believe, will re-establish peoples' belief that movies are worth viewing.

One of the country's papers which has been invited to send a representative to see the movie while it was playing in Houston, Tex., commented that if the motion picture industry were able to meet the same standards in all movies that were met in "Commandments," movies would have no war with television.

I suppose the film had all the qualities which draw crowds (pageantry, extravaganza, wealth, big-name actors, fabulous scenic effects and what have you. Yet "The Ten Commandments" had more and the "something extra" made this a picture worth seeing again and again.

The added "attraction" of the De Mille movie was the message it has to offer to the many people who will see it. Of course the ideas presented by the great producer are not new: they are the old; they are the truths which make us as men free.

Those who view the movie with a critical eye will charge that it,

like George Wright's organ music, is nothing more than a big production capitalizing on the emotions and religious sympathies of America. I would say, rather, that this



Courtesy Sunday Journal and Star de Mille

movie can and should be a turning point in this country's feelings about the motion picture industry in general. The picture is a challenge well met. It entertains, it informs, it thrills.

The actors? De Mille has gathered about him some of the fine performers of our time. Academy Award winning Yul Brynner plays the part of Rameses, pharaoh of Egypt, Edward G. Robinson the wicked Dathan, Anne Baxter, the wife of the Egyptian king.

Moses is portrayed in the movie by Charlton Heston who puts more than well read lines into the part. He has the stature of a leader and the bearing of the king, and whether or not De Mille cast this man knowing that he has "appeal" does not alter the fact that he forces the viewer to sympathize with the cause the movie presents.

In a brief introduction preceding the three hour and 45 minute movie De Mille states that the film portrays the answer to a question of whether man should be a slave to other men or free under the law of God. He retells the story of Moses' freeing the Hebrews from the bondage in Egypt and bringing them to the borders of the Holy Land.

For those who believe in God, the movie is additionally thrilling, I believe, for the stories they have been told since childhood of the great mountain of Sinai and the opening of the Red Sea are there in color and wide screen to awe even the least impressionable.

That awe which De Mille is able to offer the audience is another fine point of the picture. I suppose

that as a Christian I was "taken in" by the film. I am not ashamed, however, to admit that I felt somewhat of an added thrill at seeing the Sea open or the fiery finger carve the law into the stone of the mount.

For those who don't believe, there is the attraction of pageantry in the film. Whether or not man believes in what the movie portrays is not the question or the challenge that the movie must answer to entertainment. I have stated that the film is fine entertainment. It need not be more; but it is.

As to the historical accuracy of the film I am not certain. What matters to the viewer is that it looks authentic. DeMille listed such authorities on Jewish history as Philo and Josephus as his sources along with the Oriental Institute in Chicago.

The movie is not offensive to any religious group . . . unless, perhaps, the Cult of Amen Re. But that is beside the point. I believe the movie "The Ten Commandments" is a must for movies are worse than ever. This film can destroy that misconception. For those who believe that movies have always been good, this picture will enhance that belief.

More than that is the fact that "Commandments" fulfills a need of human freedom . . . a task worth doing in these days of strife.

pandoria

Dick Shugrue

Here's hoping Karl Shapiro's wrong. He had written in March 9th's Nation Magazine that the present generation of college students is without literary idols.

That part of his statement might be right. But he admitted last week that maybe the present student is looking for something more than a literary Presley. We (college men) were called all sorts of unnice things in the series of articles by leading professors from all over the nation. Passive, hollow, submissive, were just some of the adjectives used to describe our action.

But I'm not so sure they were all right either. After all, the best judge of youth is youth itself. And perhaps it's because we don't have any literary gods that we seem so silent. Yet this silence is more than brooding. We are doing more than mimicking the words of professors.

Shapiro said that his generation had all sorts of idols to clamber after. There were the boisterous Mr. Mencken, Marx, Ezra Pound (who's still around but less noisy) F. Scott Fitzgerald. Some one to go around for everyone and for every class of thinker.

Now we have Mr. Shapiro, "hol-low" Dylan Thomas, Bennett Cerf and a myriad of little people who cry aloud but never too loud for the generation to Pied Piper along after any one o them.

Well, what's left for the student of today? What can he look forward to (I mean other than a degree and a "good job") Mr. Shapiro says that perhaps the young man of today should first of all set down the ideas of what he believes in. "The Manifesto form of writing — like that of Pound, the Dadaists, or anyone else who has something to say — is effective to begin you on a course of action," he said. We can look for a leader, too. If the day and age calls for a political leader, then let one come along and we will follow.

Maybe we're waiting for a spiri-

Through These Doors . . .

—george moyer

Now I would like to get back to what I was trying to say before being interrupted by a copy pencil. As you may remember (if you have a mind that is truly remarkable), I had mentioned unions several times. I had especially mentioned the teamsters union and their boss, who were in some difficulty with a rather shrewd old boy named McClellan and an equal-

ly shrewd young one named Kennedy.

Our nation is based on a system of checks and balances. This includes the traditional ones incorporated in the constitution and a few not mentioned there. One of these is the balance of organized labor versus big business.

In ordinary times, these two powerful forces are in a balance as each seeks to advance its own interests. However, these are not ordinary times as our president has observed many times (after he has slowed down.) The American corporation is taxed and legislated until even the best shyster they can hire can't figure a way to keep a decent profit out of Uncle Sammy's clutch.

On the other hand, labor runs wild. The only check on the unions is the Taft-Hartley labor act which is not strictly enforced and is not nearly the strong legislation needed to alleviate the situation. Labor's weapons include such clever and unfair tactics as the closed shop, a little piece of union legislation to force the laborer to join the union to get a job. Another plan, the union shop, forces a laborer to join the union organization in his plant within 30 days after being hired.

Recently, labor reached a peak in benefits that they could extract from a weary management. Wages were so high that any increase further would be lost in the inflation spiral. Working conditions were at a new high and the guaranteed annual wage appeared to be at the breaking point for most smaller industries.

So the labor bosses have turned to bleeding their membership.

It becomes apparent that the beast can't be allowed to devour the American laborer; the support of the economy. What is needed is a system of legislation that will return the unions to the beneficial position in the economy that they once enjoyed. I am suggesting that a little something of the old Teddy Roosevelt best busting spirit can be applied to organized labor.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS by Dick Bibler



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