

EDITORIAL OPINION

Two Seconds-- Price of Life

Two seconds. How much is two seconds? For some people it is a cheap price. For many others it is the most expensive item they will attempt to buy. These are the people who will risk their lives to save only a few instants.

For most students and faculty, classes are over as they pick this issue up. If there is a predominant thought throughout campus at this very moment, it is the thought of going. Nearly everyone is going somewhere. For some it is a trip home and others it is a vacation trip. Needless to say, the rush will be great. With only two days until Christmas time is a factor for many travelers.

The National Safety Council predicts another record high death toll on the nation's roads for the holidays. Cruel and hard facts say that many will not see Christmas, many will not see 1962 and hundreds will not be around to see what the new year holds.

Speed and drinking are listed by the Safety Council as prime factors in the annual Christmas-New Year deaths occurring on America's roads. As Col. C. J. Saunders of the Nebraska State Safety Patrol points out, "Overcelebrating is a significant factor in boosting the accident rate." A statement from the Nebraska Accident Statistics Bureau says that 60 per cent of Christmas eve (the most fatal time for accidents)

accidents are caused by drinking. The answer to all this is simple: If you drive, don't drink. If you drink, don't drive.

Approximately 500 of us will die between now and Jan. 2, 1962, according to the National Safety Council. There is no way of determining who the 500 will be. College students certainly have no supernatural protection. In fact, the college student age group, 18.2 per cent of all drivers, are involved in 28.7 per cent of all accidents. College students, therefore, do more than their share in the mass slaughter that has become tradition each year on the highways.

As we pointed out earlier this year, even the careful driver cannot be too cautious. There are many uncontrollable factors on the roads. Our campus population went through Thanksgiving vacation without a fatality, with dry roads. Now the same roads have a hard cover of ice resulting from numerous snowfalls and three weeks of freezing and sub-zero temperatures. Driving now is apparently more dangerous.

There is no reason why we cannot maintain our perfect record. The choice is ours. If each driver takes the necessary precautions, University students can help lower the national statistics and save lives with a little sacrifice—like two seconds.

(N.B.)



Writer Recalls Meaning of Yuletide; Christmas Time is Time for Truth

Eric Sevareid

To be a sensitive person is only to have the measure of both joys and sorrows increased; and it is because Christmas sensitizes us all that adults fear its coming even as they welcome it.



The glow of the soft lights, the sound of child voices in song, piercing us with their almost unendurable purity—these things remind us that our first and only command was to love, and we have not truly obeyed; that men were so commanded, not to improve them but to save them from themselves, and we have not really understood.

Christmas obliges us to regard our work, what we have made of our lives, our country and our world. Of course, we say, "Christmas is really for the children." Suffer the little children to take this burden from us.

In our middle and older years we look backward to Christmases we have known more than we look forward to those that will come. Some were joyous for me, as for you: some were the purest pain and some both pain and joy.

There was a Christmas in my early teens when I first had my own earned money to spend and spent it on expensive gifts for all in our family, so poor in those days. To the stalwart older brother I gave a leather bound book and a silver plated cigarette lighter. When he handed me my gift—a necktie,

as I remember—his face wore a stricken look, and in the midst of the festivities he broke into tears. Out of pride as much as generosity I had destroyed his Christmas. I had not yet learned that the head must sometimes govern the heart, that it may not always be better to give than to receive.

There was a time in the thirties with war building up in Europe, when Madame Schumann-Heinck used to sing "Silent Night" each Christmas Eve through the new device I had bought for my family known as the radio set. On one of these occasions she finished the song and then—spontaneously, I believe—burst into a passionate plea that people love and understand and live in peace. My father was a large, strong and grave man, inhibited by his upbringing in an austere Scandinavian farm family from revealing the gentler emotions. As he listened to the woman's heavily accented words, he began to tremble and then hurried upstairs to hide from us his tears. I think perhaps he knew in his heart what was coming to the world, that in his mind's eye he was seeing all the years of heavy work, his few possessions, his family, including three sons approaching military age.

Like him, we turn from these thoughts most of the days in the year because we cannot face them; but Christmas fastens its grip of truth upon us and will not let us go.

All of us, in our Christmases, want to love. One cannot believe that the Russian or the Chinese people are any different. But governments, our tribal device for pro-

tecting the in-group from the out-group, cannot love. At least I have never observed a government committing an act of love directed at another government. New books, like "African Genesis" tell us that in all of this pure animal instincts are at work, inherited from the primates in the forest, because, they tell us, we come not from a fallen angel but from a risen ape. Perhaps then, we cannot change these instincts by an effort of will; but we are also "nature's first brief experiment in self-awareness"—we alone among animal creatures can observe our own instincts and know, therefore, what we are doing. Our collectivity need not be less than the sum of its parts.

There are some words I came upon years ago, supposedly written by one Fra Giovanni in 1513, but which, someone has informed me, were actually written in this century. No matter—I do not know how anything could be added to or subtracted from these words:

"There is nothing I can give you which you have not; but there is much that, while I cannot give, you can take. No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. Take heaven. No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present instant. Take peace. The gloom of the world is but a shadow; behind it, yet within reach, is joy. Take joy. And so, at this Christmas time, I greet you with the prayer that for you, now and forever, the day breaks and the shadows flee away."

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Letterip

The Daily Nebraskan will publish only those letters which are signed. They may be submitted with a pen name or initials. However, letters will be printed under a pen name or initials only at the editor's discretion. Letters should not exceed 200 words. When letters exceed this limit the Nebraskan reserves the right to condense them, retaining the writer's views.

Icy Walks, Steps Brings Comment

I'm duly shocked by the negligence of our Nebraska maintenance crews. I refer to their apparent unconcern over the slippery condition of steps leading up to various classroom buildings and residence halls.

Three days after a substantial snowfall, I witnessed several students slip and fall on the steps of Andrews Hall. One girl will have a nasty bruise on the side of her face due to her fall.

The maintenance crews seemed to be non-existent, although I'm sure they could be found scraping up a patch of packed snow in some obscure, level spot. Even if the ice cannot be removed from steps immediately, I feel that some substance such as sand or salt could be placed there until crews can get to them.

Sincerely,
Norman Blecher

Scrip Issue Bring Comment

To the editor: Never having read the "Scrip" before, I looked forward with pleasure to seeing literary abilities which might be exhibited therein. I must now say that I am rather disappointed with the quality of some of the would-be authors. It seems to me that the attempt made in the piece of elegant refuse called "Cinderella" was a miserable failure. Another thing of which I am quite sure, is that it does

not take a college education to demonstrate this minimal degree of glorious prose. The same type of brilliant litter is manifested each and every day on skid-row by those who neither have the advantage of a higher education nor discipline of mind or principle. It appears to me that Mr. Gaines has given us and the community an excellent example of a superlatively debased collegiate product. I am sure that the state legislators will be won over by such magnificent student accomplishments, and will vote more and more money for their perpetuation. After all, such scholastic achievements cannot go unrewarded.

Donald L. Cleveland

Grad Likes Change

Sir: With respect to the reasoning (?), i.e. "ugly Pershing beams," offered by a few disillusioned seniors:

To me the setting for graduation was not a tradition, it was a joke—and a most uncomfortable, hot and boring joke at that. Just because mother doesn't cook the Thanksgiving dinner over the old kitchen stove does not mean that we have disbanded the traditional dinner.

At the risk of being called heartless and cruel, I must question "tradition" whenever it becomes an antonym of progress.

Jon Ericson

Daily Nebraskan

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Home for Christmas

A HELPING HAND

Staff Views

Out Of The Woods

By Jim Forrest

No matter how careful a person is and how many precautions are taken all is lost if the odds for success are allowed to become too great. This is the situation that the students will face today and this weekend as they begin their migration back from whence they came or to where ever they go.

The best drivers on this campus will load up their safety inspected cars carefully making sure visibility is not impaired and all loose items are secured in case of a sudden stop. Yet, even with all these precautions and the safety measures that will be taken once on the highways their chances of a safe journey are reasonably reduced because of the University's tyrannical insistence that school not be let out for vacation until today, Dec. 22, despite possible bad weather and heavy traffic!

Of course this means that many students, who are expecting to spend a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year at home, will be forced to venture out upon our lovely holiday highways when the expected peak in highway travel will be nearing. Some might even make it all the way. Perhaps the University figured in their wisdom that this way the student traveling home will have plenty of company on the highways; however, the object of this deadly game of traversing the roadways of this state and country is to get from point A to point B without meeting anyone, especially head on!

Even as this article is being written early reports are coming in telling how nearly three times as many cars than normal are leaving the major cities of this country. Today this figure will rise even greater as

business and industry close down and employees join our students on the highways.

If a student is planning to abandon the highway dangers for the comfort of flight or rail, he is out of luck again. However, this type of student will only be inconvenienced by crowds of humanity, and will not be forced to offer up his life as collateral in order to drive on a highway. Airlines reported Thursday that most of the east-west flights are booked and trains are having to put on extra equipment.

What possible reason could the University and the calendar committee have for waiting so long to give our students a start for home? I'm not after an earlier date just so we can get out of school earlier. Per se... it doesn't make any difference. The length of vacation is always the same. I do say that because of the wisdom of those on this campus that are wise the decision of letting school out just as the rest of the nation is letting out for Christmas places unnecessary risk upon travel. Administrators tell us that we cannot do this or that or that we must do this and that because they are responsible for our safety and good health while at the University. This is well and good, but something lapsed somewhere when the decision was made to keep some eight thousand students on campus until the Christmas weekend. Que sera, sera!

Anyway, Out of the Woods (minus a number of pine trees) wishes to send each and all, student or faculty, a Merry Christmas and the best for the New Year... if you make it.

On Films and Things

At the end of every year, filmmakers 'put their best foot forward' by releasing films of quality and in quantity. The reason is twofold: one, to attract the holiday audiences, and, two, to qualify the films for awards—namely the Academy Award—which will subsequently mean increased boxoffice.

The many year-end releases will supply Lincoln theaters with impressive entertainments well into 1962. Noticeably, most of these films find their source in other mediums; few are based on screenplays written directly for the screen.

Stanley Kramer's "Judgment at Nuremberg"—with a cast just starring Spencer Tracy, Burt Lancaster, Richard Widmark, Marlene Dietrich, Judy Garland, Montgomery Clift and Maximilian Schell—is an adaptation of a Playhouse 90 television script of a few years back concerning the famous war trials.

Tennessee Williams is getting double play. His novella, "The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone," stars Vivien Leigh and Warren Beatty in the screen version, and concerns an aging actress and the "La Dolce Vita" of Rome. Williams' play of frigidity and religion, "Summer and Smoke," has been transferred to the screen with a cast headed by Geraldine Page and Laurence Harvey.

Tony Curtis plays Ira

Hayes, Pima Indian who was one of the men to raise the flag over Iwo Jima, in "The Outsider." Lee Marvin starred in a television version over a year ago.

Falling in line right behind 1959's "Ben-Hur" and 1960's "Spartacus" is M-G-M's "King of Kings," a remake of the old Cecil B. DeMille silent with Jeffrey Hunter taking the part of Christ played by H. B. Warner in the first version.

William Wyler's "The Children's Hour" stars Audrey Hepburn and Shirley Maclaine in this second filmization of the Lillian Hellman play about a malicious lie and lesbianism. The first version, also directed by Wyler, was called "These Three" and was released in 1937.

Frank Capra remakes his 1933 release "Lady for a Day" under the title "A Pocketful of Miracles," and casts Bette Davis in the Damon Runyon character of Apple Annie originally played by May Robson. M-G-M also soon releases its remake of "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" with Glenn Ford in the Rudolph Valentino role.

From Broadway comes Jerome Robbins' great musical "West Side Story," already hinted as the "Best Picture of 1961." Also from Broadway is the film version of "A Majority of One" starring Rosa-

(Continued on p. 4)

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