

'A MAN DOES WHAT HE MUST...'

—John F. Kennedy, 'Profiles in Courage', 1955

EDITORIAL PAGE

Daily Nebraskan

GARY LACEY - Editor

JOHN ZEILINGER - Business Manager

Wednesday, December 6, 1963

HIS COUNTRYMEN:

Knew Him Well

A shot rang out, another and another, John Fitzgerald Kennedy was hit, then slumped to his death.

We loved him, but for some love has no depth.

Nebraska honored Mr. Kennedy with a conference championship. We respected him in an aftermath of drunkenness.

The Governor asked the University not to play, but the game went on. Some did not care to see the game. Television, however, played a dirty trick on those who were mourning the president's death. The announcer said Saturday afternoon: "We respect each viewer's opinion but we decided to televise..."

But then what is behind television, but men.

John Kennedy's administration functioned in an different environment, than did any of its predecessors. The same television networks that brought us news of his death and its ramifications, the three preceding years brought us to know Kennedy better than any other chief executive.

By means of television, we saw John Kennedy nominated and elected. He set a precedent with live press conferences. He faced the nation during times of crisis. We got to know him well.

Termed a vast wasteland during the '50's, television took on a new complexion during the '60s. News coverage gained depth—the problems of government were made vivid to a generally unstimulated public. And interest multiplied.

We got to know this man, Kennedy.

John Kennedy was different from his predecessors. Excluding the usual reciprocal partisan haggling which stifles one's thinking, Kennedy had some rather stiff ideals—the upgrading of society, the "vindication of right," not the victory of might, and defense of the God-given human right of equality.

In politicking he kept these goals clearly in mind, and they were coming to the attention of Greater America. As one columnist put it: "John Kennedy knew his nation was born not of an accident of history but of an act of intelligence: the triumph of men who studied seriously, spoke articulately, wrote fearlessly, debated rationally, and concluded intelligently."

Above all, Kennedy knew that intelligence was the key to putting his words into action. He gathered a group of intellectual advisors around him. We called them "eggheads," and scoffed. We mocked him for giving several positions, his appointment secretary and his special Congressional liaison, to Boston friends. We called them the "Irish Mafia." We underestimated a man with a method. Kennedy said: "a man does what he must..." and he was in the process.

Some respected Kennedy. Some did not.

All should have mourned his passing.

GARY LACEY

—On Kennedy Assassination—

Swedish Girl: A Flame Of Intelligence Is Dark; A Great Promise Is No More

By Britt-Marie Thuren Lund, Sweden — A very personal comment. Anything else would be impossible so soon afterwards, and also it means a lot to me personally.

Never will I forget that the night John F. Kennedy died, I spent hours and hours discussing politics and could not get away from it. A boy from South Africa was drinking tea with me. He was a Communist, but we had managed to be friends anyway. Now, all of a sudden we got mad at each other whatever we said, and although we tried to bring up new topics, everything turned into politics. Neocolonialism, western militarism, the stupidity and resulting lethargy of capitalism.

Suddenly my door was torn without a knock. A neighbor girl stood there, her hair standing up and her eyes wide open. She stammered in English, "You know — Kennedy is murdered." My first thought was that it was a joke, but I jumped at the radio and heard the voice of our Prime Minister Erlander slowly muttering something about an incalculable loss to the whole world. It was nine thirty (central European time) and Kennedy had been dead for one hour.

The three of us just sat in front of the radio, stupefied. Someone said, "I

thought political murders were old fashioned." The African boy said, "It is terrible, yes; it is terrible — will the reactionaries take over now?" I said, "I hope — oh, I am almost sure it must have been a reactionary, that is a rightist fanatic, who did it." The other girl said, "Yes, they said it happened in the South. Mrs. Kennedy saw it, too." Then the radio gave some more details and started playing sad music.

It was hard to sleep that night. The shock of a thing so unexpected, made me think of how easily it can happen that one day I turn on my radio and they say the third World War has broken out. A stupid thought in this context, maybe, but it shows how confusingly deep the news affected me. And I am speaking for my countrymen in this, too.

Next day, most conversations ran like this, "Hi, what do you think?" — "Hi, yes, isn't it terrible!" I imagine it was pretty much the same in the United States. Kennedy once said he was a Berliner. That night, in a sense, all of Europe was American. Kennedy was a representative of everything that Europe likes to think of as the best of America: new thinking, courage, ability to act, non-compromising but yet ready to listen to advice. And all these virtues payed off. The world looks infinitely better now than



OLD HAND

© 1963 MAULDIN Chicago Sun-Times

Letters Show Concern Over Game

Bitter Rind

Dear Editor:

The people of the state of Nebraska, as well as the student body and the administration of the University of Nebraska, are to be congratulated on an exhibition of equanimity and fortitude in a period of national disaster. Indeed, each and every one of those citizens who set aside grief and sorrow and overcame the shock and horror aroused by the incident in Dallas on November 22nd, has proved that the human spirit is indomitably resurgent.

The presence and participation of so many thousands of people when the stirring victory of Nebraska over Oklahoma was achieved,

argues convincingly that even the shameful death of a President of the American Republic can diminish the loyalty and dedication that was manifest in the football stadium of this University on the afternoon of November 23rd.

What stronger evidence could there be that this is a nation dedicated to the concept of individual liberty? Like those persons who promptly objected to the recent lack of light entertainment on television screens, the players, officials, and spectators of the Oklahoma-Nebraska conflict were insisting on the individual's inalienable right to react as he damn well pleases and maintain personal value come hell, high water, or

the death of John F. Kennedy. Play now and mourn later is consistent with belief that the individual is free to set his own course and live his own life.

Individual liberty, above all, is the keystone of democracy. Obligation to respect and reverence the person of pronouncement of duly constituted authority, to defer to the preference of the majority, to follow a line of conduct arbitrarily decided by others, such as a decree of mourning, is not recognized by those who claim the individual's right and privilege to be unconditionally free. Individual freedom must be secured, at any price, even if that price is the blood of a President as it was when the assassin claimed his right to act as a free individual.

Where is the dividing line between freedom and anarchy? At what point does protest destroy rather than serve democracy? Are assassination and murder the logical outcome of beliefs prevalent in this day and age? When personal opinion, personal values, tend to be mistaken for civil liberties and human rights, and the criteria of judging right and wrong are based on relativist ethics and personal indulgence, the effectiveness of democratic action cannot fail to be abridged. Such practices diminish the American heritage and deny the dignity and significance of a man whose spirit was a flame by which the world is warmed and enlightened. That flame, unfortunately, will not illuminate the triumphal procession of the Cornhuskers into the Orange Bowl.

Marcelne Sweetser

"Tacit OK"

Dear Editor:

How does Goldwater feel about the John Birch Society?

Mr. Lacey: "The man will not say whether he is affiliated with the John Birch Society, nor will he comment against it."

Mr. Recker: The Senator has stated he is not a member and while he strongly disapproves of Mr. Welch, he cannot find fault with their goal of fighting Communism. Goldwater has stated his belief that the John Birch Society should have a right to exercise their constitutional right of freedom of association as well as the ADA American's for Democratic Action or the John Birch's counterpart on the radical left.

These two statements appear contradictory. They are not. (1) Goldwater is

Students Sought Fun; KK Show Provides It

By Mary Lynne Davis

University students flocked to Pershing Auditorium Saturday night, November 23, for the 1963 Komic Kapers, the annual fall show sponsored by the Kosmet Klub, despite the thrilling victory of the Cornhuskers over the Oklahoma and the tragedy which had befallen the nation the day before. These students were seeking good entertainment, and they found it in abundance in the form of four skits put on by various fraternities and four assorted traveling acts.

The Kappa Sigma fraternity began the show with a skit which won second place honors, a crowdpleaser entitled "It Just Isn't Done." This skit featured students lamenting in song Nebraska conservatism; everyone wanting reforms but no one daring to be first in initiating these changes. A group of surfers finally convinced them of the merits of a care-free life, and the skit ended in a surfing song which showed the hidden talents of the Kappa Sigs to good advantage.

Following this skit was a singing group who called themselves the TR-3's and who harmonized on a num-

ber of folksongs and ballads to the accompaniment of a rather weird-looking instrument.

The Delta Upsilon skit featured "The Hag Behind the Flag," the story of a stripper who designed the first American flag and came to be known as Mrs. Bety Ross, the patriotic woman with a hidden past.

The Sigma Phi Epsilon traveler act followed this, entitled "Maud Fritchard visited." It presented three accounts of the landing of a Martian in a flying saucer, with a humorous climactic confrontation of the Martian himself.

During the brief intermission, the Steve Joynt Combo provided music, as they had done for a time before the start of the show.

Intermission over, the program resumed with the Phi Kappa Psi's presentation of "The Story Behind the Man in the Brooks-Brothers Blazer," a salute to the fashionable dresser which featured a best-dressed-man's fashion show.

The Four Eps, a quartet which won first place in the traveling act competition, entertained with an enjoyable group of songs which included an impression of an English singing

(Continued on Page 3)

Review

Shocked!

Dear Editor:

The whole world was mourning on the sudden death of the President John F. Kennedy who was killed by an assassin's bullet in Dallas, Texas. The United States lost the beloved President and the world lost a statesman.

I was terribly shocked by the unpatriotic, inhuman, unsympathetic, and ironic act by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska that the football game was on schedule on Saturday when the whole world was mourning the death of the President. If this is the consideration of the leaders of the nation I can predict that the fall of the nation is near.

Robert Mintosh

They Played

Dear Editor:

And did they really play football on the day after the tragic assassination of a great president, while all the world mourned? Did people attend? Was there cheering and rejoicing? Would such a spectacle have been conceivable if the victim had been President Eisenhower?

The death of President Kennedy produced stunned disbelief. What Nebraska Republicans are capable of does the same.

John Winkelman

The Most

Dear Editor:

Oh look, look! It is an authentic Jack (Joe's brother) College with his dark shoes, dark socks, dark tapered slacks, Madras belt, button down collar, tapered blue shirt, blue ski jacket, weeds, and shades. Gee he is the most! I bet he is a finalist for Mr. Bi-Weekly, king of the hop.

Oh, he is the most! Oh, he is a crib rat (or DBG, depending on his years of existence.) Oh, he has patches on his ski jacket.

BINGO



The Daily Nebraskan

JOHN MORRIS, managing editor; SUE ROYK, news editor; SUSAN SMITH-BERGER, GRANT PETERSON, FRANK PARTSCH, senior staff writers; LARRY ASMAN, MARY McNEFF, JERRY O'NEILL, JERRY HOFFERBER, junior staff writers; PATTY KNAPP, ARNOLD GIBSON, GAY LEITSCHUCK, copy editors; HAL FOSTER, photographer; MICK ROOD, sports editor; MICK JEFFREY, circulation manager; JIM DICK, subscription manager; BILL GUNLICK, BOB CUNNINGHAM, PETER LANGE, business assistants.

Subscription rates \$3 per semester or \$5 per year. Entered as second class matter at the post office in Lincoln, Nebraska, under the act of August 4, 1912.

The Daily Nebraskan is published at room 31, Student Union, on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday by University of Nebraska students under the jurisdiction of the Faculty Subcommittee on Student Publications. Publications shall be free from censorship by the Subcommittee or any person outside the University. Members of the Nebraska are responsible for what they cause to be printed.