

Two Impulses

"The graphic pictures I adore, Indecent magazines galore, I like them more, If they're hard core..."

"Smut" by Tom Lehrer

On first impulse these lines from the infamous Tom Lehrer are not only entertaining, but very true.

Magazines concerned with sex — stirring stories and tasty pictures — are often entertaining, a source of relaxation and to say the least quite interesting.

'Girle' Magazines

Few University males could go on record against "girle" magazines and certainly few could list their favorite reading without including "Playboy."

Thousands of mature University students no doubt would and should strongly disagree, for example, with Douglas County Municipal Judge Eugene Leahy who said at a Nebraska legislative judiciary committee meeting Monday, after reading several pages from "Playboy," "This stuff is plain junk."

Ridiculous Law

A laugh and a smirk at those traditional people who make literature "obscene" with ridiculous laws seems a fair reply to Leahy who was speaking in support of proposed LB859. This bill would

make it illegal to sell, give or display so called "obscene" literature to any person under 18 years of age.

Adolescents seldom come into contact with a piece of literature any more shady than many classical novels and personal experience proves in the great majority of examples that normal sex interest is made dirty or detrimental only when laws or teaching make it that way.

Adequately Covered

However, unfortunately some sort of liberal and practical obscenity law is needed in a society of people. This sort of measure is now adequately covered by the 1961 Nebraska obscenity law.

This law enforces some tasteful restrictions on the extent of pornography and it does not set up different standards for adults and minors.

Found 'Obscene'

The present case of Bill Steen and the Heroic Bookstore falls under the 1961 law. Steen's merchandise in question has been found "obscene" according to this law.

Basically it is wrong and extremely unfortunate according to individual conscience and freedom for any type of law restricting literature to exist, but in a practical society of people there is some need for standards on the quality of such literature easily sold.

LSE Interpretative

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In recent weeks, the London School of Economics has been subject to demonstrations described by English newspapers as a "British Berkeley." Numerous students have been suspended from the school, including Marshall Bloom, former editor of the Amherst College Student, who headed LSE's Graduate Students Association.

The immediate cause of the demonstrations was the appointment of the past head of Rhodesia's University College at Salisbury to be LSE's new director. However, as in almost all cases of student unrest, the roots of the disturbance go far deeper.

Following is an interpretative report on the London School of Economics, written for the Collegiate Press Service by David Widgery. Widgery, who has been associated with the British student magazine "U", is currently a student at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, and a member of the Council of Britain's Radical Student Alliance.)

The tragedy of the London School of Economics situation is that everyone knew it was coming except the administration. It had to come and on the same template of revolt as the university dissidents in Berkeley and Berlin and Michigan.

So Solid

It came because the administration was longwinded and callous and the students are not. It came because the channels of communication and organization are so solid, they are sewers.

Because the administrators were so far away, when they came down the stairs from Connaught House offices, they scarcely recognized their own students used the same words or understood their language.

Cricket Loving

It came because LSE is small and overcrowded and now filled with working class students who are no longer well bred and cricket loving and comfortable like a student should be.

And when it came, it was scarcely surprising that the student negotiators felt unable to rely on the administration's good faith and demanded the sort of bargains familiar in labor disputes.

Mass Suspensions

After calling in the police, after the mass suspensions without hearings or appeals, absurd allegations of conspiracy and the final statement that the suspensions of David Adelstein and Marshall Bloom were never really under consideration at an appeal hearing, this is the least the administration should expect.

In certain cases the gap of perception has widened into open hostility between students and some of those who teach and administer them. The love and trust preached by the founders of the School seem a laughable nostalgia.

Student Charges

The recent massive sit-in has come at the end of a long hard year. It began with discussion and pamphleteering among the students about the desirability of the Director Elect. He is Walter Adams, head of University College, Salisbury, Rhodesia. The exact student charges were largely ignored and unread by the press and endless letter writers to the London Times evangelizing on behalf of Dr. Adams' conscience.

At that time David Adelstein, the Undergraduate Student Union, was disciplined for writing a letter to the Times. As the case was heard, the College went on strike and pushed their case for change in the college regulations with direct action, mass meetings and forceful negotiation.

Supreme Irony

The supreme irony is that all this should happen in the LSE of Laskey and Tawney and the Webbs who saw the college as the social conscience of a society; critical and disenchanted with contemporary wisdom.

For at a time when the professors are increasingly infatuated with modern Britain and see its only needs as items of political landscape gardening, the students are making increasingly fundamental and wholesale rejections of the ideology and basis of society.

Accessible Democracy

While the Professor of Industrial Re-

lations claims the whole thing is the work of less than 50 Trotskyists, Anarchists, Provos, and Americans, the students are at the same moment offering an authentic counter society with an immediate accessible democracy.

The students accuse the school as being now there to train up scientists for the cold war, rationalizers for industry and lubrication for those parts of industrial society most prone to breaking down.

Living Critique

Now in their action they are offering an alternative scheme and from the university society in protest has emerged a vivid, living critique.

The most crucial decision the students took was when they chose to continue the occupation of the university premises on their own terms rather than leave a strong negotiating committee behind.

Live-in

They chose, as Kufer said, to change this sit-in to a teach-in to a learn-in to a live-in. The students organized their own classes and tutors.

They were in fact exercising Paul Goodman's "Lernfrenheit", the freedom to ask for what they need to be taught and if necessary invite the teachers including the advocates of causes, to do it.

Union Committee

They are continuing the protest organization through the Union and the Union's ad hoc Committee of Thirty-Three.

The strikes and demonstrations have all been Unionized, LSE Student Union, like most of the English student unions, is the pivot rather than the rusty hinge of student action. Elections are run on a political basis and political consciousness and organization is high and sophisticated.

Extremely Good

The democracy of the Union debates has been authentic. Tactics meetings filled the Old Theatre to breaking point with 600 to 700 and debate was exhaustive and extremely good.

With mass democracy the tendency is to level, stamp and oversimplify. The debate at LSE (with students staff and leaders from other colleges participating, but only the LSE students voting), was an authentic participatory process.

Great Distance

When the press and administration substitute for this the theories of ring-leaders and coups, they are just demonstrating their enormous distance from the contemporary student experience.

In between the debates the students organized films (the most popular was "The Organizer"), Agit Prop theatre, poetry readings, and folk concerts... all the paraphernalia of student consciousness but invested with importance and urgency because of where they were happening and why.

Concrete Situation

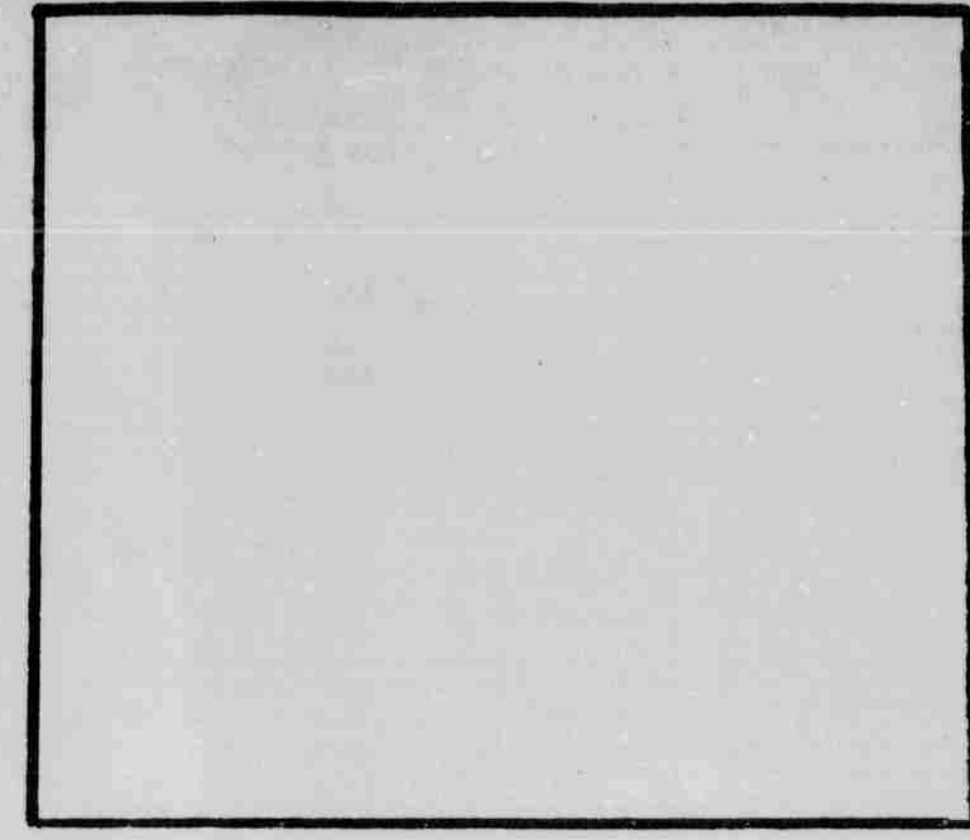
As in Berkeley students and staff began to meet face to face for the first time in a concrete situation. Sometimes tempers flashed but even the disagreements had a reality that the perfunctory lecture courses or dust jacket biographies just don't possess.

The solidarity of the other students in Britain has been overwhelming and shows that the LSE situation is perceived to have national implications and repeats local experience.

Daffodils

The solidarity which people show to people, symbolized by the daffodils worn by all the marchers on the protest rallies and passed and tossed out into the crowd, again serves as a counter system to the bureaucracy of the official National Union of Students, which has disowned the students were taught by men of two generations ago that all questions were complex, all ideologies complex and all larger passions fanatical. Yet it is these very students who were able to demystify administrator's rhetoric and shell games and see a situation of blatant problems and patent injustices.

It was the students who showed an immediate and undeniable concern for human freedom and self-expression.



Pray for April 13 and Empty Boards Again

Our Man Hoppe

Swinging England



Arthur Hoppe

London

London swings! There are discotheques and gambling clubs and pots of pot and LSD.

Members Only

Of course, the West End discotheques are open to members only. And in the sedate atmosphere of the posh gambling clubs no loser would ever consider putting a gun to his temple unless it had a silencer. But, aah, in this home of the Beatles, there are hippies who are just like hippies anywhere.

Well, almost like hippies anywhere.



A leader of the London hippie movement is Mr. Peter Stansill, a soft-spoken, articulate, intelligent young gentleman of 23, who is business manager of the International Times, or "IT," as it's called.

New Sport

At least he was until the police seized the newspaper last week under the Obscene Publications Act. They appeared offended by such articles as one suggesting in detail that a new sport be added to the next Olympics — or rather an old sport, but one that has usually been confined to the bedroom.

I asked Mr. Stansill over

afternoon tea if many young Londoners were following the hippie creed that everyone should "turn on, tune in and drop out."

"Oh, yes," said Mr. Stansill, "we certainly don't advocate that just anyone should take LSD. Quite a few members of our staff are definitely opposed to it. And as for dropping out of organized society, that simply isn't done."

Acid Heads

"Most acid heads (the term for LSD users) run boutiques, discotheques, mod shops or are in pop groups. After all, work is spiritually necessary to us Englishmen. A sense of duty, you know. So while persons from all walks of life do flee their skulls (a hippie phrase for the wild psychedelic experience induced by LSD), they at all times carry on."

All walks of life? "Oh, yes," said Mr. Stansill. "We have business executives, lawyers, and Foreign Office types who will approach you to say that they've 'always wanted to try some of that — er — stuff.' And should you ask them after they've blown their minds on it for 24 hours, how they liked it, they invariably reply, 'Oh, I found it quite amusing.'" I inquired if the London



And so we leave swinging London. Personally, I'm on my way to swinging Tooting Bec.

If you think London swings," said an old London hand I know, "you should see Tooting Bec. It's about a 30-minute ride on the Underground. Now it may seem a typical London suburb — rows and rows of row houses, a friendly pub and a fish 'n chips establishment. Nothing out of the ordinary."

And what does swinging Tooting Bec do for kicks? "Well, confidentially," he said, lowering his voice, "I'm told that on Saturday nights they all gather at the laundromat to watch the tumble-action washing machines."

After two days in swinging London, I can hardly wait.

The Peaceful Snatch

... by Steve Abbott

Recently a great American died. A. J. Muste — dead at 82. That he was an American was merely an accident of fate, as it is with most of us; that he was a great man was due to the fact that he owned up to his principles.

Same Tradition

Muste — you say you haven't heard of him? Well, he wasn't in the same tradition as our usual heroes, Jay Gould, Billie Sol Estes, Bobby Baker.

Unlike most of us, he was first and last conscientiously moral. While most of us have (vaguely) good intentions, our public indifference and private materialism undoes us. I admit, not out of hatred or even spite, but sadly, that most Americans have no principles beyond self-interested pleasure seeking.

Material Security

Even men who claim lofty religious principles are, when it comes down to brass tacks, as indifferent and cowardly as the rest. We mean well, but since we have enthroned material security as our Savior, we are unable to take risks for Christ malking anymore.

Rather than talk for A. J. Muste, I'll let him talk for himself. No doubt some will slander him as irrational and impractical, but such

talk is cheap coming from hedonists. The following excerpt is from "Of Holy Disobedience" written in 1952, republished by Bobbs-Merrill in "The Essays of A. J. Muste."

Holy Disobedience

"It is of crucial importance that we should understand that for the individual to put himself in Holy Disobedience against the war-making and conscripting State, wherever it or he is located, is not an act of despair or defeatism.

"Rather, I think we may say that precisely this individual refusal to 'go along' is now the beginning and the core of any realistic and practical movement for a more peaceful and brotherly world."

'Go Along'

"For it becomes daily clearer that political and military leaders pay virtual attention to protests against current foreign policy and pleas for peace since they know quiet well that, when it comes to a showdown, all but a handful of the millions of protesters will 'go along' with the war to which the policy leads.

"All but a handful will submit to conscription. Few of the protesters will so much as risk their jobs in

the cause of 'peace.' The failure of the policymakers to change their course does not, save perhaps in very rare instances, mean that they are evil men who want war.

Score Of Billions

"They feel, as indeed they so often declare in crucial moments, that the issues are so complicated, the forces arrayed against them so strong, that they 'have no choice' but to add another score of billions to the military budget, and so on and on.

"Why should they think there is a reality, hope or salvation in 'peace advocates' who, when the moment of decision comes also act on the assumption that they 'have no choice' but to conform... (but as Life stated in its unemphatically profound and stirring editorial of August 20, 1945, its first issue after the atom bombing of Hiroshima:

Conscience

"Our sole safeguard against the very real danger of a reversion to barbarism is the kind of morality which compels the individual conscience, be the group right or wrong. The individual conscience against the atomic bomb? Yes. There is no other way."

On Vietnam

... by Stephen Voss

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following column by Stephen H. Voss, instructor of philosophy, will appear in the Daily Nebraskan weekly. In this column, Mr. Voss plans to air some of the more unfamiliar facts and opinions about the war in Vietnam and to stimulate thought about the conflict.)



I'd like to comment on some typical reactions of students and others to atrocities in Vietnam, as displayed, for example, in the SDS exhibit "The Arrogance of Power."

Typical Reaction

1. "I made a point of trying to avoid it after I saw it the first time." This is perhaps the most typical reaction among Americans to the ugliness they have helped create in Vietnam. In other wars they have been quick to explain the necessity of this ugliness; now they wish mainly to avoid having to think about it.

This reaction is no accident: most people unable to avoid thinking about it eventually lose some respect for their country's leaders, and most of us would rather respect our leaders.

Learned Little

2. "Many male students thought the Vietnam war wrong, but they still would fight there, if they were told to, because, in the words of one, 'It's my duty.'" (Daily Nebraskan, March 24) If you replace "the Vietnam war" by "the war on Jews" you may be tempted to think American students have learned little from the sins of their pre-war German counterparts.

For how can doing what is, on the whole, wrong ever be one's duty? No; surely there comes a point at which it becomes one's duty to oppose the leader of one's country; if this was the case for George III and for Hitler, is it unthinkable that it should be the case for Lyndon Johnson?

Another Question

3. "But people are killed and wounded in every war." Compare this reply to another question: "Richard Speck isn't so bad, even if he did kill all the nurses. After all, people are killed and wounded during any mass murder." (Of course there are differences, but certainly one of these is the fact that more killing occurs in a war; why should we be so callous about killing in war, granted this fact? reflect that if Speck, Starkweather, and so on had committed their senseless murders in the right place in Vietnam — say in a Vietcong hospital — they would be heroes. Or, at least called heroes.)

4. "The end justifies the means." Such a statement in general reflects a shabby morality; this is no exception. The slogan "Better dead than Red" may be a noble one if you impose it on yourself, but it seems a monstrosity to impose it on Vietnamese peasants whether they like it or not.

Ten To One

Reflecting on the sorts of wounds caused by napalm and Lazy Dogs, you may be moved to amend the slogan to read "Better dead than wounded". Then recall that most competent estimates of the ratio of civilians to Vietcong wounded by allied forces are about ten to one.

Since 1945 over one million Vietnamese have suffered deaths because of the war and last year alone the allies saved about 50,000 civilians forever from the threat of Communism.

Campus Opinion

Students Ought To Aid Steen

Dear Editor: The recent arrest of an Heroic Bookstore employee for selling allegedly pornographic literature is a plain case of police harassment.

While Mr. Steen, owner of the store, was recently found guilty of selling obscene material, the constitutionality of the statutes under which he was prosecuted is, to say the least, dubious.

County Attorney Paul Douglas, according to "The Lincoln Star," said that he hoped the arrest would keep the bookstore from selling any more of the "questionable material." Since when have the police been charged with the duty of suppressing "questionable" material.

Students ought to aid Mr. Steen and his employees in any way possible.

Have you read any questionable material this week?

Al Spangler

Free University 'Whimpers'

Dear Editor: Some proponents of the "Free University" have implied that the sterile and authoritarian education available from NU's regular courses cannot slake the intellectual thirst of many who seek "true" knowledge in the NU desert.

They have suggested that the NFU alone would bring enlightenment and a swinging "joie de vivre" to Nebraska. This letter, perhaps something of a minority report, suggests that what was begun with a burst of idealism and great expectations has not been a resounding success.

My experience: I offered to "direct" two courses, "Psychology of Humor" and "Cultural Impact of Mass Media." The original response was splendid — 35 signed up for "Humor," 15 for "Mass Media."

I then spent some 10 to 12 hours assembling, typing and duplicating bibliographical material to hand out, and checking on availability of some of the material. Loaded with materials, I met the first classes.

Of the 35 who signed up for "Humor," 18 showed up at the first meeting; four came to the second (two of which were a faculty couple); the third meeting went unattended.

Of the 15 who signed up for "Mass Media," eight came to the first meeting, none to the third.

"Not with a bang, but a whimper."

Charles R. Gruner

Associate Professor

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