

Helping to make a home a house

The Housing Office recently handed down three new regulations governing dormitory open houses, one of which is particularly distasteful.

The ruling requires that the dormitories organize a procedure for registering a student's absence during open houses. Although this procedure will not work exactly like the notorious AWS sign-out sheets, it is basically the same idea.

Not only does this sign-out system appear to be completely unnecessary when considering the strict regulations which already insure a puritanical atmosphere, but the system will most likely be as faulty as the AWS system.

These three rulings reinforce the set of six requirements for open houses drawn up last December by a faculty sub-committee on social affairs and activities.

The subcommittee's requirements were not greeted with roaring enthusiasm by the Inter-dormitory Association. The IDA retaliated by submitting two strongly worded resolutions demanding clarification and reconsideration of three of the requirements, including the "open door policy." This regulation demands that the doors of all rooms be open during open houses even those of students who are not participating in the affair.

The resolutions have not yet been considered by the subcommittee, so the IDA now has another item to add to their growing list of complaints.

Perhaps the subcommittee and the Housing Office assume that if the process of obtaining open houses is a trying ordeal, the dormitories will soon tire of the program and open houses will be discontinued. Then maybe the IDA would abandon its coed visitation project, too—much to the delight of the Board of Regents.

The IDA postponed action on these three regulations but decided they could follow these courses—accept, reject or modify. It is doubtful that IDA will find it in its best interests to reject the rules but the association should attempt to modify them. Their success or failure with this issue and the open door policy will determine the outcome of Coed Visitation, if and when IDA decides to present it again to the Regents.

Cheryl Tritt

Dan Looker . . .

The beagleman faces the CD's

Outlook on Demos



Dan Looker

In the last off-year elections the Democrats were trounced. The situation had been rarely worse—both on the national and local scenes. The national election efforts were a sham. LBJ did his best to help his party by hoing up in the White House with his beagles and his bird while Democratic office seekers tried to keep his name out of the campaign.

Republicans got elected in places where such a thing never should have happened and after a group of Democratic governors publicly criticized Johnson for hurting his party.

In Nebraska the Democratic party was almost washed out of existence by the Republican tide. Even Frank Morrison, the Republican Democrat, and Clair Callan, a very able man with few enemies, were defeated by candidates who could hardly be called inspiring—even by members of the GOP.

That was almost two years ago. Now, everyone wonders if things have changed. Yes, they have. Nationally, the party has never been in better shape.

It has more presidential contenders than the Republicans. And the Democrats have something for everyone. They have Wallace, the working man's bigot; they have good ol' LBJ; and they have a painfully frank liberal, Senator Eugene McCarthy.

In Nebraska, also, the party is gaining strength. It is true that there is no such thing as a democratic candidate for office, not even a rumored candidate in the state. Nevertheless, you have probably noticed that occasionally this or that party official will take a vocal potshot at the GOP.

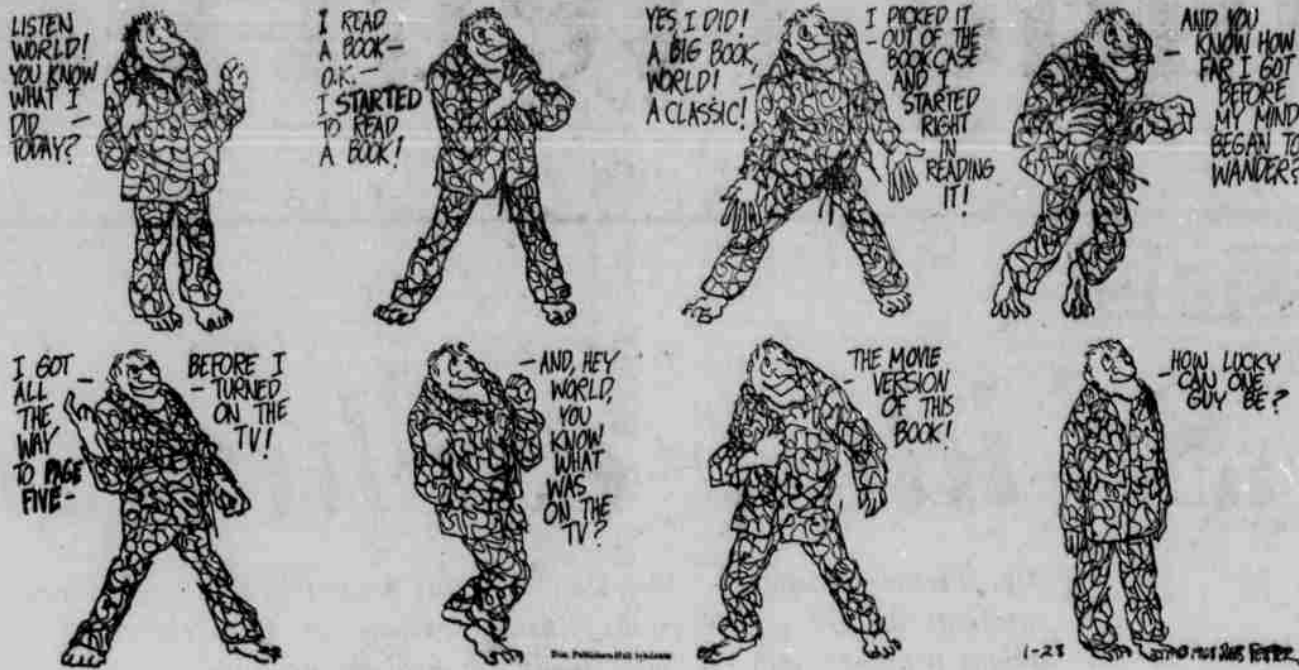
Seriously, though, the Democrats' position is not as bad as many believe. On the national scene, Johnson still has considerable political power and no one underestimates his chances of getting back in the White House—including Republicans and rebellious Democrats.

Meanwhile, back in Nebraska, it may seem as if only a few party officials admit they are Democrats, but a great deal of organizational work is going on within the party which will pay off in upcoming elections. Also, capable men like Callan are returning to the state.

This is a political column and although some political columnists make predictions like who is going to win elections, this author will not do anything that rash, especially when there are so many presidential candidates afield in both parties and when third, fourth, and maybe fifth parties may spring up. In Nebraska, it is too early to make such predictions, since there are so few democratic contenders.

Instead, this column will look at such key Democrats as Fulbright, Robert Kennedy, McCarthy, and, of course, LBJ. It will also look at the national party—where it is going, what its strength is, and how it can accommodate the liberals. We will not forget the local Democrats, either, including those on campus.

This column, I hope, will not be the usual gung-ho oaksy propaganda. Even though I admit I respect men like Fulbright and McCarthy, I will not push any particular candidate. Instead, I will try to help you to understand those strange creatures called Democrats as the semester progresses.



Joseph Alsop . . .

The Saigon troubles' meaning

WASHINGTON — We are, no doubt due for another spate of warnings that all is hopeless in Vietnam because of the attack on the U.S. Embassy and the other Viet Cong efforts in Saigon and other cities. In reality, however, this flurry of guerrilla activity in urban centers has now been abruptly and wastefully expended, without producing anything dimly resembling the general uprising Hanoi has always dreamed of. It is as if a college boy, who has been saving up for a new sports car, suddenly put all his savings into a useless rattletrap.

According to Hanoi's doctrine, the war always has been supposed to culminate in a "general uprising," engulfing towns as well as countryside. In prudent preparation for this "general uprising," the enemy's high command long ago began to accumulate hidden assets, in the form of men and weapons, within or on the fringes of the various urban centers where their writ has never run.

Everyone has known that such hidden assets existed. Occasionally, this or that bit of the Viet Cong network in Saigon or some other town has been discovered and removed. Most of the network always has remained in place, largely inactive and therefore difficult to locate, but ready for use on the work of command from Hanoi.

That work was evidently given some weeks of months ago. The numerous attacks in Saigon, in Hue, in Da Nang and at other points were obvi-

ously pre-planned. The execution, in most showing very careful co-ordination as well as great daring.

But the obvious fact remains that most of the Viet Cong's assets in and around the urban centers have now been abruptly and wastefully expended, without producing anything dimly resembling the general uprising Hanoi has always dreamed of. It is as if a college boy, who has been saving up for a new sports car, suddenly put all his savings into a useless rattletrap.

The question is, why? Quite certainly, the right answer is not that Hanoi thought the time had really come for the general uprising and therefore moved prematurely. The kind of Viet Cong planning and preparation revealed in the recent attacks is almost never wasted on false assumptions.

Quite certainly, therefore, the decision was consciously taken to settle for the rattletrap instead of the longed-for sports car. Pretty certainly, there were two aims behind this decision. One was the obvious propagandistic aim—to weaken American and South Vietnamese resolution by conveying the impression of hopelessness.

The other aim was military. Everything indicates that the big show in Vietnam this winter is to be the battle at Khe Sanh. The North Vietnamese preparations strongly suggest, by their mere unprecedented scale, that this battle is intended to be climatic. And it will obviously help the enemy at Khe Sanh if there is acute worry about security throughout the rest of South Vietnam.

But from all this, a single, central point rather emerges. What has happened in the cities, what is happening at Khe Sanh, cannot possibly be made to fit into Hanoi's familiar and classic blueprint for "protracted war."

The student expenditure of the hidden urban assets, like the preparations at Khe Sanh, in truth makes no sense at all unless the Hanoi leaders are instead basing all their current hopes on a short, convulsive, final or semifinal effort. Their adoption of the system of win-lose-or draw is the only rational reading of facts, including the fact that many recent captured documents show the Hanoi leaders promising their troops "in 1968."

That means, on the one hand, that the stakes at the Khe Sanh are almost unbearably high. But that means,

on the other hand, that the Hanoi war-planners have been driven to conclude that "protracted war" is not a safe strategy to adopt.

This should surprise no one. Quite aside from the heavy pressure of the bombing of the North, countless captured documents reveal that "fear of protracted war" is the central "weakness"—the work is regularly used—of the North Vietnamese troops and Viet Cong cadres and troops in South Vietnam.

There is considerable evidence, indeed, that at some time last summer the Hanoi leaders seriously contemplated retreat into the patient strategy of classical "protracted war," only to rebound into a climactic effort. And the chances are that the reason for the rebound was the effect on the troops and cadres in the South of the calls from Hanoi for "protracted war . . . up to 20 years."

God knows, none can predict exactly what Hanoi will do, if the preparation at Khe Sanh fail to produce the desired result. But it is certainly idiotic to go on talking about war "with no end in sight," as so many do in this country, when the other side so obviously thinks—or fears—that a rather early end is in sight.

Professors speak . . .

Policeman or counselor

Editor's Note: This following article is the first appearance of a weekly column which will be written by University faculty members. "Policeman or Counselor" is contributed by Dr. Lawrence Poston, assistant professor of English. Dr. Poston is also an active member of the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

By Dr. Lawrence Poston
One day on the campus of a large university, a student was summoned before the dean of students on a morals charge. He was told that he was not in a court of law, and that this was only a friendly, exploratory chat. The dean pointed to a police report and said, "I'm not concerned with establishing your guilt or innocence. I only want some idea of your own motives."

Encouraged by the informal atmosphere, the student talked. There was no lawyer or stenographer present since, as the dean pointed out, this would inhibit both parties. A few days later, the student learned that the result of the friendly chat was an "indefinite suspension."

This fictional episode offers a not unfair picture of the workings of the new liberalism in the more enlightened student offices. The personnel of these offices tend to declaim a parental role in their dealings with students, and emphasize their roles as counselors rather than as policemen. Unfortunately, this new liberalism frequently places the student in a more ambiguous position than he held under the old paternalism.

Maximum flexibility

Deans of students and their staffs argue for maximum flexibility in their dealings with undergraduates. Each case, they point out, must be examined in its own terms and not forced into a repressively legalistic mold. Like most of us, administrators do not enjoy being judges. Their focus is on helping the student solve his problems.

Unfortunately, a dean of students still retains his police powers. As long as he does, he can never function as a priest or psychiatrist. By the nature of his job he is responsive to pressures for law enforcement or for the maintenance of a particular moral norm. He is both counselor and judge-policeman, and this puts the student on an uncertain footing. At what point in an interview does a counselor leave off counseling and begin to function in a quasi-legal capacity? There are seldom any witnesses present to make a guess.

By and large student affairs personnel are sincere and dedicated people who are concerned that no injustices be done. But the premise governing their work is a confused one, for it fails to allow for this basic contradiction in their roles.

Contradictory relation

The standard rejoinder of student affairs officers is that faculty are in precisely the same contradictory relation to a student. Faculty members advise and counsel, but they also give grades; and what are grades but a kind of judgement, even on occasion a police action?

Personally, I suspected myself of committing misjudgments every time I sent grades in, (the more so since in the study of literature it is difficult to find an objective

means of testing a student). And certainly a teacher may in a fit of pique give an F to a student. There is no doubt that some of us on the faculty have to put our own house in order.

Suspensions results

The analogy begins to break down, however, when one talks about suspensions. For a disciplinary suspension, on some occasions, at some universities, may be a hasty response to community pressure. By contrast, an academic suspension results from a convergence of many poor grades in many courses.

In other words, there is a built-in guarantee against the student's being suspended as the result of a single, isolated, arbitrary action.

Then, too, the student knows from the beginning that he will be graded. He also knows that a transcript will not say whether his "F" was given for cheating or for academic irresponsibility—or even for sheer inability.

But he has no assurance that his disciplinary record will not become known at a school to which he wishes to transfer. He has no assurance that damaging information will not be forwarded to the police as the result of a friendly counseling session.

Given the present ambiguity of his position, a student would be well advised to remember the following things

if he faces possible disciplinary action for misconduct:

Guidelines for the student

1. The student before going unaccompanied to his first interview at the office of student affairs, should establish clearly whether any information he gives in that interview will be used against him, informing the office of his request.

2. If the student is arrested by the local police for a violation of law on or off campus, he should remember his constitutional rights not to give self-incriminating evidence before securing counsel.

Many student affairs offices have a working relationship with the local police, and (quite apart from what may happen in a court of law) the student's evidence may be forwarded from downtown to the campus.

3. It is frequently in the interest of an office of student affairs to press for an early disposition of a case on campus. If the case also involves court action downtown, the student should under no circumstances consent to any informal discussion of his case on campus without an attorney present.

4. The student whose case is not yet adjudicated has the right to attend classes and pursue his academic studies unimpeded, unless he presents a clear and present danger to the health and safety of himself or others.

A student should never regard a dean or counselor as an enemy to be outwitted. And the above rules-of-thumb are not intended as an incitement to non-cooperation with the authorities; (I'd be very unhappy if they were interpreted in that way. But no student should be unaware of his rights in a potentially explosive disciplinary situation.

The real change in student affairs offices will come when counselors recognize that in such a disciplinary situation, a rigid adherence to due process is as much in their interest as it is in the student's.

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Goes to the movies

The bundle in "The Biggest Bundle of Them All" is supposed to be \$5,000,000 worth of platinum. It isn't. The biggest bundle of them all is Raquel Welch.

Raquel, whose amply physical qualifications are known to most persons, co-stars with Vittorio de Sica, Edward G. Robinson, Godfrey Cambridge, and Robert Wagner. As Wagner's mini-skirted moll, she helps kidnap de Sica who portrays Ceasare Celli, a once-notorious Mafia leader of the 1920's.

Instead of getting a ransom for Celli, Wagner and his gang are comed into helping the extravagant, aging gangster make his comeback. They plan to heist an Italian shipment of platinum worth \$5,000,000 under the guidance of The Professor, Edward G. Robinson.

Wagner and his crew bungle the caper—as they do the whole picture. His acting is so impoverished that Raquel Welch, who is not famous for her drama talent, appears to be an actress with promising ability.

De Sica gives a good performance as Celli and is equaled by Robinson who delivers a "Madison Avenue" prescription on crime and how to make it pay. This is the only witty scene in the whole movie.

Excitement in "The Biggest Bundle of Them All" is completely lacking from the plot, the photography, and the majority of acting. Raquel makes up for this as she undulates in a variety of seductive garments. The outcome is a picture with the sole purpose of showing-off Raquel Welch. It does. GAP

John Reiser . . .

Damning the Demos into Death Valley

Getting the disclaimer out of the way first—This column speaks for no one, save its author. I don't speak for the University Y.R.'s or for the Republican party of Nebraska, with which I sometimes disagree sharply.

I admit to belonging to the more "liberal" wing of the Republican party and reserve the right to indulge in criticism of the party whenever I think it's merited.

I have a less-than-perfect record as a predictor of political affairs and strongly urge that no money be wagered on the basis of any predictions contained in this column.

Now then—Senator Everett Dirksen is apparently to be the chairman of the platform committee at the Republican National Convention this summer.

Dirksen's credentials for most of the job are in order, but there is one part of the job I wish he wouldn't be doing.

The platform chairman traditionally reads the platform in its entirety to the convention and to a nation of very bored viewers. Dirksen is a molasses slow speaker and the prospect of his spending two or three hours on the television screen is staggering.

Why not get a professional for the job—say a Hollywood movie star? If the party doesn't share my affinity for Raquel Welch for the job, they might be able to get Ronald Reagan, whom you remember as the host of "Death Valley Days."

As long as we choose to have the platform presented at all, we might as well have it done in style. Miss Welch would be perfect—the viewer could turn down the sound and really enjoy the show.

The more logical course would be to scrap the platform altogether. Nobody reads a party platform after the convention anyway.

The platform is part of the convention because the Presidential aspirants, in earlier days, did not attend the nominating conventions. Thus, the platform was the only public statement of the party's view of the issues.

Now, of course, the acceptance speech of the Presidential nominee sets the tone of the campaign and draws the lines upon which the party will base its thrust. If the candidate chooses to ignore the platform entirely, the few who notice the discrepancy will just have to ignore the platform too.

The fight over the platform is spirited and quite often bitter, but it does little if anything to contribute to any meaningful dialogue on the issues within the party.

If the two parties want to give the voters something exciting and, perhaps, meaningful, why not take the time usually used for the reading of the platform for a debate among all the serious aspirants for the party's nomination? There's a show guaranteed to draw viewers and provoke discussion. Neither party, however, is likely to adopt that idea, because of the tradition that candidates do not visit the convention floor and because of the fear that such a public debate might force the convention to nominate the man the public really wants, Nixon supporters don't like the word "debate" either.

Dropout counseling organized by SDS

New York (CPS)—Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) has set up a dropout counseling service for students "who feel college is channeling them into a mold rather than helping them become independent, dynamic human beings."

SDS' New York office is compiling a list of activities for potential dropouts. The organizers of the program, Michele Clark and Jonathan Lerner, say the activities include organizing projects and working on underground newspapers. These are all "non-establishment" and are intended to permit "those dissatisfied with the system represented by the academic community to explore themselves and others in a dynamic and free way."

SDS makes the list available to any student who is considering dropping out of school. Lerner and Miss Clark hope to eventually have regional counselors throughout the country, much as SDS and other organizations now provide draft counseling. In fact, one of the jobs of these counselors will be to help draft-eligible men who lose their deferments by dropping out.

In a statement about the project, SDS said it was being set up because "we want to erase the word 'failure' from the concept of dropping out of college. It is not a failure to quit a system which dehumanizes you, just as it is not cowardly to refuse to shoot a Vietnamese. It is not cowardly to cut the illogical cord which keeps you in the university when you realize that the university is creating you in its own image; obedient, bored, tense, passionless, infinitely intractable like clay rather than indefinitely open like the sky."

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