

Cauldron brews

The Quiet Revolution is stirring a simmering cauldron of dormitory problems in which each ingredient is reaching a different boiling point.

Harper Hall last Sunday reached this point a little too soon when the dormitory purposely ignored the "open door policy" ordered for open houses by a sub-committee on social affairs and activities.

Whether Harper Hall's action should be condoned is not the question, but rather if this action will encourage the subcommittee to change the open door policy or if it will entice other dormitories to emulate their stand.

No official report has come from the Office of Student Affairs stating what disaster will befall the residents of Harper Hall. If a penalty is imposed, however, it could vary in degree from a withholding of the dormitory's activity funds to restricting Harper's open houses.

If such penalties do result from Harper's action, other dormitories certainly are not going to be enticed into taking the same stand, it is already obvious their act of civil disobedience did not motivate the subcommittee.

While Harper Hall's action has probably been ineffective, the basic idea of such action is not erroneous.

No dormitory resident could disagree that the open door policy is an invasion of privacy and an unenforceable regulation. If the "regular channels of communication" with administrators and faculty members remain as impassable as they appear now, then willful disobedience of the regulations is permissible.

While civil disobedience would be understandable, it can not be successful unless the entire dormitory system takes a unified stand. Nothing is sadder than to watch a single group fail in a courageous action which could have been successful with better timing and staunch supporters.

Unity has never been a strong point of the dormitories but if the open door clause is to be rescinded, these groups must take a co-ordinated stand—whether it is an act of willful disobedience or as another attempt to bargain their way through the subcommittee's tightly closed doors.

Cheryl Tritt

State of Nebraska

by Mike Lowe

Dear Thomasina,

Two thoughts to begin. The first concerning your visit here over Thanksgiving. You said that you liked Nebraska. But it was obvious that you are a cosmopolite, from a fairly cosmopolitan city, San Francisco.

The second—a remark made by several of my professors that "Nebraskans have a (cultural) inferiority complex." If we do have such a complex, coincidentally, I consider it at least partly caused

Letters to Thomasina



by other professional's statements that Nebraska is a "cultural wasteland."

Poor old Nebraska. She takes it on the chin every time. I am reminded of the Centennial newscast one day last fall that quoted a Greeley editorial from 100 years ago.

Horace's Predictions

Old Horace predicted that his grandchildren could live to see the day when Nebraska would have five million inhabitants.

A century later we are still pushing two million. If the prophecy still is to come true, it must be accounted to Greeley longevity, not to Nebraska's dynamic population qualities.

At any rate, by Eastern standards, Nebraska may be a cultural wasteland. We won't see Lenny Bernstein in front of the Falls City Symphony next week. And O street will always be a long, long ways "off-Broadway."

But there are no fewer educated men, no fewer refined men, per capita, I submit, in Nebraska than in New York.

There are, I think we should observe, merely many more people in megalopolis. The number, and not the proportion, of tasteful men is increased. And this intense grouping in smaller geographic areas results in New York Symphonies and Metropolitan museums.

There need be no head-hanging. That's just the way it is.

To return to the first point—that you enjoyed your visit, in fact, didn't want to return to San Francisco.

I think it is because you sensed a freshness here, a spirit that may be the direct result of our provincial predicament.

The land insulates us from the Coast, and from the culture of the coasts. I think that is good, if we allow it to be.

Our intellectual life should not ride on the incoming U.S. mails. Our cultural nerve ends need not be constantly atwitter to read the Times or the New Yorker. The land that insulates can also inspire.

Nebraskans, cannot, let's face it, fully feel the alienation of the individual in a city, or in a mass society. The problems of urbanization have yet to plague us. Our streets remain free of garbage. Our sky is clear.

But we have our problems. It's only that our Midwestern art should reflect our peculiar problems, and not imitate or hinge upon coastal matters.

Stop Mourning

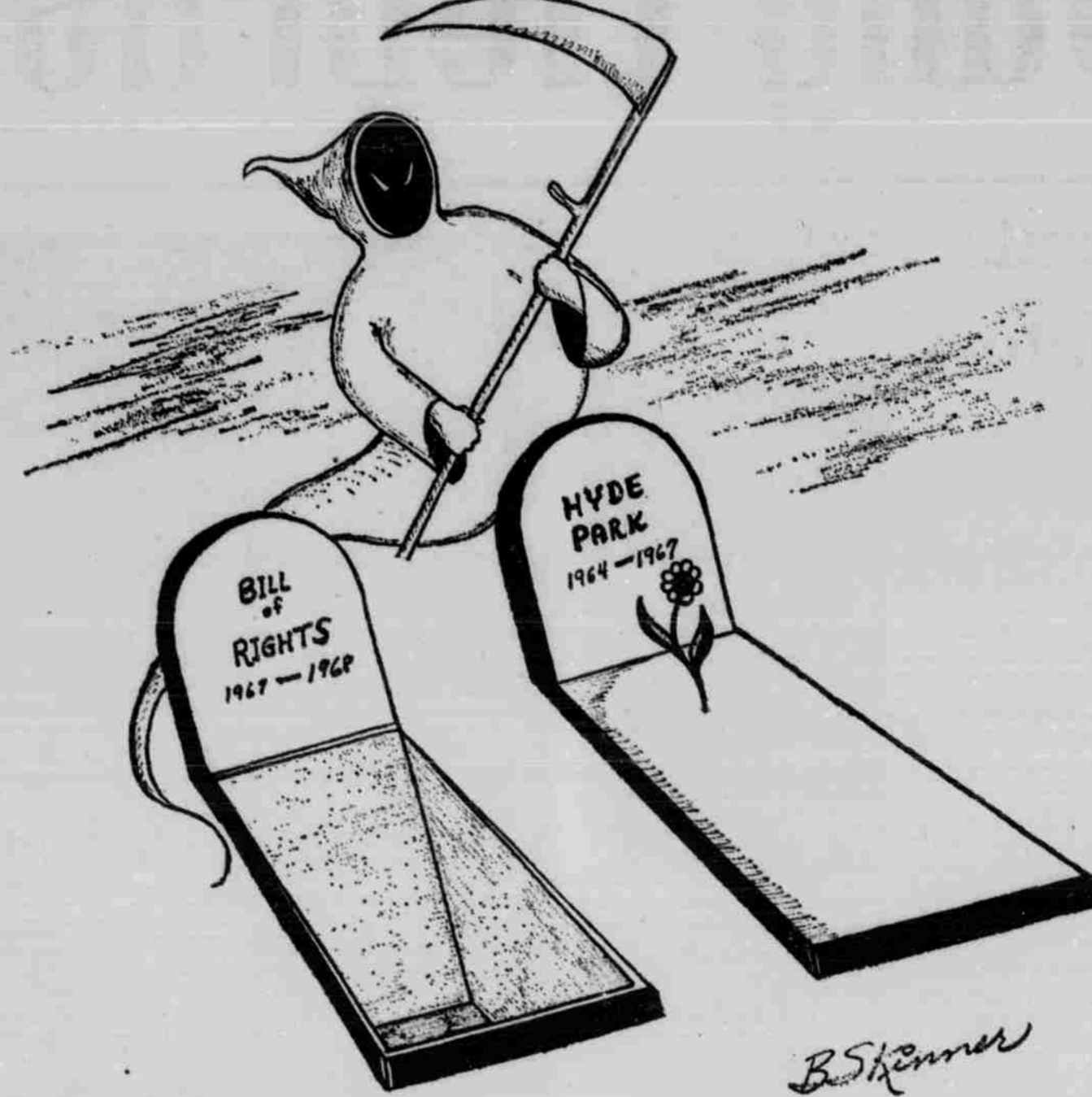
Students, and especially creative students, ought to stop mourning what we lack vis a vis major urban centers. They should emphasize rather what we possess Broadway lacks.

If you still doubt what that is, take a ten-minute drive from campus in almost any direction. Stop, and take a good look around. A deep breath is also recommended.

The result is a never ending pleasure. The almost predictable serenity, the immediate erasure of society's tiny irritations, must surely rival the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Then, and only then, we will all perhaps see what you, Thomasina, saw almost from the first. We will see, truly, the state of Nebraska.

Love, Mike



William F. Buckley . . .

Have American people had enough?

Chaos in Asia argues at so many points the failure of Lyndon Johnson's foreign policy, two photographic symbols of which appear on the front page of the Paris edition of the Herald Tribune. On top is the picture of a hasty execution. "Brig. Gen. Nguyen Ngoc Loan, Chief of South Vietnam's National Police, executes a captured Viet Cong officer. "They killed many Americans and many of my people," said General Loan after he had slain the guerrilla with a pistol bullet."

The guerrilla, hands behind his back, wearing a checkered shirt, tilts his head slightly to one side, as if to deflect the bullet that is about to hurl out of a pistol held four inches away from his head. What is the matter with Saigon security that such guerrillas as these should, in the fifth year of war, be able to kill "many Americans and many of my people?"

Warriors welcome home

And then, at the other end of the page, a picture of a desolate soldier, his face lined with grief, carrying the corpse of a little girl with a face like a madonna's. And the caption: "Warrior's welcome home." A South Vietnamese officer carries the body of his child, executed with the rest of his family

by the Viet Cong who overran his home in a military compound while he was leading his troops against guerrillas in Saigon street fighting."

We haven't the strength to secure every little hamlet in South Vietnam from the enemy, but how can we fail military compounds within the suburbs of Saigon in which little girls live?

Communist increase aid

"The Soviet Union and other Communist countries,"—the UPI is summarizing the annual message by the Defense Secretary on the state of American defenses—"have been increasing their military and economic aid to North Vietnam. Such aid may have totaled one-billion dollars for last year alone, he said." And, the same day from Reuters: "Kosygin Boasts-Viet Cong Uses-Soviet Weapons." Elsewhere, it is speculated that our military victories have, paradoxically, hurts us: because they have had the effect of shortening the supply routes. You see, if we had been less victorious in the field, then the Viet Cong would have had further to go in order to maul us.

As it stands, having pressed their major units back towards the 17th Parallel, our own forces are taking terrible blows from the massed strength of the enemy which

has only a little distance to travel before hitting us. There is talk that our installation at Khe Sanh, where five thousand U.S. Marines are all but isolated, will become another Dien Bien Phu.

China's missile success

And another item in the news: Red China will possibly succeed next year with a medium-range missile. The Chinese ran into certain technical difficulties last year, but it is expected that they are fully overcome, and that indeed the Chinese will have an international missile system by the mid-70's.

And completing the day's news, the North Koreans announce that they have no intention whatever of negotiating the release of the Pueblo or its crew. Had enough? One supposes that the American people have.

It would seem clear that (1) the failure of the U.S. Government to interdict the flow of material to North Vietnam from the Soviet Union is perhaps the major act of masochistic sentimentality in the postwar period. The estimates are never any lower than 60% and they go as high as 95% of the Soviet contribution to the material effort of the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong.

If Lyndon Johnson's reasoning is correct that bombing the North is justified,

then it is also correct to bomb the harbor of Haiphong and prevent the delivery there of the hundreds of thousands of tons of material being used against us, so effectively; (2) the notion that the Communist world is so fractured as to render impossible joint action against us is a demonstrated myth. It doesn't matter in the least whether it is fact that the leaders of the Communist states meet together in order to concert against us: in fact they do. The North Vietnamese, the Chinese, the Russians, the North Koreans: are all of them applying pressure against us in triumphant disregard of our scholarly demonstrations that it cannot be so; (3) the wait-and-see policy on Red China is not bringing us the relief we sought from the nightmare of a Red China armed with hydrogen bombs and a delivery system.

We put off and off and off the day when we must face the consequences of a Chinese veto power on any American effort whatever, calculated to help oases of freedom in the Pacific.

Well the Republicans are trudging the snows of New Hampshire. They are telling us it is them for a change, but that they do not desire to make partisan politics out of the Vietnam war. What utter baloney. What other way is there to relieve ourselves of the current leadership?

Peace Corps causes ideological question

Washington (CPS) — When Vice President Hubert Humphrey visited Africa early this year, a group of Peace Corps volunteers in Liberia wanted to meet with him to discuss their sentiments against the war in Vietnam.

The volunteers were told by a top Peace Corps official in Liberia that any comment by them — either public or private — on Vietnam in the presence of the Vice President would result in their immediate termination from the Peace Corps.

Their story, made public by a letter to the editor in a recent issue of the New Republic, is one example of why many students today are hesitating to become part of a program which for the past seven years has drawn strong support from the younger generation.

Within the last nine months, the Peace Corps has become a topic of controversy on many college campuses. Most of the Corps' problems have been a direct result of the war in Vietnam.

Students who consider joining the Peace Corps now must solve several ideological questions. Among them are:

—Are volunteers free to present their views on any topic, no matter how contro-

versial, as long as it does not affect their work as a volunteer?

—Can the United States honestly be working for peace in some countries of the world, while, at the same time, dropping napalm bombs on another country?

—Can volunteers be effective in their host countries at a time when the foreign policy of the United States is becoming more and more unpopular around the world?

—If the Central Intelligence Agency was able to infiltrate private organizations such as the National Student Association, what, then, would keep it from infiltrating govern-

ment agencies like the Peace Corps?

Of these possible problems, the "free speech controversy" has attracted the most attention and seems to be the most pressing. The second is primarily a personal question which the individual must answer for himself.

The fact that an increasing number of young people think they would lose their freedom of speech by joining the Peace Corps is supported by a recent Louis Harris survey. The survey showed about 20 per cent of college seniors expressed this fear, compared with only two per cent a year ago.

The survey was taken af-

ter a major free speech issue involving the Corps last summer. The incident occurred when a group of volunteers in Santiago circulated the "Negotiations Now" petition protesting the U.S. position in Vietnam. Corps officials told the volunteers to withdraw their names or submit their resignations. Volunteers also were told they could not identify themselves as working for the Peace Corps when writing for the American press.

One volunteer in Chile, Bruce Murray, wrote a letter to Peace Corps Director Jack Vaughn protesting the action. Murray's letter was subsequently printed in the Chilean press, after which he was called to Washington and notified he was being dismissed as a volunteer. Corps officials said Murray defied a standard policy that volunteers not become involved in "local political issues."

After the controversy over Murray's dismissal became widespread, Vaughn's office backed down on the new policy and said volunteers will be free to write "individual letters" to officials and newspapers in the U.S. and to identify themselves as volunteers.

Al Spangler Radicals change

by Al Spangler

Most politically radical students, and I am here talking about the whites, who come, for the most part, from middle-class families and large universities, have an uneasy sense that the whole nation is skating lightly over a cracking shell of rationalization—about the war, about the so-called "Negro problem," about poverty and religion.

To the extent that Americans have achieved a good society, they believe that it has been achieved at the suffering and denial of others. Hence, it is not good at all.

They wonder at the celebration of greatness, as opposed to decency. They see this country as the stumbling hero of its current drama, inarticulate and unable to see its own saving qualities in time to avoid a meaningless end, grotesquely symbolized by President Johnson.

Time for Burning

In the early sixties, they felt themselves to be racing against the time that has come now, the time for burning. The posters one used to find on the walls of their apartments said: We Shall Overcome. Now one sees pictures of Che, with the motto: "In Revolution One Wins Or Dies."

This is not to say that they are ready to die, nor that they can look at a picture of Malcolm X ("He was ready, are you?") without a sense of deep shame. But they think about buying a gun, so that when it happens, they can shoot a cop.

They know that talking will do no good, yet they continue to talk, to "rap." They have learned that marching produces no change, save in the condition of their feet and in their sense of solidarity, but they march on. They are sickened by their own hypocrisy, and their complicity with "the system." They mimic the rationalization that produced them, and wish for a purification: "When the revolution comes, it will all be different." The fire next time.

Festive rights marches

Not so many years ago, when civil rights marches were unfailingly festive in spite of the most brutal cracker cops, it was believed, naive as it seems now, that changing the laws would change the lives of men.

They were radical then because they found themselves in a world of lies. But they couldn't believe that this was a lie. Now they know that even the Constitution is a sham. It was believed then that the white radical could help the oppressed black; now they know that it is the other way around.

Perhaps that is, at best, a caricature of "the radical." (Of course there is no such thing as the radical, only people who identify themselves, for one reason or another, as radicals.) Yet these people no longer talk about "progressive change," but about "revolution, rebellion and death." That is why agonized discussions about "civil disobedience" are a thing of the past, however recent that past might be. When Thoreau is quoted today, one hears: "The greater part of what my neighbors call good I believe in my soul to be bad, and if I repent of anything, it is very likely to be my good behavior. What demon possessed me that I behaved so well?"

Perhaps this kind of repentance, and its accompanying near-fascination with violence, is a kind of madness. But if it is, we are seeing some of the best minds of our generation destroyed by madness. And this should give us pause.

Campus opinion

Dear Editor:

Before the Harper rebellion attracts more irrational followers, let's examine the more positive aspects of the open house rules.

Granted, Rule 5—the signout restriction—is ridiculous, is probably unenforceable and perpetuates adolescents, rather than promoting adult responsibility.

But, the open house rules do clarify what has been a vague situation since the Regents' veto of coed visitation last spring. And they do so in a manner that reflects (1) an increased student voice in decision-making in this University community, and (2) an attitude of the faculty and administration committee members which is more favorable to the students than either they or the student committee members have been willing to admit.

Remember, the rules allow 12 open houses per floor per semester, or almost one per week. They also permit actual coed visitation in dorm rooms, provided the doors are open (a not unreasonable regulation to all but those who desire coed visitation expressly for other than public social activities). This is virtually what the student voice has been asking for.

Number Indicates Strength

The number of open houses indicates the strength of the student voice on the committee. Seemingly, it also indicates a willingness of the faculty and administration representatives to bend as far for the students' wishes as possible without directly violating the Regents' stand.

It's time that the student representatives make known what surely they must realize as the positive aspects of the open house rules. And it's also time that the faculty and administration representatives admit their desire to cooperate with student wishes. They should fear neither being "on the students' side," nor antagonizing the Regents for taking a pro-student stand. Hopefully, the Regents will trust their own willingness when in the first place they allowed the committee to develop the specific rules once the Regents themselves had set the standard, and will not overrule the committee's decisions.

Rule 5 is not acceptable; but it remains a minor setback to the total gains which have been made this year in development of a truly community—students, faculty, administration—approach to University problems. Further open house rule changes should be made through this approach.

A quiet, but responsible revolution in University decision-making continues.

Sincerely,

William P. Eddy, Mike Jess, Roger J. Blood, Richard Page, Glenn McFarren, Lu Johnson, Gary Meyer, Grove Betts, Rod Michaelson, Tom Granger, David Worm

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