

NFU headaches

No eyebrows will be raised when the Nebraska Free University conducts second semester registration. NFU no longer has the allure of a new experience—it is simply accepted.

NFU is far from being entrenched as a University landmark, however, as its healthy complexion is misleading.

Two major problems have weakened the NFU and this semester's courses will probably determine if there will be another registration next fall.

First the NFU Coordinating Committee has been anything but coordinated during the University's brief history. The internal structure has lacked cohesion and members have not communicated with the different NFU course leaders.

Consequently there presently is no system for evaluating the free university to determine its weaknesses or strengths and to test student reaction to the entire program. No one knows if the university is accomplishing its goals or failing miserably.

While some may argue that a free university must be free and unstructured, this does not mean that the programming nucleus of the group can also be organized in this manner and survive.

The committee can solve its problem by formalizing a strict committee structure and establishing a communications network with the leaders and members of the NFU courses.

Organizing of the coordinating committee will be difficult but it will strengthen the university if its "action" people and its "ideas" people can meet on a common level—another missing factor in the NFU.

The internal committee headaches are not incurable but another problem plaguing the NFU will require a more potent remedy.

When the NFU was first organized there was a small group of enthusiastic professors willing to assume leadership of several NFU courses. These men shared the same educational goals as the university and spent many hours developing their courses and establishing guidelines for the future NFU.

These men are now ready to step aside and allow other faculty members to share in their work but no one is filling the vacancies.

Statistics show that professors are overworked and underpaid, but so are the students taking NFU courses without credit to broaden their educational experiences.

This semester while many capable instructors are writing their "required" book, the number of NFU courses will be decreased rather than expanded and they will be led by students and graduate instructors rather than professors.

It is discouraging and frustrating to find that when Nebraska students actually want to attempt something new in education they are hindered by the same people who scoff at students who aren't serious about education.

Dan Looker

Dark horse ... but a good guy

Everyone knows that dark horses never win, but the coat of the charger that carries Sen. Eugene McCarthy has been bleaching. The Senator has not had much to do with this and his policy on Vietnam is unaltered.



Outlook

But recent events have made his views appear even more sane. In Vietnam the recent communist offensive:

—created 500,000 new refugees overnight.

—forced the South Vietnamese army to withdraw to the cities, endangering the pacification program and leaving the Americans alone in the countryside.

—forced the government to go back to marshal law after only four months of rule by the national assembly (which did not pass a single law).

Events at home this week further helped McCarthy's cause:

—Tuesday: LBJ admitted that there will be widespread rioting in American cities not only this summer but for several to come.

—Wednesday: Robert Kennedy told the people of Appalachia that their plight is not improving because butter has been sacrificed to guns for Vietnam.

—Wednesday: 500 law professors took a stand against present administration war policies to show that antiwar sentiment "is not limited to a few extremists."

McCarthy critics say that there is no difference between McCarthy and Johnson except for his Vietnam policy and that McCarthy's campaign is "one-sided," merely a protest against the war. They say that the domestic policies of the two men are essentially the same.

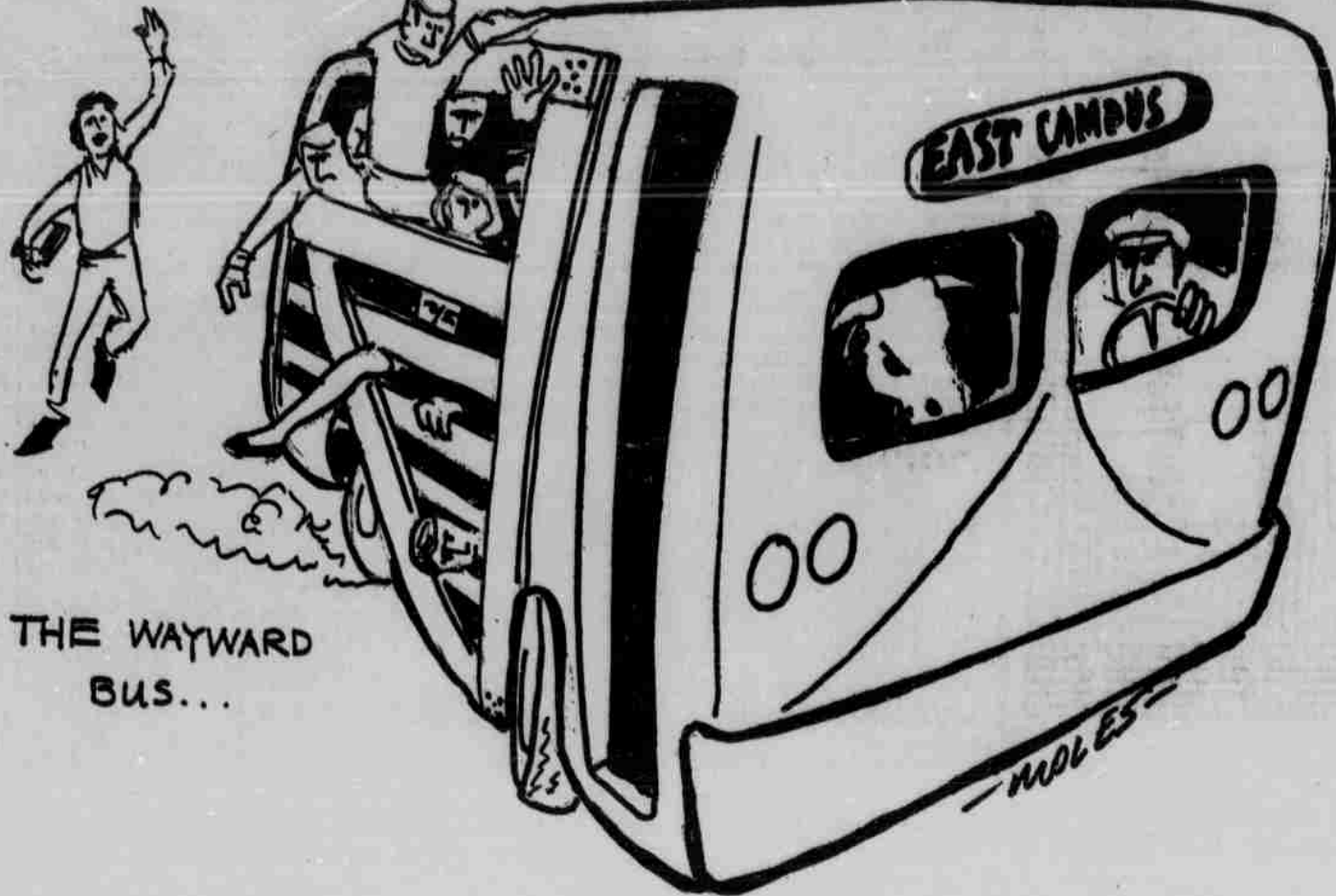
In reality, however, President Johnson has been forced to abandon his domestic policy. McCarthy believes this is a serious mistake and is calling for a return to a vigorous domestic program and less emphasis on Vietnam. McCarthy's antiwar arguments now are gaining strength.

Replying to President Johnson's claim that the VC suffered "a complete failure" in their latest offensive McCarthy was quoted in the New York Times as saying: "If taking over a section of the American Embassy, a good part of Hue, Dalat, and major cities in the Fourth Corps are a constitutes complete failure I suppose by this logic that if the Viet Cong captured the entire country, the Administration would be claiming their total collapse." McCarthy said that the attacks show instead "that we are in a much worse position than we were two years ago."

McCarthy clearly a dove, nevertheless, he does not advocate a total sell-out. He envisions a compromise in Vietnam and working towards a coalition government.

If McCarthy's support is not growing, at least it is crystallizing. For the first time in twenty years the Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) will not support an incumbent Democratic president. Instead they are supporting McCarthy.

McCarthy's solutions to the plight of the nation may not be grandiose—but they make desperate sense. The man deserves a good hard look by Nebraska Democrats when he arrives here next week.



William F. Buckley ...

The American Dream: Circa 1968

The crisis in South Vietnam, suddenly, isn't altogether an American crisis. There is, discreetly to be sure, an outpouring of sentiment from crusty Europeans who are normally rather snuffy about America and America's foreign policy, but who suddenly feel a cold draft blow by, reminding them perhaps that the great effort at Khe Sanh is, and Saigon is, somehow, related to them even as so many American knew, when Paris fell in 1940, that, somehow, the crisis was related to them.

I pass along a letter from a young officer in Vietnam, addressed a few days ago to his family. It suggests a great many things which are not so readily explicated by analysis, or history, or polemical rhetoric. A view of life, sharpened by the rigors of the battlefield, from an American inescapably young ...

"I guess," he writes his father and mother, "that you have wondered what I meant by 'One Fine Day.' It's time I explained a little. Let me be-

enough. It's a day filled with the pure joyous excitement of being alive. The thrill of living lifts your body, and your feet rush to go somewhere. Anxious, impatient steps. "It's a night when the music and booze fuse together and all else ceases to exist but you and this time and this place ... how simple it all seems. "One Fine Day is an eager, questioning, rebellious generation. It is mini-skirts-sex-drugs—the whole drill. If the old shall prevail, then it must stand the test of doubting youth. We all search for the same things. How we get these, and what price we pay, are the important things. "One Fine Day is a world which no longer bleeds. It's a world without guns, fear, fraud, hunger, or tears. If this type of world is One Fine Day, then it is a world with soul and God. "One Fine Day is the 25th of December. It is chilled snowy air, crowded stores and parking lots. It is Christmas Eve in a knotty pine cellar.

One fine Day is a family like you. It's a family which makes mistakes and scores successes. A family which can change its mood from joy to sadness. Which can shatter into a thousand pieces and yet, when the call is sounded, can be One again. "It is parents whose sole reason for being has been to give and give again to their children. How can one even begin to chronicle their labors? How can their children ever say, "Thank you?" "It is brothers so different in size, shape, feelings, likes and dislikes as to make one wonder, What are the ties that bind? But in that difference lies their strength. For none is the shadow of the others. They are themselves, they are individuals. Five brothers so different and yet so alike. "One Fine Day is a day so beautiful and invigorating that you can understand what Edna St. Vincent Millay meant when she said, "Oh World I cannot get thee close

enough. It's a day filled with the pure joyous excitement of being alive. The thrill of living lifts your body, and your feet rush to go somewhere. Anxious, impatient steps. "It's a night when the music and booze fuse together and all else ceases to exist but you and this time and this place ... how simple it all seems. "One Fine Day is an eager, questioning, rebellious generation. It is mini-skirts-sex-drugs—the whole drill. If the old shall prevail, then it must stand the test of doubting youth. We all search for the same things. How we get these, and what price we pay, are the important things. "One Fine Day is a world which no longer bleeds. It's a world without guns, fear, fraud, hunger, or tears. If this type of world is One Fine Day, then it is a world with soul and God. "One Fine Day is the 25th of December. It is chilled snowy air, crowded stores and parking lots. It is Christmas Eve in a knotty pine cellar.

Professors speak ...

A liberal arts policy asked

Editor's Note: Dr. Robert Narveson, an associate professor in the department of English, is the third contributor in the Nebraskan's Professors Speak series.

University of Nebraska undergraduates are overwhelmingly from Nebraska. That means they are from farms or small towns. Or from Omaha, the culture of which is a national joke — yes, we may include Omaha among the small towns. Of Lincoln I dare not speak. I live here.

Let me tell you about people raised in small towns ("I am the man, I suffered, I was there.") Forget for the moment all the virtues that make them the finest people on God's green earth. I want to speak of one wee defect; namely, that they grew up with a rather distorted idea about serious literary, dramatic, and musical culture.

Their customary artistic fare is, in music, the high school symphonic marching band playing the overture to La Boheme, in drama and the senior class trying "Our Town" as a dutiful variant on "Harvey," and in movies. As a result, they vaguely respect all that "Kultural" stuff, they pay it lip service, and secretly in their inmost hearts they believe that it is like medicine: nobody likes it, but you take it, because somehow it is good for you.

As I say, I was there. Until I was twenty one I thought "good movie" was a contradiction in terms. I thought the fault was in the medium itself. But then my opinion was formed on the offerings of the local movie house — academy award winners and stuff like that — so how could I know any better? (But then I was more deprived than most kids nowadays.) Of course no undergraduate today is so benighted as I was (they all have television, and Life magazine, and are oh so sophisticated). Even so some of them uneasily suspect — I have seen it — that they have something to learn. Is it possible to get a wrong impression of opera from Jiggs in the funny papers? Why is it Shakespeare can survive thousands of amateur assaults in

college and community theaters?

Why do some apparently sane people prefer Fellini to the MGM lion? — you finish the list. The fact is and we all know it — that there are things we cannot judge until we have experienced them fairly, that is, at their best. Most young people in this part of the country have rarely or never had the opportunity for such experiences with the performing arts. I argue that a college serious about education must give its students an opportunity to experience the cultural forms most highly valued by educated, informed judgement.

The liberal arts college I attended was run of the mill in most respects, but it did take its responsibility for cultural education seriously. At the philistine college across the graveyard from us they mockingly called us lovers of the good, the true, and the beautiful.

That succinctly expressed their healthy folk-suspicion that our high-brow fine arts series indicated a phony pretension to superiority. They were careful to offer a "balanced" series — you know, like the Nebraska Union Fine Arts Series: The Modern Dance Quartet (it won't draw but it shows we're serious), Al Capp (the ex-funny man), a jazz band (for the jazz crowd), and the Chantours de Paris (if it's French it's got to be cultural).

Actually students did not care for our diet of opera stars, famous pianists, touring Broadway productions, and prestigious symphonies.

We pleaded for a bit of Brubeck or Louis Armstrong, but the college was adamant. As a callow college editor I remember writing: "We students will not go often to be bored in the name of good music." That mild amusement from a tolerant faculty that had the gall to insist it knew better than we what was good for us.

If JUST NOW I seemed critical of the Union Fine Arts Series, it is not for the reason you think. The Union, as I understand it, is not an educational institution but a recreational one. It is supposed to give the students what they want, not what is good for them. I really do not expect students to demand highbrow offerings in music, drama, movies, and the like. Students have their own important concerns, such as protesting Open House rules, or giving away heart-shaped balloons on downtown street corners.

When students do in fact demand serious entertainment, I am impressed and delighted, and embarrassed for my university that finds itself trailing where it ought to be leading. The foreign film service does the students here great credit, and I am heartened by the ambitious plans of the Union Fine Arts Committee to upgrade its offerings to include a major symphony next year, as well as some other worthy musical attractions.

Perhaps, some day the University will be shamed into building a hall for them to appear in, on which day Pershing and the Coliseum can be freed from their uncomfortable dual (duel?) roles as both culture and sports emporia.

I assert flatly that this university is shirking its responsibility. Ok, ok I see the heckles rising all over the campus. I know full well that the campus abounds in musical organizations, and that our theater is passing fair as college theaters go. But beware, beware of the Nebraska Syndrome. The Nebraska Syndrome manifests itself as a perverse form of local pride and is too various to describe fully.

I mention only the raised brows and deprecatory hems and haws when one dares suggest that any local product could be improved. At the University one is expected to be grateful for student productions and faculty recitals, and if one stays away from the annual opera or the oratorio in the Coliseum, one thereby advocates all right to criticize.

Just as local government is assumed to be sufficient, so the local cultural program is assumed to be sufficient. We don't believe in cultural imports. So this University has no Fine Arts Series whatsoever, and even the Senate Convocations Committee responsible for bringing in lecturers, one of whom occasionally represents the arts, limps along on an annual budget of four thousand dollars a year, the magnificent sum of two bits a student.

Brief message to Dr. E. S. Wallace, new chairman of the Convocations Committee: Dear Professor Wallace: Much happiness in your new position. Remember now, two bits (\$.25) per student.

I can hear the snorts from the hard-core philistines and the suffers from the Nebraska Syndrome: so what does he expect, New York City on the plains? I reply, if anyone thinks a decent concert and drama series and an occasional lecture by a celebrated author will turn Lincoln into New York, that's his problem, not mine. I'm only asking that a university of 18,000 students try to do as much as many a college of a thousand. If we reach that exalted goal we can try for more.

Al Spangler ...

Strange days

Sen. Eugene McCarthy, who is challenging LBJ for the Democratic presidential nomination, hopes that his candidacy will be a challenge to the new leftists and that it will absorb what he calls "discontent, frustration and a disposition to extralegal — if not illegal — manifestations of power."



Strange Days

McCarthy, like the rest of the liberal establishment, sees that many of the students who, under normal circumstances, might have run lemming-like into liberal waters were not now willing to take the plunge.

He was hopeful that "a challenge may alleviate the sense of political hopelessness and restore to many people a belief in the processes of American politics and American government."

What is the challenge of the McCarthy candidacy? The ADA calls him a 62% liberal. He has cast his vote in favor of regular and supplementary appropriation for the U.S. military intervention in Southeast Asia. He twice voted against amendments proposed by Senator Gruening which would have prohibited the sending of draftees to Vietnam against their will. He cast his vote in favor of continuing the Selective Service System from July 1, 1967, to July 1, 1971. Yet he is certainly a better prospect than LBJ.

The charge that McCarthy has no domestic policy to propose as an alternative to the Administration's is beside the point, and probably false.

But McCarthy's foreign policy proposals are equally uninspiring. What we have here should not be seen as the lesser of two evils, but as a smaller dose of rat poison.

Allen Young, writing in the Guardian (an independent radical newsweekly) says that "opposition to McCarthy ... is a refusal to be co-opted, which is in turn an affirmation of a new brand of militant, radical politics. This new left politics has before it a major challenge—to provide specific political alternatives to electoral politics and to the liberal Democrats who are battling for the support of the growing number of Americans who have begun to understand this society and who want to change it."

If the discrediting of Johnson and McCarthy, indeed, of electoral politics itself, is not a question of radicals being purists, but of radicals being radical, then these alternatives must be forthcoming.

Carl Oglesby, former SDS head, writes that "we who are radicals have a task much different than the salvation of liberalism—to champion the values which made us radicals to begin with."

But unless the championing of these values is being more than a moral witness to the collapse of liberalism, doubtless all will witness the collapse of someone else's disagreeable vision of the good-enough society. It is not enough to say, with the poets, "There is some shit I will not eat," unless one is just looking for a noble way to fall.

John Reiser ...

Nixon can't win

Richard Nixon is back on the campaign trail, seeking the Republican Presidential nomination.

Official word is that Nixon will use the primaries to prove that the statement "Nixon can't win" is not true. The truth of the matter is that he can't prove that in primaries.

Primaries are a test of strength among Republican voters only. They are generally won by super-human organizational efforts by party professionals, whose support is clearly with Nixon, at least for the moment.

Primaries prove nothing about elections in which Democrats and Independents will also take part. Both groups are now larger than Republicans, so it is manifest that for a GOP presidential candidate to win, he must attract Democratic and Independent votes.

Nixon should show up very well in the primaries, for the very reasons, at least in part, that he can't win the big one in November of this year.

His primary backers are those who won the

Heart and Hands



nomination for Barry Goldwater in 1964. They back him because Nixon took the stump for Goldwater throughout that campaign.

The Goldwater people have grown fond of saying they couldn't back this candidate or that candidate, because they couldn't "forgive" them for not supporting their man four years ago.

This logic presents one problem — can the American people forgive one who supported Goldwater in '64? They indicated in that election they are somewhat less than total accord with Goldwater or, for that matter, with those Republicans unfortunate enough to have shared the ballot with him.

Right-wing elements, however, dispose of these questions with their favorite assertion—that conservatism has somehow grown popular in the last four years. What has happened, of course, is merely that President Johnson in now unpopular enough that any Republican could be elected. If the party chooses Nixon or Reagan, I think they'll find such is not the case.

Those who raise doubts about Nixon's ability to win are roundly criticized in GOP circles for doing so. The argument is that, "if we all just keep saying he can win, he'll be able to win." I don't buy that theory.

Nixon's support and enthusiasm for Goldwater in '64 may be enough to deliver him the '68 nomination, but it will be an albatross in the November campaign.

His dilemma is the Republican dilemma of the moment—the very things which make him eligible cast doubt upon his ability to get elected.

If the Republican party really wants a Republican in the White House next year—and I think that's possible—it will have to deny the nomination to Nixon.

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