Youth takes on the 'over 30's'

The "over 30" generation across four continents in recent months has been witnessing its youth assuming a new role. Youth has always yelled very loudly but most of its parts have been in the chorus lines, and sometimes not even there.

But it is beginning to appear that this is the year that youth acquires a lead role in guiding the world's course. Almost every major country in Europe and many in Asia and South America, are hearing rumblings in the ranks of the young adults. Since January these rumblings have gained fantastic momentum.

Leadership in the Czechoslovakian Communist Party recently underwent change largely because of student protests demanding new freedom and "widest possible democratization."

The Polish government has been bludgeoned by massive student protests against government speech.

Some news analysts have said the students' protests signal a power struggle within the Communist Party there.

In Spain the University of Madrid was closed after clashes between police and students, who are fighting for educational reforms and more freedom.

Universities in Egypt are now open after being closed a few weeks ago because of the 150,000 Egyptian students who have been rioting for democracy, freedom of the press and abolition of the Egyptian National Assembly and the Arab Socialist Union.

Italian students have been demonstrating for student power and newer teaching methods at the universities. Their actions were not ignored as legislation has been proposed by Italy's coalition government which attempts to meet most of the students demands.

In Chile students ended a 145-day strike after the government made some concessions to the students' demands that educational reforms be introduced.

In the United States only a minority of students have been actively protesting the draft and the war in Vietnam or storming the capital calling for educational and governmental reforms but the number is growing.

American youth's greatest power, this year, however, lies in its ability to be a determining factor in electing the next president of the United States whether or not these young adults are of voting age.

Some of the presidential candidates are offering plausible remedies for the disillusionment that so many youth adults are suffering.

And the candidates are directly appealing to the youth and asking for their active support, a plea which never has been so strongly urged until this year.

Many "over 30" adults are smiling knowingly at college students exhaustive efforts during the primaries and think it will be their vote and not the unitversity's student's political button which will elect the next president of the United Sates.

The college students here, as in other parts of the world, may have the last smile. They are just beginning to realize the power that their initiative and drive can achieve.

In the United States this spectacular enthusiasm is electing university students' presidential choice in the primaries and this drive will have a more powerful influence on the voting outcomes next fall than many adults wish to concede.

Cheryl Tritt

The rise and fall

Citizens of Rome:

I have come from Athens, my native city, not only to learn about your customs and try to reach a better understanding of your conviction and motivations, but also to bring you the concerned feelings of my fellow citizens. I will not talk to you as a judge but merely as the descendant of once successful empire builders.

As you know, Athens had once ruled over a large area of what has become your immense Empire. The decline of our might is now complete and the renown of our City does no longer rely upon the strength of our armies and fleets. The prestige of our writers, philosophers, artists and craftsman, however, has survived the decline of our territorial and economical domination.

Today, I want you to use these eyes of mine, which I have tried to keep objective, and to look around you, at your City and at the world; a world that so many of you still prefer and pretend to ignore while new forces are building up inside as well as outside your Empire which will eventually destroy you and the life you have established for yourself over the years.

Look through my eyes and you will wonder, like I do, how long will it take before a Spartacus leads those you have enslaved in the very walls of your city into a bloody revolt which, although it may fail to free them from slavery, will gravely endanger your own previous liberty.

Look through my eyes and you will wonder, like I do, how long your legions, scattered around the world which you call civilized, will resist the growing pressure of the pagan barbarians who have determined to put an end to your economical and military domonation.

I have come from Athens, once your friend and ally, where the children used to grow up, like I did, in the love of your greatness and the respect of your ideals. Athens, the city one of the writers called "radious, generous and just." The same writer who wrote in one of his philosophical essays: "What you be the meaning of being free if it was not to be just." Athens, where children have learned to look elsewhere for ideals and respect.

In the light of our past mistakes I cannot condemn you. All I can do is hope that the Roman Empire will not fall from the same mistakes which have destroyed ours. That the citizens of Rome will soon wake up from their frightful nightmare, stop spending their lives between the excitement of brutal games and the warmwaters of their bathtubs; that after having taken so much from the world, Rome will start giving some of the wealth she has for so long wasted and that, by doing so, she will prevent the coming about of a new dark age.

Bernard Durand

Joseph Alsop

The grisly routine continues

South Vietnam — Maj. Gen. F. K. Mearns, commander of the war-hardened U.S. 25th Division, is a tough, sardonic, professional soldier, not given to excessive enthusiasm. As we walked to the helicopter in the bright, early afternoon, he was downright bleak:

"Doubt we'll see a damned thing," he remarked glumly. "From Tet until five days ago, my people and the ARVN (South Vietnamese Army) had no trouble getting a fight every day of the week. But now the other side seems to have gone back into the woodwork — maybe because he was losing nearly a hundred men a day in my divisional area alone, which is a hell of a lot of men when you think about it. This looks like the start of a quiet, quiet time."

At the outset, the general's forecast seemed to be confirmed. Here we put down to see a battalion resting and bathing in the sunshine, after some days of almost fruitless search. There we dropped in on a cavalry unit, with much of its grim armor made to seem near-home like, because washing festooned the tanks and APCs. But when we took to the air again, we had not gained altitude before the ugly scenes of war showed on the horizon.

It is something that one does not forget, to see a battle from a chopper. A strong Viet Cong unit — it turned out to be the Cu Chi local force battalion — had dug the new trench lines, the bunkers, the spider holes were easily traced as the general's helicopter endlessly circled.

Here the 2nd Battalion of the 14th U.S. Infantry Regiment, call sign "Dragon," had run upon the Viet Cong in another routine search. Alpha, Bravo and Charley companies were moving across the rice stubble, in a perpetual crackle of small fire. And now the helicopter gunships, now the fighter bombers, now the artillery, poured all their terrible weight of metal into the enemy positions.

The smokes were every color, from the black of the big bombs to the poison yellow, violet and red that our men used to mark their positions. The air chatter was the strangest feature, between 'Darons Six" and "Alpha Six" or "Bravo Six," between "Warrior" and "Zulu," between "Blaster" and "Dragon Six."

For in the heat of battle—and it was a very hot fight, indeed — these exotically named personages exchanged their mysterious remarks in the most perfectly flat American tones, never sounding tense, although verging on enthusiasm when something was buttoned up, and one said 'affirmative" and the other replied 'real fine."

"A bit more support wouldn't do any harm," said the general and called the 3rd Battalion of the 4th Cavalry from its tranquil washing. Looking like mechanical beetles from the air, six flame-throwing APCs limbered out of the cavalry camp toward the scene of the engagement.

The third assault was made just before dusk fell, when the APCs had arrived with a new, particularly lively conversationalist, "Romeo 31." Before the assault, the APCs' long jets of bright vermillion fire covered the enemy position, and some of the Viet Cong broke and ran. The general's helicopter asked "Dragon Six" for permission to open fire. The door gunner, Spec. P. E. Clark, who looked as though he ought to have been in high school, took quiet aim at the tiny figures stumbling desperately through the rice stubble.

'I got two," he said, accurately and laconically. But now the chopper's gas was all but gone, and we had to head home to the divisional base camp. Next morning, we went out again to the battalion command post. The final breakthrough had occurred at 10 p.m. and the sweep through the enemy position had continued until long after midnight. Everywhere, soldiers were sleeping. Yet "Dragon Six," the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Alfred M. Bracy, was still at work after two hours' sleep.

As so often, with the men of our new professional army, 'Dragon Six" in the flesh appeared to have come straight from central casting—a wiry, ramrod erect man, with white-blond hair against a deep-bronze tan, wholly in charge of himself and the situation despite the fatigue lines deeply etched into his young face. He told the general the story of his battle, shortly and quietly, as though it were all in the day's work, except when he said this outfit or that had been 'out-' standing." He had lost 11 men; and the Cu Chi local force battalion had lost 87, including Spec. Clark's two.

"Maybe they're not quite in the woodwork yet," said Gen. Mearns, as we returned to the helicopter. And he was bang right; for only a few kilometers away, the smokes of war plumed up again; and this time it was an even bigger show, with ARVN elements and 'Mohawk' — the 4th Battalion of the 23rd Regiment — tangling with important elements of the 272nd Regiment of the 9th Viet Cong Division.

It was also a much rougher, longer show, cruel, hard fighting for the men on the ground, and not wholly lacking hairy moments even in the air. Once, in fact, the general's chopper all but ran into an upward-zooming fighter; and twice it received sharp bursts of ground fire, swerving and bucking in response like a bee-stung bronco. (This, by the way, turns out rather surprisingly to be the unique instantaneous cure for a middle-aged summer cold; the abrupt adrenalin flow no doubt does the trick.)

In this fight, 32 of our men fell, an the already battered 272nd Regiment lost above 240. So it was not really a very quiet time.

Yippee—a new confrontation

Chicago (CPS) — With the entry of Eugene McCarthy and Robert Kennedy into the race for the democratic presidential nomination, general interest in the Chicago convention this summer grows each day.

But the New Left interest in the convention was born long before the race for the nomination gained this semblance of conflict.

Debate within the New Left over whether or not to go to Chicago to demonstrate and what forms the demonstrations should take has been going on for some time. At least one group, the newly formed Youth Internatioanl Party (YIP) will definitely be in attendance.

The new party, popularly known as the Yippees, has an office in New York and is setting one up in Chicago's Grant Park. "The New Left invented the teach-in, the hippies invented the live-in and the Yippees have invented the "do-in," he says.

Each day a pot will be passed for money with which to buy food; there will be bands (Country Joe and The Fish, Arlo Guthrie, the Fugs among others), Timothy Leary. Allen Ginsburg, and many others have indicated that they will attend; the Beatles have been invited. The Yippees will hold a press conference announcing an end to the war, will nominate a pig made of vegetables for the president and eat him.

The Yippees' idea is the demonstration of a cultural revolution, the illustration the community is possible, even in Chicago, and the introduction to a new and healthier style of life. The Yippees admit no way of estimating how many of their people will be in attendance, but estimates range from 75,000 to half a million and more.

Other groups of the New Left have been opposing a mass confrontation in Chicago largely on a political level somewhat apart from the substance of the Yippee approach. Mike Spiegel and Jeff Jones of Students for a Democratic Society argued recently in a position paper on alternatives to the mass confrontation that such activities were not only unnecessarily physically dangerous, but might well be turned against the radicals by Johnson forces or might be used by the liberal peace forces of Robert Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy.

Jones and Spiegel argue that it would be politically safer as well as more productive to concentrate on draft issues rather than removing the radical base to a mass Chicago confrontation. Their approach basically would ask organizers to stay home to work on draft resistance and to promote local political issues, trying them into the national Democratic party organizing mamunities around the country to coincide with the convention.

If the style and rhetoric of the Yippee and the Jones-Spiegel arguments seem far apart it is because they are. The hippie movement and the SDS-type of mass-based radical politics are alike in their challenge to established American power and culture.

Their constituencies, however, are quite a bit different. They are not, moreover, the only constituencies to be represented in a radical challenge to the Democratic convention. In December the national Mobilization Committee initiated a number of meetings toward planning for the summer, out of which emerged a loosely-structured committee which has planned a large-scale convention to take place this weekend near Chicago.

The meeting will involve a white and a parallel black set of conferences involving, according to Rennie Davis, a Chicago organizer and one of the committee members, from 250 to 300 people. Leaders of such groups as Women's Strike for Peace, Student Mobilization, SDS, SNCC and many others (including YIP) will be in attendance to discuss tactics for the summer. Whether a unified group tactic will emerge is not clear.

What is clear is that the city of Chicago may be bracing for the worst. The midwestern megalopolis, complete with its filthy air and water, high political machine, and, perhaps most relevant of all for this summer, its large and bitter black ghettoes, is bracing for the worst. An attempt by a local sheriff to establish a civilian "riot posse" has been pretty much squelched by the courts, but the chemical mace has been approved for standard use by the Chicago police.

Many Chicagoans doubt that Mayor Richard Daley will grant the anti-war forces permission to use Grant Park. But, as YIP leader Rubin has asked, "with hundreds of thousands of us, what can they do?"

A good question, though probably not the most important one to be asked about either Chicago or this summer. The real question is what the various elements of the radical left, black and white, political and anti-political, are going to do and how many people they will be able to reach.

Al Spangler

Military victory: we have no right

It is pretty clear, from Kennedy's remarks last week, that the National Liberation Front and the North Vietnamese have made respectable anti-war politics possible in this country by winning the war in Vietnam. No tilter at windmills, Bobby let us know where it's at.

Strange Days

Of course, Kennedy comes on at first as our generation's idealist politician, the man who will turn this country around toward a "new day." But when someone in the audience last week suggested, rather cruely, that the proper way to end the war is to "bomb Hanoi," did Kennedy tell the lad that we haven't any right to do that?

No. What he said, at that juncture, was that he wished we could end this war militarily, the way we ended World War II, but that we can't. He pointed out that we are bombing Hanoi, and it's doing no good. The "new spirit" is so reminiscent of the old.

As far as he goes, Kennedy is right — we can't win this war militarily, unless winning it means killing most of the Vietnamese people, in the way that saving a village has come to mean its destruction.

But the real issue is whether the United States has the right to try to win the war at all, and this is an issue we will not hear Kennedy discuss, at least directly. He assumes that we do have the right to be there. Our military presence in Vietnam will be called a "mistake," not an injustice.

It was thus no surprise to discover, during the questioning period after his speech, that Kennedy disagrees with the findings of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. The country's racial troubles are not due to white racism, he told us. This is what many of us wanted to hear. Just as we don't want to hear that our government is committing an injustice in Vietnam, we don't want to be called racists. And we weren't.

Is every body happy?

Campus Opinion

Dear Editor,

I write in answer to the opinions expressed by the editorial in the April 3 issue of the **Daily Nebraskan**. I find it sad that you neglected to think about and consider several basic facts.

One of these facts is that the editorial — while pointing out that "no matter how liberalized the ROTC program becomes" it does not "help foster the university's basic ideal of free inquiry," does not indicate that some individuals pursue ROTC as part of their own "ideal of free inquiry."

Another fact is that an "easy and cheap" ROTC program saves the American taxpayer money: that an "easy and cheap" ROTC program provides interested students with a method of learning many basic, organizational skills; that an "easy and cheap" ROTC program offers diversification to an educational system often-times termed restrictive; that an "easy and cheap" ROTC program provides intelligent, educated officers to this nation's army, a defense mechanism recognized by the loudest war "doves" as a necessity to the country's future; that an "easy and cheap" ROTC program adds to a man's college education is the same manner as speech, home economics, journalism or any other "specialty" school of learning.

Another basic fact is that these young, educated officers constitute a liberalizing part of today's armed forces. These officers, because they are taught in a non-military environment and, as a result, are able to associate with even the most radical, far-out factions of society, instill a love of country and an understanding of its social variables in the military that I fear would be lost in a strictly military-orientated training ground. I fear that the editorial exposes the establishment of a military clique oriented only in military ways that would prove quite harmful to society.

Jim Belmont

Dear Editor:

OPUS DILECTI

Oh, you're tousle-haired, good looking,
That's why we're in love with you
Pretty Bobby, pretty Bobby
You're a hit with teeny-boppers
And a million mothers, too.
Pretty Bobby, pretty Bobby
It doesn't matter that your politics
Are strictly second-hand,
Or your speeches don't say much about
The things for which you stand,
And the castles that you conjure up
Are built upon the sand.
WE THINK YOU'RE GRAND!
It's that charming BAAston accent
That we're all attracted to
Oh pretty Bobby of mine.

E. F. Roberts

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