

Editorials

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

Commentary

Al Spangler

A growing crowd around SDS

It is not without a certain twinge of irony that many of the New Left politicians are discovering that their anti-war activities for the past few years has resulted in the McCarthy and Kennedy campaigns of this election season.



Strange Days

Carl Oglesby, the former SDS president who is currently the intellectual leader of the New Left, believes that SDS and other radical groups must change their political focus in order to avoid becoming the unwitting victims of their own myopia.

In his opinion, SDS ought to have seen that the McCarthy-Kennedy phenomenon would occur, and that SDS now stands the chance of losing its membership and energy to the liberal political camp.

Two or three years ago it was not politically safe to oppose our war in Vietnam. Today it is a political asset to do so. Two or three years ago, as their voting records show, McCarthy and Kennedy played it safe. Today, despite all the talk of political heroism, things haven't changed very much.

After all, it is not difficult to oppose an enemy, and nearly any foreign policy proposals sound sensible in the light of recent history. The New Liberalism has, however, let the air out of the New Left's balloon, even if we won't hear Gene and Bobby talk about American imperialism abroad.

The important question for the New Left is what they will say about the "discovery" of the President's Commission on Civil Disorders — that is, that the root of this country's racial trouble is none other than white racism.

The embarrassingly predictable predictions of the Commission are politically volatile, and a wrong move by either Kennedy or McCarthy between now and the time of the Democratic National Convention will make the summer even hotter for them than it will be for the rest of us.

The white (free and 21-years-or-older) electorate in this country does not like being called "racist" by anyone, let alone by those who seek their support at the polls.

A vacuum is being created by the disparity between what needs to be said and done about our racial troubles, and what it is safe to say and do about them. Enter: the New Left.

At the moment, unfortunately, the New Left is our political Hamlet, standing alone at stage left, murmuring "What to do? What to do?" Oglesby and others are urging SDS to re-enter the fray with a new face put on, and with a new challenge to the liberal Democrats.

The time has come — indeed, is long overdue — to face the realities so long pointed out by their black brothers and sisters.

Campus Opinion

DEAR EDITOR:

At last the Independents and Greeks on this campus are actively trying to co-exist, and making impressive accomplishments. An excellent case in point is this up-coming weekend. Though this period involves both Spring Weekend and Greek Week, the respective committees have planned their activities and events so as not to interfere with the other, both have urged active participation of their members in BOTH events. It is the committees' hope that the student groups they represent will continue their spirit of planning and "make the scene" both evenings. At last, long time adversaries are working together, let us hope it continues and that their members follow their groups responsible leadership. Remember, whether Independent or Greek — together we make up the student body. And together we must unite to insure ours, the student's, position.

Student body member.

Dear Editor:

Well, they almost had me worried. All those terribly liberal speakers, like Harold Stassen, permitted on campus.

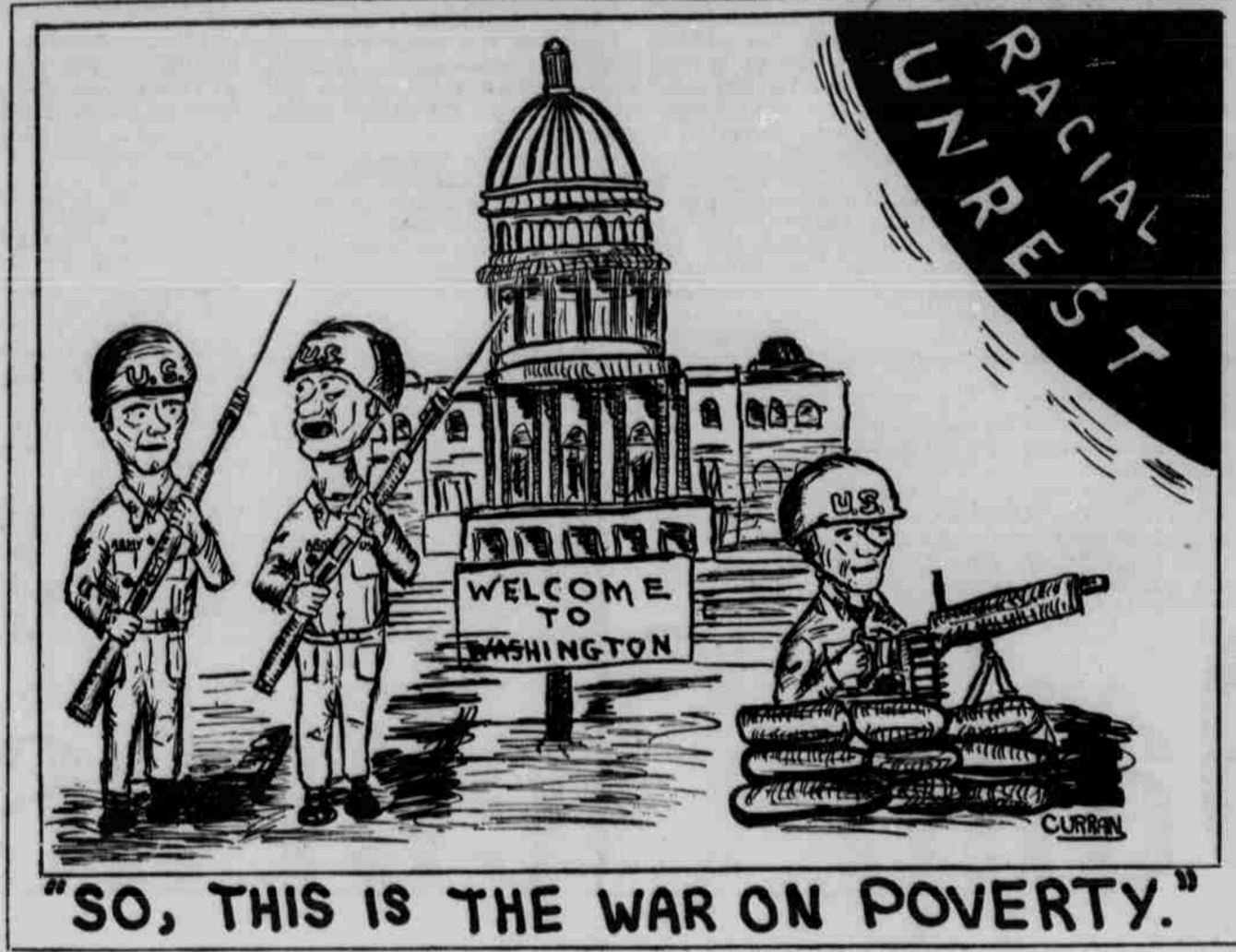
The actuality of Nebraska students participating in a national subversive movement such as Choice '68.

Things were looking pink for the old camp. But Nebraska-brand sanity has once again prevailed. Against the suggestion (horror of horrors!) that Nebraska become the first state university to adopt a general pass-fail grading system the Faculty Senate rose nobly to the occasion and dodged (about 2.5 worth).

After all, having a pass-fail system definitely would be a trend movement. Might even qualify Nebraska as a slightly progressive university. And everyone knows that NU only follows trends — about 25 years later.

Sleep peacefully students — your Faculty Senate is.

ZZZZZ



First Hurrah

Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by Peter R. Bartling, Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Political Science.

Room 332 of the University of Nebraska's Student Union doesn't offer much in the way of aesthetic beauty: bland walls and functional furniture. Tuesday night, however, it featured expertise all out of proportion to its surroundings.

Three advance men from the national campaign staff of Richard Nixon were occupying the premises and spewing forth pearls of wisdom on what they referred to as "The Great Experiment:" utilization of rally techniques heretofore untried in presidential campaigns.

John Niedecker, a drama instructor set the stage for future performers with a sell so soft you could hear it purr. He credited Richard Nixon's decision not to demand a recount when fraud was discovered in the counting of ballots in the 1960 election to a desire to "preserve the Presidency," to insure that the nation had a President during the perilous decade of the 60's. A recount would have left a Presidential vacuum for at least six months according to Mr. Niedecker.

He also attributed Gen. Eisenhower's failure to campaign for Nixon as a result of Nixon's honoring of Mrs. Eisenhower's plea not to ask him as he was too sick, and his sickness should not be ventilated before the country.

Following Mr. Niedecker's portrayal of Richard Nixon as a man who places the Presidency above petty partisan politics, comes Boyd Gibbons, master journeyman of the campaign rally, who explained that "television is the media" and, consequently, everything must be done "for the Camera."

After paraphrasing a quote from Plato (which allows Mr. Niedecker time to find a seat in the audience), Mr. Gibbons begins to intimately dissect the living parts of a campaign rally.

An ordinarily mundane act like a balloon drop becomes an amazingly intricate procedure if properly executed. Teams must be organized, air compressors requisitioned to fill balloons that "fall" and helium tanks to satiate balloons that "rise," tying methods structured, etc.

Producing a map of Pershing Auditorium (scene of Nixon's Lincoln appearance), Gibbons indicated how the seating arrangement permitted the utilization of card and cape sections.

Indicating that Nebraska was to be a test market for new rally techniques, Gibbons said that only a shortage of personnel and a lack of human imagination prevented the employment of such devices as slot signs featuring Nixon's name in tandem, aerial mobiles, and massive verbal support from a multitude of glee clubs and bands.

After Gibbons terminated his remarks, Mr. Niedecker again took the floor to give a few examples of his pragmatic experience as a political practitioner. Stating that a campaign worker had to be a bit of a "con artist" to achieve desired results, he listed one of the most effective techniques, among several, ever employed to communicate with voters as the plastering of mirrors in "public buildings."

If Frank Skeffington is dead, his subordinates still live. If Nixon's not the one, his lieutenants certainly don't know it. If campaigns as seen through the mass media are all movement and color, one wonders if he isn't missing something with only fleeting glances at the likes of such political activists as Niedecker and Gibbons.

Student protest forces wage hike

Durham, N.C. (CPS) — A week-long student protest at Duke University has brought an increase in the minimum wage for non-academic employees.

The university administration has agreed to increase the minimum wage from \$1.15 an hour to \$1.60 an hour by July 1, 1969, with an intermediate increase on July 1 of this year. Previously, the increase to \$1.60 was not to have taken effect until 1971, when it would have been required by federal law.

The administration has also agreed to set up a commission to consider recognition of a collective bargaining unit for the university employees. It is still unclear whether the commission will include only administrators or whether representatives of the students, faculty, and the workers will also be included. The students have given the administration 10 days to make a decision on the bargaining unit.

The protest began April 5, when 300 students went to the home of Duke President Douglas Knight. They spent two nights in his house, then moved their protest to one of the campus quads where they stayed until April 10, the number of demonstrators rising to about 1,000.

On April 10 Wright Tisdale, chairman of the Duke board of trustees, who had taken over the negotiations after Knight went into the hospital on doctor's orders, spoke to the students and agreed to meet their minimum wage demand. He also agreed to consider the collective bargaining unit.

The students then rose and sang "We Shall Overcome," then went to the school auditorium to consider Tisdale's proposals. They debated for two days whether to suspend the protest or take even more militant action. The students and faculty finally agreed to the proposals, provided students, faculty, administration and labor would be represented on commission and that a decision would be handed down within ten days.

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Presidential hopefuls, state positions

Editor's Note: The following is a summary of the positions of the four major Presidential candidates on issues of special interest to students—the draft, lowering the voting age, higher education, and the role of youth in society. These positions were given in response to a National Student Association query.

Humphrey Higher Education

Ability, not privilege, must determine the amount of education young people receive. Must recognize that opportunity for higher education is dependent on such programs as Head Start, Follow Through, and Upward Bound, and cannot rest solely upon financial aid to college age students. A person's college education begins at birth and we must strive for an educational system which recognizes ability and encourages motivation from early childhood.

On Youth

We need the constructive help of university students and faculty alike in meeting the challenges to our society. We need their help on the high, hard road for freedom, for progress, for social justice, here, at home and throughout the world.

Selective Service

Favors adoption of Fair and Impartial Random (FAIR) system to determine order in which young men are called. (System would call youngest first.)

Lower Voting Age

Favors lowering voting age to 18. . . has been a long time advocate. . . believes it would establish voting practice more firmly and broaden the level of citizen participation in our political system.

Kennedy Higher Education

Favors expansion and improvement of existing government loan programs, making more money on easier terms available to both undergraduate and graduate students. Favors Loan programs that make money available large-

ly without reference to the institution the student chooses. Favors exploration of new means of repayment — perhaps assessing a small, fixed percentage of income over a number of years instead of imposing an absolute short-term obligation.

On Youth

The gap between the generations will never be completely closed. But it must be spanned. For the bridge across the generations is essential to the nation in the present and it is the bridge to our own future — and thus in a central sense, to the very meaning of our own lives. Every generation has its central concern, whether to end war, erase racial injustice, or improve the condition of the working man. Today's young people appear to have chosen for their concern the dignity of the individual human being.

Selective Service

Favors drastic reforms in our draft system, which is inequitable in many respects, and believes it is of great importance that its defects be remedied. Favors study of various proposals for a random selection process and prompt enactment of most workable one.

On Youth

This is the time when the country is looking of its scholars and students for advice and counsel more than ever before in order to have a better understanding of the problems of poverty, urban change, the complexities of our economic system, and also for historical judgment with reference to Vietnam and beyond. It is important that young people be involved because we are really making a projection of America into the future and the young people have a greater stake in that future.

The 1968 campaign, I anticipate, will be one.

Selective Service

Favors elimination of deferments and institution of random selection system. Favors conscientious objection

to particular wars with objectors serving in some form of alternative service or in the military reserves. Favors permitting conscientious objection on rational as well as religious grounds. Opposes present autonomy of local boards, would favor more national standards. Favors restoring right of a person appealing a classification to a personal appearance at levels higher than the local board. Also favors giving appellant the right to counsel of his own choosing. Opposes Hershey's memorandum of October, 1967.

Lower Voting Age

Favors a Constitutional amendment to lower the voting age to 18. Believes young people should have more of a voice in determining the policies that will affect their future.

Nixon Higher Education

No statement provided.

On Youth

Politics, as usual, is not enough for America today. Diplomacy, as usual, is not enough for the world today. We need new leadership. We need new ideas, leadership and ideas that come from your generation. America needs the vision, the dissent, the constructive action that this generation can promise for it in the years ahead.

Selective Service

Favors abolition of the draft and reliance on a volunteer army after the Vietnam war. Favors lowering voting age to 18. . . has always been in favor of this proposition not because young people are old enough to fight but because they are smart enough to vote.

Joseph Alsop

Saigon — A single, simple fact reveals the degree of sincerity of Hanoi's response to President Johnson's latest and boldest try for peace. The fact is that the Hanoi war-leaders are now making the biggest, most taxing and costly reinforcement effort that has ever been attempted in the whole course of this war.

The effort began toward the first of March, undoubtedly as Hanoi's initial response to the dire losses suffered by all enemy units in the Tet offensive.

Unprecedented truck sightings and other indicators reveal that the effort continues, full speed, and is even being augmented. Hence, it is clear that this huge movement of military manpower to the south must now be regarded, in addition, as responsive to the President's initiative for peace.

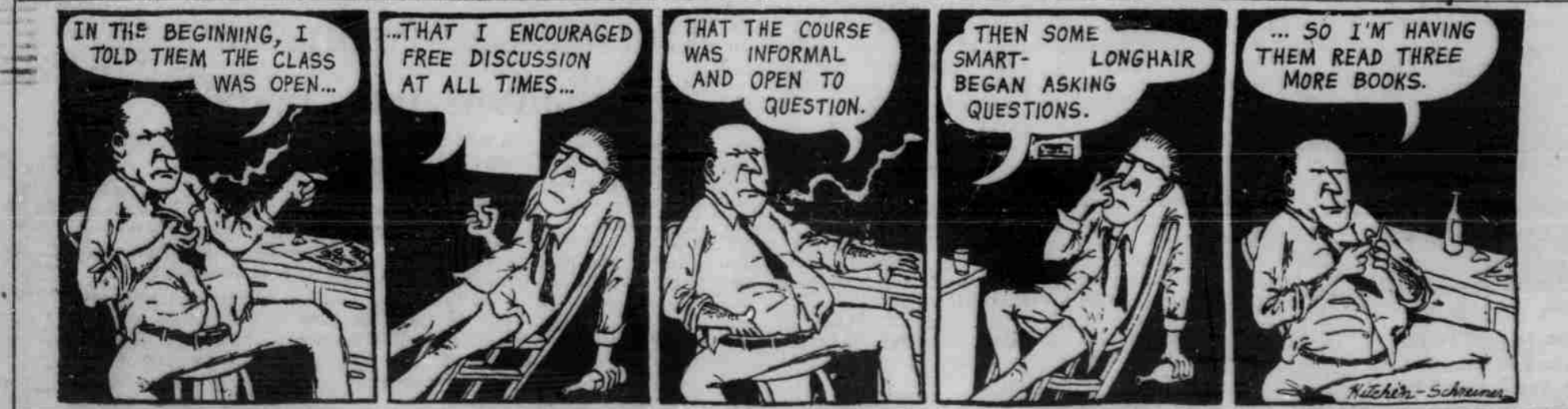
The already ascertained troop movement is at least on the level of 35,000 men, and it is expected to reach the eventual level of 45,000

men or even more. In addition to this movement of replacements — reinforcements to fill gaps in the ranks farther south, it is probable that Hanoi will move down two additional division-equivalents of the North Vietnamese home army to bring pressure on the demilitarized zone.

There are several things to be said about this. To begin with, anyone who still cherishes illusions about this being a "civil war" in South Vietnam is an even bigger fool

than he was when that peculiar thesis was first propounded.

The true guerrillas in the hamlets and districts are still, in the main, southerners, where they still exist—in three-quarters of the country both village and district guerrillas are being militarily cannibalized on a large scale to provide extra replacements for the big units. In one-quarter of the country, the Delta, the big units are also composed of southerners.



IN THE BEGINNING, I TOLD THEM THE CLASS WAS OPEN...

...THAT I ENCOURAGED FREE DISCUSSION AT ALL TIMES...

THAT THE COURSE WAS INFORMAL AND OPEN TO QUESTION.

THEN SOME SMART-BEGAN ASKING QUESTIONS.

... SO I'M HAVING THEM READ THREE MORE BOOKS.