

Whatever Happened to Superman?

NET Journal Probes U.S. Violence In Aftermath of RFK Assassination

Superman is dying. University students are already preparing for his funeral and plan to place him in an unmarked grave.

Just who are supermen, heroes or ego models?

According to Webster's a hero is a man admired and emulated for his achievements and qualities.

Students' reactions are far more diversified in their definitions of heroes. Most reject the word "hero" and substituted the word "leader." "Ours is an age of questioning minds," one coed answered, "and the need for an inspiring person to channel the energies and creativity of young people will be necessary for the success of our generation."

Another student felt a hero is someone who is physically and mentally superior and someone who has a great deal of wealth with time to engage in unusual activities.

No one can be a real hero until he has died for a cause or for his country, asserted one student.

Professor Alan P. Bates, chairman of the Department of Sociology, at the University of Nebraska where the poll was conducted, believes the term hero is too old-fashioned. It implies a person who can do no wrong and in this sense is obsolete, he said.

Of the students polled, 30% said they do not have any heroes at all. And the validity of some who claim they do have heroes can be doubted because of the initial reaction to taking the poll.

"But I haven't got a hero to my name," objected one student who proceeded to list four men on the questionnaire.

A typical reaction was, "Oh yes! Now what is his name? I just can't remember."

Other responses were: "You've got to be kidding," "I never really thought about it," "All I can think of is Superman or Mickey Mouse," "Anyone who is a dove is my hero," "Surely, I must have a hero," "I guess I'll have a hero so I don't have to answer the next question," "What if I can't spell his name?"

Few people simply sat down to think about the questions seriously without comment.

Variety of Heroes

The list of heroes students finally arrived at covered the wide range of founding fathers, George Washington; philosophers such as Gandhi; humanitarians like Dr. Tom Dooley; sportsmen, Arnold Palmer; entertainers, Bob Hope for example; and more current men such as Dr.



The hero is vanishing in American college students' way of judging idealism. The late Robert F. Kennedy, and his late brother, John, were both mentioned in a recent hero-poll at NU. The study showed that students were more interested in the man's ideas than the man himself. (Photo by Mike Hayman)

Christian Barnard and Rap Brown.

Leading the list of those who have heroes is predictably the late President John F. Kennedy who was mentioned by 41% of the students polled. Abraham Lincoln ranked second with votes of respect from 25% of the students. "My dad" topped into third place by commanding loyalty from 13%. Dr. Albert Schweitzer and Sen. Robert Kennedy came next with 11% each, while 5% of the students named Sen. Eugene McCarthy and Eisenhower to their lists.

The list includes 65 other names but none of them could muster enough support to be worth mentioning. Fifty persons in this group were mentioned only once. President Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard Nixon received only one vote apiece.

None of the astronauts were mentioned and neither was the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., nor "my mother."

There was a greater consensus of opinion among the girls than among the boys. The heroes listed by the girls include: John F. Kennedy, mentioned by 44% of the girls; Abraham Lincoln, 42%; Dwight D. Eisenhower, 14%; Robert Kennedy, 14%; Eugene McCarthy and Dad each had 11%; Jacquelyn Kennedy, Paul Newman and Thomas Jefferson followed with 8% each.

For the boys heroes were: John F. Kennedy, 36%; Abraham Lincoln, 20%; Dad, 16%; Robert Kennedy and Winston Churchill with 12% each; Dr. Tom Dooley, Robert E. Lee, Pope John XXIII and Teddy Roosevelt were each favored by 8% of the boys.

Most of the girls equated Robert Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy; if they mentioned one, they usually mentioned the other. The boys ignored McCarthy completely, and admired their fathers more than the girls did.



John F. Kennedy



Martin Luther King



Winston Churchill



Pope John XXIII

An interesting trend emerges as students are divided by classes. Fifty-eight per cent of the freshmen admire John F. Kennedy. Other heroes listed were Abraham Lincoln, 42%; Dr. Albert Schweitzer, 16%; and Dr. Tom Dooley, Robert Kennedy, Thomas Jefferson and Steve McQueen were each mentioned by 10%.

The sophomores rank John F. Kennedy first also. He was listed by 47% of this class. Dear ol' Dad was second with 27% class support; Abraham Lincoln, 29%; and Dustin Hoffman, 3%.

John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy tied for first

on the Juniors list with 25% class support. Abraham Lincoln, Eugene McCarthy, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Paul Newman were each favored by 20% of the class; Dr. Albert Schweitzer, 5%; and Dr. Christian Barnard, Dad, Sir Thomas Moore and Teddy Roosevelt with 10% each.

The seniors could only agree upon two men, John F. Kennedy and Winston Churchill, who were supported equally by 28% of the class. All others mentioned by

this class received only one vote apiece.

Exact percentages are not as important as the trends which they indicate.

Trends Noticeable

The most noticeable trend is that as students become older they become more critical and objective. Twice as many freshmen and sophomores look up to John F. Kennedy in comparison with the juniors and seniors. This trend shows up again in another area.

When students were divided into interest groups according to their major area of study, other predictable trends showed through. Those in the medical area tended to list more humanitarians and doctors, such as Dr. Dooley, Dr. Barnard, Dr. Schweitzer and Abraham Lincoln.

Political science and history majors had diverse reactions but stayed within the political realm. Four men — Winston Churchill, John Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Thomas Jefferson — were each mentioned by 20% of the students and all others received one vote apiece. Others mentioned included Lenin, Thoreau, Percy and Andrew Jackson.

For students in engineering and architecture, father came first in front of John F. Kennedy, Abraham Lincoln, Pope John XXIII and Teddy Roosevelt.

Looking at the overall picture, most of the heroes mentioned more often by students are those who have died. The reasons for this trend will be examined later.

Those without any heroes at all gave several reasons for their point of view. Most felt they had outgrown their need for heroes, yet felt that they were necessary for the younger generation.

"Heroes are necessary for little kids but not for older people. It's good for kids to have somebody to look up to and adore; it gives them an incentive for hard work. An older person should make more stable goals," a freshman boy replied.

"I feel we should all admire and respect someone, possibly someone from another generation, but I do not feel we should put someone on a pedestal as a hero would be. Enough persona satisfaction should be gained from living our own lives in the manner we see fit, a senior girl ex-

jected worshipping. Most rejected the concept of hero worshipping. They prefer to base admiration upon ethical standards and human dignity rather than on personality appeal. A charismatic leader simply does not exist.

Individuality is emphasized with high standards and values as the guide.

Of those who said they have no heroes, 58% said they felt a need for leadership of some kind. But not the kind of leader who is revered as if he had no human weaknesses. The majority of seniors, 60%, said they did not have any heroes as compared to 24% of the freshmen who denied having heroes. This re-

question: Is this a violent society? It contains portions of a seminar filmed during the weekend of June 1-3 in Los Angeles, at which the subject of violence was discussed by anthropologist Margaret Mead, psychologist Bruno Bettelheim, historian Daniel Boorstin, author Paul Jacobs (The New Radicals), psychiatrist Alvin Poussaint of Tufts University and Dr. Ralph Greson of UCLA Medical School.

A segment filmed at a Detroit hospital for violent children studies the innate character of aggression and its influences in American life.

Richard McCutcheon of NET will host the program, which may include live interview relative to the documentary.

Why does Superman have to be dead to be considered a hero? What is the reason for the lack of supermen today? Why is Superman's bust gently balanced on the edge of its pedestal and when will it fall and crumble?

With today's methods of modern communication, few public figures can evade the glare of prying eyes. Even George Washington cannot escape criticism as the relentless public reviews recent articles about some of his scandalous escapades.

More Realistic Professor Bates explains the lack of living heroes by pointing out the fact that dead men aren't here to be stoned by publicity. Young people are becoming more realistic about human behavior. They see the good points yet are also more aware of the bad points than their fathers had been.

This poll was taken before the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and he wasn't mentioned by any of the students. Later some of the same students who were questioned discussed Dr. King, declaring that he had been a remarkable man and commanded much of their respect.

Today's youth are cynical of the public relations system surrounding political candidates. Set up as glorious leaders they are more likely to be considered phony; Bates speculates.

This is not an age of heroes for contemporaries, comparatively speaking. There is an enduring need for heroes but the social situation defines the heroes of our time, Bates said.

Students no longer look up to people as idols, they do look at their ideas and philosophy, analyze them and adopt those which they find acceptable.

They don't so much criticize human failings as they take these failings in stride and examine them with unillusioned objectivity.

Superman is dying and he may be placed in an unmarked grave because it isn't the man who is important but rather his ideals and the values he stood for.

People who missed Monday night's Educational Television special, "This Question of Violence," will be able to see a videotape replay of the live hour long documentary on the Nebraska ETV network tonight at 10:30.

The special was being prepared as part of the NET JOURNAL series for fall airing. It is being presented now specifically in the aftermath of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's assassination.

The program probes the roots of violence in American life, seeking a cultural and historical basis to answer the

emphasizes the fact that as students grow older and broaden their education they become more objectively critical.

Why does Superman have to be dead to be considered a hero? What is the reason for the lack of supermen today? Why is Superman's bust gently balanced on the edge of its pedestal and when will it fall and crumble?

With today's methods of modern communication, few public figures can evade the glare of prying eyes. Even George Washington cannot escape criticism as the relentless public reviews recent articles about some of his scandalous escapades.

More Realistic Professor Bates explains the lack of living heroes by pointing out the fact that dead men aren't here to be stoned by publicity. Young people are becoming more realistic about human behavior. They see the good points yet are also more aware of the bad points than their fathers had been.

This poll was taken before the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and he wasn't mentioned by any of the students. Later some of the same students who were questioned discussed Dr. King, declaring that he had been a remarkable man and commanded much of their respect.

Today's youth are cynical of the public relations system surrounding political candidates. Set up as glorious leaders they are more likely to be considered phony; Bates speculates.

This is not an age of heroes for contemporaries, comparatively speaking. There is an enduring need for heroes but the social situation defines the heroes of our time, Bates said.

Students no longer look up to people as idols, they do look at their ideas and philosophy, analyze them and adopt those which they find acceptable.

They don't so much criticize human failings as they take these failings in stride and examine them with unillusioned objectivity.

Superman is dying and he may be placed in an unmarked grave because it isn't the man who is important but rather his ideals and the values he stood for.

dish, "Paella a l'Americaine." The French Chef has selected foods that are available in every supermarket to fix this one-of-a-kind, Spanish-style, rice dinner. (NET)

8:30 HOUSE AND HOME Housewife Janet Ross and her guest Dr. Hazel Fox discuss the results of the New Central Region nutrition research project on eating habits of pre-school children. (U of N)

9:00 NET FESTIVAL "Chopin: A Question of Style" examines the romantic legend surrounding the Polish composer's life and music. Hungarian pianist Tamás Vassary, in his first American television appearance, is the featured artist. (NET)

10:00 UNDERWAY FOR PEACE "The Missile Navy" focuses on the history of Navy rocket and missile development. Narrated by Chet Huntley.

10:30 NET JOURNAL "This question of Violence" Wednesday, June 13

1:00 MISTEROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD Chef Brockert makes some hot and little rainbow cookies, and King Friday assembles different sizes of little rainbows. (NET)

5:30 THE SWEDISH SCENE Viewers catch glimpses of birds, animals, and flowers against a background of mountains and glaciers in Sarek, one of Sweden's national parks. (NET)

6:00 THE CREATIVE PERSON "Touch Clay" — A Ceramic Experience explores the work and personality of ceramist Dick Schwabke. (NET)

6:30 WHAT'S NEW "International Magazine" a gala presents a panorama of children's activities from Denmark, Sweden, France, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and Germany. (NET)

7:00 HANS THE PUPPET Puppetmaster Hans Schmidt demonstrates how to prepare a puppet with paper bag support. (NET)

7:30 TIME FOR LIVING Chef Richard Thornbury and Herman Seiwert offer tips to consider when choosing where to live. This program concludes the series. (NET)

8:00 BLACK JOURNAL (Color) This monthly series, utilizing a magazine format, reports on achievements and attitudes of black Americans, ranging from the arts to politics, and from education to employment. (NET)

9:00 FRIENDS AT MY DOOR This program shows the opportunity available to Nebraskans to promote international understanding — through

Continued on Page 5

FRANCIS BACON SAID:

"We do not understand Nature by staring at her, but by interrogating her."

Are you trying to understand by staring at books?

See our full page ad

Evelyn Wood READING DYNAMICS

WE NEVER CLOSE AT DIVIDEND

LOWEST PRICES ON CIGARETTES

ICE 49¢

No Better Gas Sold Anywhere

DIVIDEND BONDED GAS

16th & P Sts.

JUST SOUTH OF CAMPUS

Campus Receives Visitors

Each summer the University of Nebraska is host to hundreds of the state's most talented high school students.

Over 400 All-Staters, who enroll in summer courses in music, speech, art and journalism, will live on the campus from June 9 through June 27.

The students will represent 134 Nebraska high schools. Eight hundred boys and girls, from nearly every high school in the state, will participate in the annual Boys' State and Girl's State program in mid-June.

The lab school at Lincoln's East High School will enroll nearly 800, according to summer sessions director, Frank Sorenson.

"The elementary summer school at McPhee is expecting at least 300 youngsters, he said.

"Also, the University expects from seven to eight hundred recent high school graduates to get a head start on their college careers," Sorenson said.

This represents almost twice as many June high school graduate than last year who enrolled at the university in summer.

"Serenity" by ORANGE BLOSSOM

High 'n' Handsome Set

Sideswept and modern yours distinctively in 18K white or yellow gold

Exclusively **Sartor Humann**

Serving Lincoln Since 1905
1129 "O" STREET
REGISTERED JEWELERS AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY
Your Official ORANGE BLOSSOM, Artcarved, Columbia Dealer

Sets From \$175.00

BE AN AGGRESSIVE READER

THE "NOW" PEOPLE ARE READING DYNAMICALLY

Evelyn Wood READING DYNAMICS

LS&C

Traditionally sound education with a modern point of view

Nebraskas' Oldest and Most Modern Business College with complete Courses Offered in

Private Secretarial Professional Accounting
Executive Secretarial Business Administration
Stenographic Accounting
General Business

Approved for Veterans Education

Lincoln School of Commerce

1021 K Street 432-3315 Lincoln, Neb.

CENTENNIAL

COINS stamps

ANTIQUITIES