

A Migrant Worker's Story

Background of Constant Travel Offers A New Road in Life

A dark bristly goatee, perhaps one week old, does not distract from his most prominent facial feature, his deep brown eyes. His hair, though, is closely cropped, probably the most obvious indication that he recently had been discharged from the Marines. He is short and slightly built, and to the casual observer he does not look like an ex-Marine is supposed to look. His English is colorful — accented by a Southwestern heritage and seven years in Western Nebraska.

He is John Gutierrez, the fourth eldest of 13 children in a Scottsbluff migrant worker family. He has known poverty, hard labor, prejudice, and one year, one month and 19 days near Da Nang, South Vietnam. Now he is part of a new government program designed to give migrant worker youth another chance at education.

Call to the New Party

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Humphrey out of fear of Tricky Dick. That is, because they can assume that they will have the Democratic votes in the fall, they do not have to listen to the Democratic voters at the convention. Thus the party professionals have their way and Humphrey is the nominee.

The most dramatic and convincing way to shatter their assumption is to form a new political party. For if the party professionals realize that there is another party who may run a candidate of the stature of McCarthy or Kennedy against the Democratic nominee, they can no longer count on the votes of these concerned Americans in the fall.

What all this means is that forming a new party in Nebraska and around the country, will make the Democratic convention truly open. It would not longer be a foregone conclusion that Humphrey is the nominee and a candidate of the people will have a chance.

Such a political party is presently being formed in this country. In the twenty-nine states whose laws still permit the formation of a fourth party, the New Party will probably be on the ballot. Court battles are being waged in the remaining states to make void laws whose only purpose is to make third parties impossibly difficult to form. Some of the best constitutional lawyers in this country are working on these cases and have hope of victory. In Nebraska it is still possible to form such a party, but in order to do so, a convention of 750 voters must be held by August 27th. The Nebraska convention is scheduled for August 19th.

The leaders of the Democratic Convention in Chicago may decide to go with Humphrey in spite of the pressure generated by forming the New Party. In that case, the legal machinery will exist for running a candidate in opposition to Humphrey.

Attractive Possibilities

There is good reason to believe that the New Party, if it is established in enough states, could attract a candidate of national stature to run on its slate in the fall elections. There is considerable talk of McCarthy or Lindsey, McGovern or Hatfield as possible nominees of the New Party. Unofficial contacts with their staffs have been made, and although they all maintain a public stance of party loyalty, there is interest in these camps in such a move. McCarthy, for example, has indicated publicly that he might support a fourth party candidate, in spite of the effect such an announcement has on his chances in the Democratic Convention.

Further, it is not unreasonable to suppose that such a New Party candidate could draw a plurality of the electoral and popular vote against Nixon, Humphrey and Wallace. But even if it did not, the protest vote would be larger than Wallace's vote, so that when the election goes to the House of Representatives, Wallace would not be among those considered. The House, after all, must choose among the top three candidates in the Electoral College, and that would mean that Nixon, Humphrey and the candidate of the New Party would be the only ones considered.

There remains the possibility that the New Party may have no candidate. But in that case nothing is lost, for we would be in the same position we are now.

According to the statutes of Nebraska, such a party must be formed by August 27th in order to get on the ballot in the fall. Thus we cannot wait until after the Democratic Convention to form this party.

We must act now.

A Committee for the Formation of the Nebraska New Party has arranged to hold an organizing convention on Monday evening, August 19, at the Wesleyan University Fine Arts Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. Legal notice of our intention to hold this convention has been published and the Secretary of State has been notified. The Committee is now engaged in a large scale telephone and mailing campaign to get the requisite 750 Nebraska voters to the convention. Another organizing meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, August 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the UMHE, 333 North 14th Street for those who are interested in working on the project.

A political movement was begun last fall. It demonstrated its strength in the primaries. The only chance now to keep that movement and its goals from being destroyed is to form the Nebraska New Party. If we are to be successful, the Committee must have your support and aid.

Men's Conditioning

The body conditioning and weight lifting rooms at the Coliseum are open for recreational use to all University men this summer.

The rooms will open daily from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information call Mickey Snider at 472-2282 during these hours.

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Gutierrez is now living on the University of Nebraska campus. He, and ultimately 50 others, are participating in HEP — High School Equivalency Program sponsored by the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). The Nebraska Human Resources Research Center, located in Love Library on the Lincoln City Campus, is operating the Nebraska training center, one of 13 in the nation.

Gutierrez' background is not unlike many of the young Mexican-Americans in the HEP program. But it could not be called typical.

His father (now 52) was given five acres of land near Brownsville, Tex., by a rancher, for whom he worked, after he died. Some equipment was also willed to Gutierrez so the family began a modest farming operation.

It became evident as the years drew on, that the Gutierrez family could not subsist on the income of the small farm. So John, his mother, and two sisters and two brothers left the rest of the family in Texas, and headed north to work in fields during the summer.

John was thirteen years old.

In Montana they worked in beet fields. They hoed the beets, thinned them out, and then cleared the fields. They spent over a month there.

"We made good money that month," Gutierrez said. "We drew money from the farmer to pay for food. That came to around \$400. But the six of us cleared nearly \$900 for that month's work."

Then the six of them worked in Michigan in the cherry orchards, clearing \$100-\$150 dollars a month. The last part of the summer was spent in Ohio working in tomato fields.

"I enjoyed moving around," he continued. "I saw many places and met many people." The money earned that summer had to last a year's expenses.

Problem

But young Gutierrez had one problem result from the summer of travel. He was taken out of school before the end of the term so he had to return to the same grade in the fall. This happened once again, the following summer when the family worked the same schedule.

On the second summer trip the family saw western Nebraska and liked it. They persuaded the rest of the family in Texas to move to Scottsbluff. The Gutierrezes have lived there for nearly seven years.

John's story hinges on a frustrating attempt at education. He was 18 when he was in the 10th grade, when the average student is just reaching 16. Then, the family was still in financial difficulty, so he enlisted in the Marines. He had enrolled for the Job Corps but his acceptance didn't arrive until after his service papers came. While in boot camp he was married to a girl from the Scottsbluff area. He is now separated.

"The service teaches you a lot," he said. "I went for two years. They made me a nicer person. If I had any education I probably could have had a higher rank."

Gutierrez didn't face much heavy action in Vietnam.

"But I do know what it's

like to be shot at," he continued. "It's not a funny thing. It's something you don't want to see again. I wasn't wounded, but I had many buddies wounded or killed. I won't forget it."

He singled out "leadership as the most important thing taught to him by the Marines. He said that this made him aware of many more things in life, not just on the battlefield.

"I am much more sure of myself now," he said.

He learned about HEP from a Scottsbluff community action group about two weeks before he left for Lincoln. He said that he had realized he needed more education before he could get any type of good job and that HEP sounded like a good chance to start over.

Gutierrez is considered a leader among the group assembled at NU by his supervisors. And he has shown special interest in many of the other young people who are in HEP.

"I noticed one boy seemed to stay apart from the rest. I will have to work with him to get him out. I want to convert him to be a part of the group. He's used to being alone so it's hard for him to be with others."

"But I do know what it's

square feet for live animal research and another 17 thousand square feet of office and classroom space.

The new building has been termed as "the dream come true of men like Dr. Marvel Baker, Animal Science professor emeritus, and the late Prof. William J. Loefel and K. C. Fouts, as well as many others who helped build this department," said Dr. Walter In construction of the facility.

Well, according to magazine articles and other forms of communication, the standard Hollywood western

is supposed to be undergoing

a complete examination. Future movies of this genre will be less violent, more historically accurate, maybe even intelligent. Hopefully.

In the meantime the backlog of blood-and-guts westerns (and war movies and gangster movies and horror movies) are being released. And they'll probably make money.

Then the producer will say, "See, the American public wants that kind of movie. We just make what they want."

Hippies want pot, but America isn't giving it to them. Peaceniks want peace, but it hasn't been handed out yet, either.

Probably the only channel to eradicate the movie theatres of pointless violence (stressing the word pointless) exists in nature of the movie theatre organization. A chain of theatres such as The Cooper Foundation, (which exists as a charitable foundation), could simply crack down on movies which sell murder as a justifiable method of solving problems. "Five Card Stud" does that.

But, "The Detective"

of students here," Muller said. "So there is no way to gear a program to one group of students in terms of cultural, social or economic backgrounds."

But each will study from a curriculum including mathematics, social studies, science and "communications" — reading, writing and analyzing.

One of the most helpful areas of the migrant-worker youth training, Muller feels, will be in Human Relations. Here they will learn how to take a job interview, how to dress properly, and how to get along with other people.

The NU staff has already taken the group on tours of the Milford Training School, business schools in Lincoln, a nursing school, the Lincoln studios of the NU Nebraska Educational Television Network and the NU theatre facilities where they watched rehearsals of the upcoming opera production.

These are designed to offer the students a wider range of cultural activities and to give them a chance to see what types of jobs may be available to them after they complete their training.

Future?

Gutierrez has not yet decided what plans to follow after finishing with the HEP program. He may want to work with HEP in recruiting other students; he would like to be a male nurse; or he might become a body-and-fender man in a garage.

He also sees himself as a revolutionary of a sort.

In Scottsbluff a local organization composed mainly of Mexican-American citizenry meets regularly to discuss community relations with the white community. The big topic now is the constructing of a stockyards on the East Side (where most of the Mexican-Americans live), the same place where a rendering plant has already been built. The residents of the East Side think that the combination of the two plants will be too much to live in.

"I go to those meetings and think they should be run by the young people," he said.

"The older men have had their way, now it's time for the youth. I'd change a lot of rules if I became a member.

Movies are a reflection of a society. Violence is a part of any society. Therefore violence can be a theme of any movie.

But, violence does not have to be presented as right and good. Bonnie and Clyde were punished, and very explicitly, for being violent, amoral, but violent. But how many good guys in their white hats do you remember who got rid of the desperadoes by the trigger? You don't remember their names but they sure could shoot. And they probably even went to heaven.

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Faces of Interest



Faces reflect interest. These new students on the campus are finding education a new interest.



John Gutierrez, (right) tells his story below. Other young Mexican-Americans discover NU: a tour of the KUON-TV studios reveals potential jobs (left, above), while four of the girls in the group (left, below) familiarize themselves with the campus.

Gutierrez has noticed a educated — he has higher standards."

The important thing for a HEP trainee from any area (and the NU center draws mainly from Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska), which has a sizable ethnic population spread throughout the country surrounding the Gering-Scottsbluff area.

"The typical guy in Texas gets bored. He looks for new action and often ends up with the girls or gets drunk. In Nebraska, he seems more

get used to the new life and get another one started."

Individualized

This chain-reaction is precisely what the program is hoped to produce. According to Gale Muller, each student will be treated on an individual basis, so that his particular talents will be discovered.

"There is a wide variance

A Three-Minute Preview . . .

From Which More Violence Exudes Than 'The Detective'

The next attraction at the Stuart Theatre will be "Five Card Stud;" its preview is now being shown with "The Detective," current attraction at the same theatre.

Within three minutes time, one man is hanged; one man is riddled by bullets; one man's body is stored in a filled watering trough; one man's life is nearly ended by running him over with a horse drawn wagon.

There is also some rough talk at a poker table; some conversation about fair young maidens in the Wild West who don't stay fair young maidens. And, of course, the super spectacular gun fight.

The funny thing is that this preview is more violent, more decadent, more harmful — probably — than the movie is in its totality. But the casual movie-goer is used to such westerns. They are history. Thats the way it was. Everybody understands the West better because of them.

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But, "The Detective"

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