

DAILY NEBRASKAN

Editorials

Our man Hoppe . . .

The case of the undecided voter

You may recall the case last year of Hirschel N. Rightly, 42, of South Menashee, Wis. Mr. Rightly achieved a fleeting moment of fame when reports discovered he was the only man in the country who liked the war in Vietnam.

Unlike the Hawks who wanted to end it through escalation or the Doves who wanted to end it through de-escalation, Mr. Rightly wanted to keep it going because he liked it.

"WHAT'S SO odd about that?" he said on Face the Press. "After all, if we're spending \$30 billion a year on it, somebody must like it."

Mr. Rightly was released last month from the Flowery Dales Sanitarium. Since then, in an effort to return to a normal life, he has been following the election campaign. And, like millions of normal Americans, he became an undecided voter.

Indeed, he seemed well on the road to full recovery until his last visit with his psychiatrist, Dr. Zang Roid.

"Well, well, well," said Dr. Froid, "you've become an uncommitted voter. That shows good judgement in this peculiar election year. I can't make up my mind myself."

"I'm glad to hear that, Doctor," said Mr. Rightly. "My friends kind of shake their heads when I say it."

"Shake their heads?"

"YES. FOR example if I say I'm thinking of voting for Mr. Nixon . . ."

"But it's perfectly normal, Mr. Rightly, to want to protest Humphrey's obsequious ties to the disastrous Johnson Administration."

"The what? No, it's Mr. Nixon's chrisma that gets me. I start jumping up and down when he passes by. Of course, I my support Mr. Humphrey instead."

"Because you suspect Nixon's still the same old Tricky Dick?"

"Not at all. It's Mr. Fumphrey's impressive stature, noble features and firm grasp of our problems that stirs me. But I may end up voting for Mr. Wallace."

"You've got a death wish?"

"OH, NO. ITS his courage in saying what he thinks. The way he's built his campaign from scratch. What a man of the people!"

"Please lie back on the couch, Mr. Rightly."

"And to think, Doctor, that no matter which we choose, he will impose law and order, end the war in Vietnam and bring us peace and prosperity. Oh, thank God that one will win!"

"I'm afraid that does it, Mr. Rightly," said Dr. Froid with a sigh. "It's back to good old Flowery Dales."

"Oh, I've said the wrong thing again," said Mr. Rightly with a puzzled frown. "But with the three candidates spending more than \$50 million to convince us of their leadership qualities, isn't it normal to thank God that one will win?"

"The normal response this year, Mr. Rightly," said Dr. Froid, busily signing the re-commitment papers, "is, 'Thank God that only one CAN win.'" *Chronicle Features*

Tom and Dick One more time

by John Zeh College Press Service

"The war's still on, the country's still divided, and we're still here," went the song, and sure enough, the Smothers Brothers were back for their third season.

Same time, same channel, but not the same Smothers Brothers, and not quite their same Comedy Hour. Tom and Dick now sport mustaches and sideburns, and their show seems a bit more free of CBS censors' bluepencil.

"OFTENTIMES we have trouble giving out thoughts because sometimes it makes people think," Tommy quipped. He looks less innocent with his mustache, and is no less serious about network meddling with his material. The firm stands he and his brother have taken, along with the growing candor in all the mass media, have been responsible for CBS's new liberality.

While there was at least one phrase edited out, the season's opener Sunday was laced with innuendos and direct references to such subjects once verboten on prime time TV as interracial marriage, homosexuality, race, lingerie, and education.

Jokes about touchy subjects pervaded the hour, and were all tied together in a skit spoofing NBC's "Bonanza" — the Brother's competition in the Sunday, 9 p.m. EDT time slot.

Mama Cass Elliott played "Hass" of the "Cartwong" family, inspiring the line, "You're real smart, Hass." And giant pro footballer Rosy Grear appeared as the long-lost Mrs. Cartwong. Her son Little Jerk (Harry Belafonte), seeing her for the first time, said, "You're a big mother." Suggestive spice like that is rare, even on the Tonight Show.

"THE SMUT BROTHERS," played by guess-who, showed up in bad-guy black with bandannas saying "censored" across the mouths. They had kidnapped the Nielsen family. The Cartwongs were upset about losing their neighbors the "Nielsen's" — audience ratings, that is.

With the black Grear "married" to white Ben (Paulsen), the Cartwong brothers lamented, "Now we'll never get the Nielsen's back."

That line was an excellent slam at the American viewing public. If the Smothers Brothers lost the rating game because of their subject matter, it will be the viewers' fault, not the program's.

Commentary

Inside report . . .

Right-winger vs. moderate GOP

by Rowland Evans and

Robert Novak

Los Angeles — Dr. Max Rafferty's textbook version of a right-wing campaign based on fear and powered by the most hypnotic voice in politics today is in deep trouble, only partly caused by a massive defection of moderate Republican voters who don't want him in the U.S. Senate.

But Rafferty, who is California's Superintendent of Public Instruction, has been in deep trouble before. He overcame a huge deficit in the polls to beat Sen. Thomas Kuchel in the primary.

POLLS CONSISTENTLY fail to show the hidden strength of Rafferty, and Democratic nominee Alan Cranston knows it. A rather pedestrian, unexciting former State Controller (who helped found and has now left the ultra-liberal California Democratic Council), Cranston is importing Sen. Eugene McCarthy next weekend for at least two major speeches. He went to Washington three days ago for the endorsement of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and returned with a Kennedy film-clip which will now get heavy use.

Moreover, Cranston is well-financed and staffed. His campaign director, Sanford Weiner, managed Sen. George Murphy's successful campaign against Pierre Salinger in 1964. Weiner's basic theme is to beat down credibility in the silver-tongued Rafferty, and he is getting valuable help from California's newspapers.

For example, a well-researched series by the Long Beach Independent claimed that Rafferty had dodged the draft in World War II (bitterly denied by Rafferty). It has been reprinted by Cranston in the thousands.

What makes this campaign important is Rafferty's brand of far-right politics. Unlike Cranston, Rafferty is the most exciting stump-speaker in the country and he is depending heavily on the adrenalin of fear into his audiences.

"We've been suckered by the smoothest snake oil con job in history," he told an audience of businessmen here last week. He slashed at "hate-contorted figures of lunatic blacks" and "bigoted whites" in attacking riots and disorder. He hit the "predatory packs of punks" making American streets unsafe for walking and lashed out at "hairy disheveled activists" of the campus.

"Let's not kid ourselves," he said, "that we can deal with anarchy by playing footsie with the anarchists."

Some of Rafferty's own advisers say privately that he is "too hot" for television and frightens viewers with his dark image of America and his strong-arm panaceas. But when we watched him tape a half-hour TV show, the rough edges of his rhetoric had been smoothed and he talked effectively, more in sorrow than anger.

BUT RAFFERTY'S political problems are large. After his primary win against the liberal Sen. Kuchel (who has flatly refused to endorse him), Cranston operatives estimated a minimum 20 percent of the Republican vote would swing to Democrat Cranston and against Rafferty. They have now raised that estimate to at least 30 percent.

Some well-known Republican figures, including Sidney Levin of Beverly Hills and Mrs. Nicholas Trutanic of Los Angeles, a well-heeled backer of Richard Nixon, are publicly endorsing Democrat Cranston.

Furthermore, Nixon's whole effort out here, one of the most expensive in the state's history, takes minimum notice of the Rafferty campaign. At a recent Nixon rally in Fresno, a Rafferty financial angel tore up a \$5,000 check made out to Nixon when Nixon failed to mention Rafferty in his speech.

Rafferty money was very scarce until after the Republican convention. Right-wing dollars were held in abeyance for Gov. Ronald Reagan to win the presidential nomination. Now, however, money is coming in and Reagan himself is campaigning hard for Rafferty.

Finally, a nasty dispute between Rafferty and his primary campaign chief, the shrewd Robert McGee, forced McGee out (he's managing Nixon's campaign in Washington and Oregon), which meant a long shakedown cruise for a new campaign apparatus.

What Cranston now fears is that some external events, perhaps a major campus blow-up at Berkeley, will shift thousands of last-minute votes to Rafferty.

Failing that, it seems unlikely that the dark shadow Rafferty is now casting over California will reach as far as the United States Senate.

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"THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A PHOBIA ABOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

- Gen. Curtis Lemay

In defense of student publications

by Don Ruhter Reprinted from the University of Illinois DAILY ILLINI:

It is a quiet week at The Daily Illini when we don't get at least two or three calls and letters from irate readers complaining about the news we are printing or its accuracy. Five times last year, we reached a "new low" in journalism.

"Crime, violence and unrest that's all I read," one angry woman told me on the phone the other day. "That's getting more publicity than the good people who win scholarship awards." Yes, man, those things do. And at the risk of sounding cynical, crime, violence and unrest also get more coverage than the pom pom squad, the cheerleaders and the local Kiwanis Club because there is so much of it.

SHE DOES have a point, however. The press does emphasize the sensational rather than the significant and the exceptional rather than the representative, as more than one study has shown. But why? Part of the answer lies with what the reader wants and what the industry has classically considered "news."

News is the new, unusual, different, exciting and important. News sells papers and the sale of papers and ads makes a newspaper autonomous and free from

financial pressures from those whom it may criticize. If this were the only reason however, the newspaper industry and with it, The Daily Illini, could be ranked with the most infamous panderers in history.

Just as important as financial independence through advertising and circulation, is social responsibility. It is necessary to bring disquieting incidents before the eye of the public so that remedies can be found for current problems and future misfortunes can be averted through an alert, informed and prepared public. Can you imagine the state our society would be in if the local ladies auxiliary meeting was banned across the front page while the Detroit riots, Kerner Commission Report or Chicago demonstrations were buried somewhere beyond the center fold?

There is, of course, and increasingly, critical demand for editorials, news analyses and in depth reporting to put in perspective, to interpret and expand on these and hundreds of other events that make the news.

The most critical, urgent and pressing issues and events of the day have always rated a better position in any newspaper than the library guild or church box lunch. Only in this way can the press fulfill its obligation to inform the public.

Warren H. Storms . . .

Proud to be an American

The trend of things among students these days seems to be a mass hysteria and fear of reality due to the threat of being inducted into the armed forces.

Many students here on campus no longer associate themselves with the patriotic virtues of which our nation is founded upon. They would rather associate themselves with draft avoiding revolutionaries under the guise that they believe in making love not war.

THE MEMBERS of these various peace and freedom movements are more often than not more militant than our Army, Navy, and Marines, especially when it comes to avoiding the draft.

As for making love not war, I can truthfully and honestly say that the Viet Cong do not share this idealistic view. It is time we recognize and wake up to the fact that as long as there are people on this earth there will always be conflict, especially when there are countries who seek to rule the world and place freedom loving people under the heel of dictatorship.

We have the greatest nation on earth and many thousands have given their lives to keep it free. I feel that perhaps those students who have sent or have avoided the draft by other means, should re-examine their own feelings by realizing that what America stands for and the freedom we enjoy today is worth fighting for, is worth dying for. And I, for one, am proud to call myself an American who has fought to keep our nation free.

And still thousands daily shirk their responsibility to their society by ignoring the news entirely or reading the sports pages exclusively.

WHAT ABOUT accuracy? A newspaper can be as crusading and well meaning as Sir Galahad, but muddle or distort the facts so terribly that the harm done far outweighs the initial benefits which could have come from the original accurate and truthful article.

The DI gets more than its share of letters from students, faculty and administrators complaining about misleading headlines, bad stories or misquotations. We print them all, and if the editors believe a story was erroneous, a retraction or explanation is also printed.

But this policy can hurt as well as help our reliability. Everyone reads complaint letters in the DI but rarely sees them in other papers or national weekly magazines simply because they refuse to print them. Omission in this case is considered a sign of perfection and reliability rather than an infringement on the public's right to know and consider both sides.

We not only admit our mistakes, but also grant anyone who feels he has been misquoted or misrepresented, rebuttal. This is more than you can say for many of our fellow newspapers in town and across the nation.

"Ah, but they're just kids," our critics say, implying that we can't be trusted to get the facts straight — or even get the facts. Yes, most of us are just kids who can't even vote yet. We're kids who don't know what it is like to be bored with the world and her affairs. We're kids who do not know when to quit so we keep on trying and sometimes make it. We bug people because that's part of the job and we're too young and idealistic to know how to compromise our ethics or to lie — yet.

So people say things they don't mean or don't realize the importance of until after they have read their statements in the morning

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