

DAILY NEBRASKAN

Editorials

A deaf ear to dissent

I'm 22 years old and I'm tired. America has worn me out. I don't believe in God, and I don't believe that America is the golden center of the universe. You can get away with not believing in one of these, but not both.

Anonymous in Life magazine

One of the anomalies of this dying year of disenchantment is the way all the ideas have become cliches, all the hopes bromides, all the statements potentially disruptive waiting to be analyzed for their inflammatory possibilities rather than for their worth.

TO THOSE IN power, it matters not what the activists have to say. What matters is how many people are listening, how great a chance there is for a confrontation over any particular issue. The administration, for example, is reading the Nebraskan not with an eye for the arguments and problems of disenchanting youth expressed therein, but rather to search for a theme which might be taken up by enough students to cause trouble.

In brief, they are not listening.

When that young man told a Life magazine reporter of his disenchantment, of his weariness, of his lack of anything to believe in, he was expressing a problem so deep-rooted, so vital to any understanding of youth as a whole, that it is hard to see how it could be overlooked.

To the majority of those who are trusted with guiding this University, as with others, however, the statement is merely something to be weighed and measured, valued on a scale of disruptive potential, and then forgotten.

As with many other statements, the anonymous youth's speech was an attempt to say, "There's something wrong here. Nothing makes sense. Why are things happening the way they are?"

The question will go begging. The fact is that the power elite, the men involved in keeping the shackles on youth in order to maintain the status quo, don't give a damn if the question is ever answered. The important thing to them is that they get through the year without having to confront students eye to eye, without having to explain this discrepancy or that injustice, without having to explain on any kind of ideological level what is wrong with their way of doing things.

It seems that the dissenters have so grown in numbers that it would no longer be possible to ignore their ideas. As potential troublemakers, the dissenters are not being overlooked. As thinkers with a legitimate problem and something to say, however, they are being totally ignored.

Jack Todd

Larry Grossman . . .

University students have already sold out

A large number of University students today hold that it is impossible to remedy the ills of our society by working within existing structures. The charge is often heard that a graduate in industry or government loses his ideals when confronted by the conformist pressures of bosses and fellow workers.

THE SYSTEM is inflexible and forces each man to adapt or be crushed. Those who accept the system are sell outs.

The persons who believe these myths overlook two basic premises. A. Social and economic structures are products of human effort and are as subject to change as is man. B. Student critics of the system often display the kind of conformity in their own lives which they so oppose in persons who work for the system.

What is the difference between adapting one's self to the values of the business world and tolerating the everyday grind of classes at the University? Most of us are subjected to daily ordeals with uninspired and uninspiring professors who spill out drivel and call it education.

Rather than challenge or question the professors, we sit in silence. The stale air of the classroom is rarely disturbed by discussion from students. Lectures and classes end not with bangs but with whimpers.

There is no need for the majority of students, including those critical of the Establishment, to say anything more about selling out after graduation. By their attitudes and actions in the classroom, they have shown their willingness to accept things as they are.

The University ideally should be a forum of ideas. In reality it is a combination of a last childhood fling and a dress rehearsal for the Chamber of Commerce. Few students temper the rough edges of their training with education.

UNLESS TODAY'S student is willing to work for change in the University, and most seem unwilling to do so, there should be no more criticism of the Establishment. By a passive acceptance of the Establishment as it is, the University student has already sold out.

Commentary

Our Man Hoppe . . .

Sex education: a new outlook

Once upon a time there was a young lad named Horatio Alger, who was determined to struggle and persevere and somehow get himself a good education. A good sex education.

But the little lad faced many hurdles. The first was the local school board, which voted 5-4 against showing Horatio any sex education films. The second was Horatio's parents, who voted 2-0 against allowing Horatio to attend any Adult Movies.

"ADULT MOVIES," thundered Horatio's father, "are corrupting the morals of our youth and destroying our American way of life."

So Horatio was 18 and on his own before he saw his first Adult Movie. He didn't, of course, understand it. But he thrust forth his chin and vowed to persevere.

For two years, Horatio persevered. He saw Adult Movies three weekly and twice on Saturdays. "It was a hard struggle," he said proudly on reaching 20, "but at last I have won myself a good sex education."

It was then that he met Miss Penelope Trueheart and fell in love.

"All I desire on this earth," he said, falling to his knees one night in her apartment, "is to be the father of your child and spend the rest of my life as your husband."

"Oh, dearest," said Miss Trueheart ecstatically, "when will we be married?"

"AS SOON AS we have a child," said Horatio, drawing on his good sex education. "For we can't have one afterward, you know. People never do."

"And how do we have a child?" she asked, blushing modestly.

"There are several ways," said Horatio. "The easiest, I believe, is for you to smoke a cigarette on the couch. I will pounce on you. Your hand will go limp and the cigarette will fall on the carpet. (We can use an ashtray, I suppose, if you worry about fire.) And then you will cry."

"I don't smoke," said Miss Trueheart.

"Then we'll have to throw our clothes on the floor," said Horatio, "though it isn't very tidy. But please turn up the heat first as we have to lie under just a sheet and talk. Then I will go for a drive and you will cry."

"Will you take me in your arms, dearest?" she asked hesitantly.

"YES," SAID Horatio. "In the shower."

"I don't have a shower," said Miss Trueheart, close to tears.

"Well, I guess we can skip that," said Horatio dubiously, as he threw his tie on the floor. "Come, my love, I can hardly wait."

So they threw their clothes on the floor, yanked under the sheet, talked, and then Horatio dressed and went for a drive while Miss Trueheart cried.

But, oddly enough, though they faithfully repeated this routine every night for seven years, they never did have a child.

With his good sex education, Horatio privately blamed Miss Trueheart for neither smoking nor having a shower. But he was too gallant to say so.

MORAL: Adult Movies may, indeed, destroy our way of life. And the human race along with it.

Warren Storms . . .

Why we're there

You know it's strange how so many people can condemn the United States for its participation in the Vietnam War when they themselves have never been confronted with the tragedies that the South Vietnamese have endured. Any soldier, sailor, or Marine can tell you why he is over there and whether or not he believes we should be there. Yes, ask any G.I. why he's over there and chances are he'll say that any freedom seeking people on earth have a right to live free from fear and terrorism, and that he is proud and glad to be doing his part not only to help the South Vietnamese, but to prevent also the prospect of ever having to fight a land-based war in this country.

In this day and age here in the United States we are doing over there? We have an intensive burned to the ground with all of its inhabitants killed, and yet this is an everyday occurrence for the South Vietnamese people. One just has to see for the first time how the people of South Vietnam suffer in order to realize the necessity of our involvement. If we don't stop communist aggression here it will spread and the clouds of World War III will be in the making.

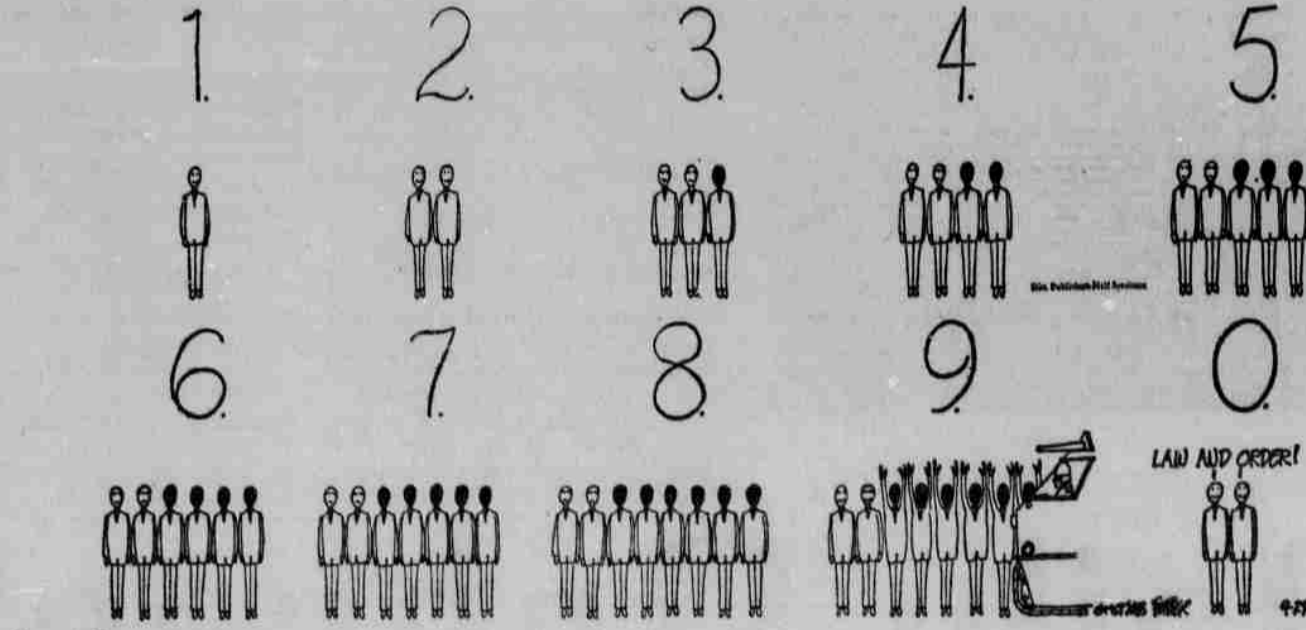
Does one ever stop to think about the good we are doing over there. We have an intensive pacification program going on in Vietnam and the living conditions of the people have improved tremendously. But we seldom hear of the good things we are doing, as people would rather believe we are involved in a useless war of which no good can come.

But contrary to the opinion of many we are winning the war in Vietnam, we are winning the confidence of the people of South Vietnam. Someday they will be able to stand on their own and we won't be needed any longer, but until then we must not lose faith.

As long as armed aggression is prevalent in this world of ours we will continue to hear arms for the threat of communism is very real and it's spreading. We will continue to fight as long as necessary, but keep in mind that by so doing we will always be a nation that is free.

Neil Danberg

A Farmer Marries



Inside report . . .

Of a front-runner and a debate

by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

EN ROUTE WITH NIXON — Vice President Humphrey's demand that Richard Nixon face him in debate has now surpassed the Vietnam war and the racial crisis as the most difficult issue facing the smoothly efficient Nixon campaign, with no final Nixon response in sight.

To nail down his challenge, Humphrey fund-raisers have now received a pledge of cold cash to cover one-half the cost of a network debate if free time is unavailable.

WITH NIXON so far in front that the election seems to be in the bag, it is natural he would do everything to avoid the unknown pitfalls of a face-to-face confrontation. Front-runners never want to debate their opponents.

Thus, Nixon up to now has taken refuge behind section 315-B of the Communications Act. This prevents the TV networks from offering free time to any presidential contenders unless they offer it to all the minor candidates too.

Even if Congress does amend that law third party nominee George Wallace will be included, and Nixon says he will not be a party to giving Wallace exposure on nationwide television.

But that excuse is no longer valid, because of Humphrey's offer to raise one-half the ap-

With election year 1968 almost in the bag for Richard Milhouse Nixon, Hubert Humphrey has thrown one last issue in his path. Can Nixon successfully dodge Humphrey's request for a public debate? To debate or not to debate, these reporters say, has become the first solid issue Humphrey has been able to develop.

proximately \$250,000 to buy network time and finance the kind of debate Nixon could not turn down—a Humphrey-Nixon debate with Wallace excluded. In fact, Humphrey's eagerness for a Nixon debate may soon lead him to offer to finance the entire cost.

We can now report that, before Humphrey made his offer to pay a half share of the debate costs, Minneapolis grain man Dwayne Andreas, Humphrey's astute chief fundraiser, had pledged in his pocket for \$130,000 from two big contributors—enough to cover Humphrey's share. The prospect of a dramatic confrontation and a chance that it might reverse Humphrey's fallen fortunes have loosened pursestrings that otherwise have stayed tightly shut to the Democratic presidential nominee.

Some Republican leaders have told us that Nixon's reluctance to accept the Humphrey challenge is

or even lose his temper, as he did in his famous "last press conference" following his defeat in the 1962 California gubernatorial race. That could be disastrous for Nixon.

Other advisors ridicule that prospect. Nixon, they say, has complete mastery over his emotions and would never let Humphrey get under his skin. Moreover, Nixon, they say, does not put Humphrey in the same class as John F. Kennedy, who turned the 1960 debates into his strongest political asset.

But the Nixon camp knows that debates are high-risk affairs for front-runners. An off-hand remark or a wayward word could be extremely dangerous.

Just as risky, however, is a decision not to debate. The Nixon camp has read the record of the decision by President Eisenhower's Secretary of Labor, James P. Mitchell, not to debate his Democratic challenger in the 1961 New Jersey gubernatorial campaign. Mitchell, regarded as the front-runner, lost to Richard Hughes. Hughes is still Governor.

Thus, to debate or not to debate has become the first real threat in the Nixon camp and the first solid issue Humphrey has been able to develop.

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CAMPUS OPINION

Good policies

Dear Editor: I wish to express my personal appreciation to the Daily Nebraskan for its responsible news and editorial policies. It has amply demonstrated that its responsibility is not limited to the campus, but rather extends to all mankind.

Not only does the Daily Nebraskan give good coverage of life on the campus, but also it has been informative and outspoken on the many important social problems that face the nation today.

Of even greater significance is the awareness and concern which it has shown of world problems. Its reports of the thousands of innocent women and children dying daily in Biafra from starvation and of the efforts being made on the campus to raise funds for these children are a case in point.

John A. Anaza

SA's story re-evaluated

Dear Editor: The Daily Nebraskan in its ceaseless endeavor to manufacture sensational news out of rather commonplace and obvious facts has come out with an expose of Student Assistants.

Included in the major "finds" of this article were the following: (1) student assistants are not highly disciplined police cadres, but are "individualistic"; (2) the role of a Student Assistant on a residence hall floor cannot, incredibly, be described in a one-sentence quotable quote or perhaps even in one

paragraph and is, for the purpose of an abbreviated and simplistic interview, "nebulous"; (3) the primary role of a Student Assistant is "counseling and being a friend to the student, not the policework."

IT IS THIS last statement, made by the author of the article on page 3 of Wednesday's (October 9, 1968) paper, which is the most interesting. Interesting because it potentially refutes the title of the expose: "SA: The Individual Who Doesn't Exist", and because it raises the disturbing question: if "counseling and being a friend to the student" is the main purpose of the student assistant why is the main purpose of the Daily's article directed at attacking the student assistant's use of disuse of his policeman's powers?

Could it be that the Daily's article has missed the point? That the Student Assistant is not primarily a policeman at all? If that's true, then the Daily Nebraskan's headline is grossly misleading, since it has called Student Assistant's "invisible men" while failing to indict or even discuss their

major role in the University residence hall.

But perhaps a word is in order about the "Daily's" treatment of the student assistant as a policeman. It's true he may not make a very good policeman by FBI standards.

He has had precious little training in the field of law enforcement and, hence, he relies, as you recount with great incredulity, heavily upon his own sense of right or wrong. But whereas you claim that the administration has not made any effort to lay down guidelines for Student Assistants in the field of alcoholic beverages I would be forced to disagree with you.

Indeed, had your interview of Cather Hall Student Assistants proceeded beyond the quotable quote stage, and had your zeal for facts been somewhat higher, you would have discovered that the University has laid down guidelines, has presented these guidelines to the Cather Hall Student Assistants (to name one specific group) and has received assurances that the guidelines will be followed.

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