

DAILY NEBRASKAN

Editorials

Tough spot for the black athlete

For every black athlete who enters the Olympic Stadium in Mexico City, there are 100,000 of his brothers who will never live outside the ghetto. For every black athlete who mounts the victory stand, there are 10,000 of his brothers who are sharing their sleeping quarters with rats.

So when Tommy Smith and John Carlos express 300 years of rage, frustration and hopelessness by wearing black gloves on the victory stand, the American Olympic Committee sends them home in dishonor. Bill Cosby was right when he said every American athlete should have come home in protest.

THE TROUBLE IS that the Olympics, whatever their political ramifications, are ultimately personal. For the black athlete in particular, making it to the Olympics represents years of struggle that confound the imagination of most Americans.

In the past few years blacks have realized that all the wonders athletics are supposed to work for them are myths. They no longer expect to improve the position of their people on the athletic field.

After all that struggle, however, they are entitled to compete. They are also entitled to make some effort to display their feelings and their frustration to the world in the hope their actions will make some impression on world opinion.

By sending Smith and Carlos home, the Olympic Committee has maneuvered the black athletes into a very unfair position in which they are damned if they compete and damned if they don't.

It almost appears that the Committee was looking for some excuse to employ put-'em-in-their-place tactics.

If the black athletes in 1972 are still representing the same ghetto constituency they are in 1968, it will be our fault, just as it is our fault that Smith and Carlos were forced to display their feelings.

Unless there is a fundamental change in our system before the next Olympics it would seem more to the point for black athletes to burn the stadium down rather than to merely raise clenched fists.

Jack Todd

Our Man Hoppe . . .

Mr. Nixon says something new

Some cynics claim that Mr. Nixon has thus far managed to talk for a month without saying anything. This simply isn't true.

Just the other day in Moline, Illinois, Mr. Nixon issued a 200-word mimeographed statement to us ace newsmen which began with the following startling disclosure:

"THERE IS A Crime University in the United States. Its enrollment is over 200,000. Youthful offenders graduate from this Crime University as hardened criminals, determined to wreak their vengeance on society."

Few reporters bothered to read the rest of the statement, which went on to talk about prisons and things. Instead we all hustled over to the nearby campus of Crime University where Dean L. Fagin Grommet had called a hasty press conference.

"Mr. Nixon's disclosure and the attendant publicity couldn't have come at a more unfortunate time," said Dean Grommet, wringing his hands. "I do so hope it won't spoil our annual Autumn Homecoming Lust, Vandalism and Arson Festival. Hark: It's already begun."

On the tree-shaded campus outside the Dean's window a sexy homecoming queen and a band of students were gathered around a towering pile of fence posts, porch rails and outhouse doors looted from neighboring property owners. A young man with a gleam in his eye touched a match to the pile as the crowd sang the Crime University theme song:

"C.U., C.U., We'll e'er be true to you, Lechery, Larceny, Looting and Lust, That's what we do."
"Is that all you teach your students?" asked an indignant reporter.

"GOOD HEAVENS, NO," said Dean Grommet. "C.U. offers a broad spectrum of courses in the field of Liberal Dishonesty."

"For example, in Forgery, the student learns to sign his friends in and out of the dorms at night and to falsify his age on his identification papers so that he may illegally buy a beer."

"If he has taken the prerequisite course, Elementary Cheating, which includes cribbing, peaking and lying about homework, he may enroll in the Preparation of Expense Accounts & Income Tax Forms."

"Now in Bribery 232, he learns how to present a policeman with a bottle at Christmastime, how to recruit football players, how to . . ."

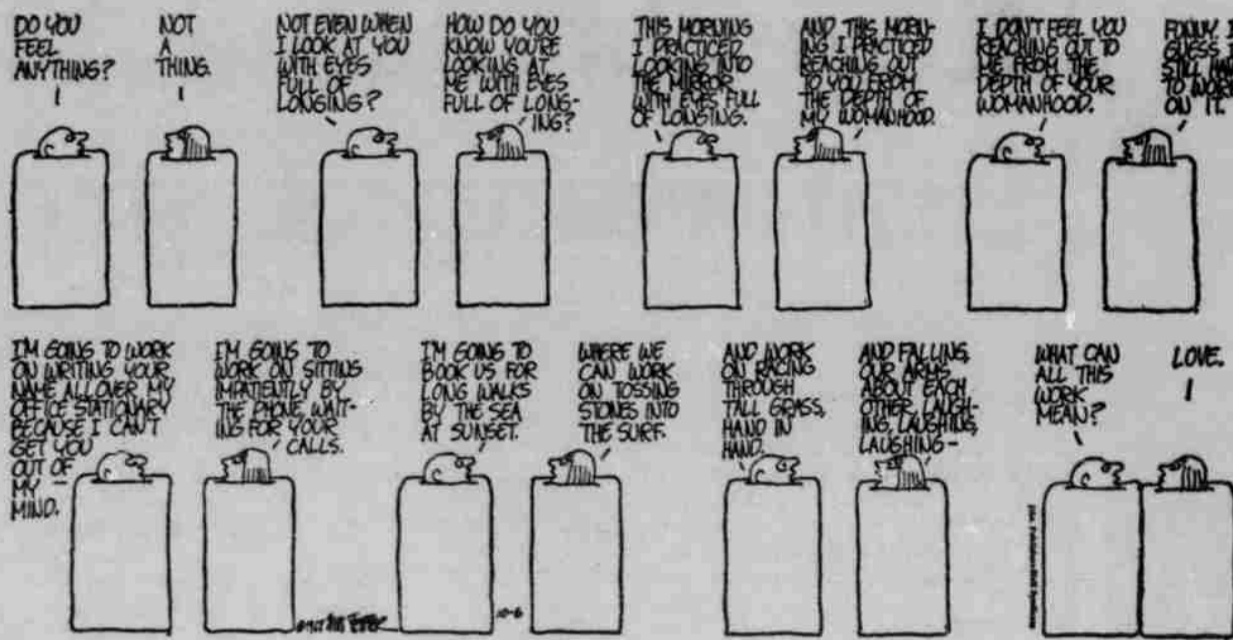
"Lying, cheating, stealing, bribing," said an angry reporter. "It's no wonder they graduate to become hardened criminals."

"Hardened criminals?" said Dean Grommet, shocked to the core. "My gracious, no. Thanks to the thorough preparation for modern life that we give our students here at dear, old C.U., 78.3 percent go on to become corporation executives."

AFTER SOME consultation, the reporters decided not to file stories on Mr. Nixon's first startling disclosure of the month.

"Heck," as one put it, "they're not learning anything at Crime University that I didn't learn in college."

Chronicle Features



Dick Gregory . . .

The name game: a label

Republican Vice-Presidential hopeful Spiro Agnew has quite unintentionally produced renewed national interest in the subject of ethnic labels. His off-the-cuff references to "Polacks" and "Japs" are now famous remarks.

Indignant reactions of members of the Polish and Japanese communities show that such persons find Agnew's choice of ethnic labels as offensive as young black folks do when they are called "Negroes."

MANY WHITES are mystified to hear that blacks do not want to be called "Negro" anymore, which assumes that it was alright to do so at one time. But the label "Negro" never did make sense from the black point of view. When the Irishman left Ireland and came to his country, he left his homeland an Irishman and remained an Irishman on his arrival. When the Italians left Italy, they left Italian and continued to be known as Italians in America. It is the same with the Chinese, the Polish and other minority groups.

But it is not so with black

folks. When we were stolen from the country of our birth, we left our homeland as America. If we were African "Negroes" when we got to America. If we were African when we left home, white America owes us an explanation about what happened on the way over to cause the changing of our name. Of course that history is well-known. We left our country with the status of full-fledged human dignity only to be shackled on American shores with the less-than-human indignity of slavery.

If labels must be applied, "Black" is the proper designation for black Americans. We left Africa black and were just as black when we got here. And, after all, NEGRO is the Spanish word for BLACK. So the only persons who should be allowed to call black folks "Negro" are Spanish-speaking people and they had better do so with an accent!

There is another aspect to the "Negro" label which exemplifies the depth of discrimination. There seems to be an unconscious, unwritten tradition in America today that a first name in-

dicates ownership. A tavern restaurant or nightclub owner attaches his name to his property to clearly establish who is the controlling party in determining the policies of the establishment: Joe's Place, Frank's Restaurant or Art D'Lugoff's Village Gate.

The same tradition applies to the many ethnic groups which comprise the total population of America—the Irish, Italians, Spanish, Chinese and so on. Traditional terminology refers to these groups as Irish-Americans, Italian-Americans or Chinese-Americans.

THE UNWRITTEN assumption is that the Irish, Italians, Chinese or Spanish are part owners of America. America belongs to them, rather than their belonging to America. They each have a role to play in determining the controlling policies of the American establishment.

There are two glaring exceptions to this unwritten tradition—the American-Indian and the American-Negro. The original owners of America's soil are seldom referred to as Indian-

Americans. Nor are the emancipated slaves designated as Negro-Americans. And certainly it cannot be said that the term Afro-American has been generally accepted by white America.

Since the first name indicates ownership, the terms American-Indian or American-Negro seem to mean that America owns the Indian and the "Negro." Indians and black folks stand apart from other ethnic groups in the eyes of America in being denied their proper role as part owners of this nation. Traditional terminology is a daily reminder that America stole her land from its native inhabitants and kidnapped me to cultivate that land.

Perhaps when issues become more black and white, without the confusing label of a misappropriated Spanish word blocking the path to trust and understanding, this country will truly belong to the people who inhabit it and all the fellow-owners of this soil can begin to structure justice into the policies of this land.

Wade Allen Syndications, Inc.

Commentary

Inside report . . .

Mayor Daley's old politics

by Rowland Evans and

Robert Novak

CHICAGO — In the face of Democratic calamity on the national and state levels here, Mayor Richard J. Daley's renowned precinct organization is concentrating its money and muscle on one local office: State's Attorney for Cook County (Chicago).

Indeed, Daley has all but abandoned Vice President Humphrey, and his handpicked, lackluster state ticket. While there are few visible signs of a Humphrey campaign in Chicago, the organization's activity is intense and increasing for Edward V. Hanrahan, Democratic candidate for State's Attorney (county prosecutor).

SUCH A distortion of emphasis might seem incredible, but it is the essence of Dick Daley's old politics. To Daley organization regulars, politics is essentially a business wholly removed from lofty issues. Presidents and Governors may come and go with no concern to the regulars because they do not affect their business. But the mundane office of State's Attorney most definitely does.

To understand why the prospect of a Republican State's Attorney here chills city hall, it is necessary only to look at the investigations proposed by Hanrahan's Republican opponent, Alderman Robert J. O'Rourke. He would probe the city building department and its honeycombs of organization, patronage employees, look into the traditionally scandalous doings of the traffic court, and open the lid on suspect city land deals.

Moving deeper into the heart of the organization's affairs, O'Rourke calls for investigation of the habitual election day voter frauds here and a full-scale probe of links between organized crime and the Democratic organization.

In contrast, Hanrahan, who resigned as U.S. Attorney here to run for the local office, would stick to the business of fighting conventional crime and not disturb city hall's sleeping dogs.

Although nobody has ever questioned his personal honesty, Hanrahan is an organization man to the core. Flamboyant and hot-tempered, he detests Democratic mavericks (and once took a swing at the leading maverick, State Treasurer Adlai Stevenson III, at a private party). The major criticism of his record as U.S. Attorney concerned his questionable handling of petty organization politicians intertwined with the crime syndicate.

Consequently, Daley has put out the word: Hanrahan must win. The army of organization payrollers has been solicited, man by man, for extra contributions to Hanrahan. His campaign is the most lavishly financed in Chicago: \$100,000 for television and newspaper ads exclusive of the most extensive billboard displays by any candidate in the area.

Moreover, there is evidence that the frequently collusive arrangement between Republican and Democratic leaders at the Chicago ward level is working in Hanrahan's favor. Some Republican leaders are doing nothing for O'Rourke and have not even put his photos and campaign literature in their headquarters. The quid pro quo from their Democratic counterparts: no help for Gov. Sam Shapiro against the front-running Republican challenger, Richard J. Ogilvie.

ALTHOUGH NO such overt collusion exists on a higher level, O'Rourke suffers there, too. Edmund Kucharski, the new Cook County Republican chairman, is a staunch Ogilvie man and interested primarily in electing a Republican Governor. If his organization's emphasis has been on the state level, it is not so much that he loves O'Rourke less but that he loves Ogilvie more.

Yet, Democratic rebels in Illinois believe staunchly that the Republicans, not Daley, have established the proper order of priorities and that only in a wholly irrational political system does the office of local prosecutor excite more activity than that of Governor of the state.

Thus, even though Hanrahan's well-financed campaign and dynamic campaign style are expected to prevail over the soft-spoken O'Rourke, it may well fuel determination by the insurgents for a post-election confrontation with Daley. Stevenson, who has made his final break with Daley and is prepared to battle for the soul of the party, is even now making his plans for that battle.

Daley shows no signs of compromising. While publicly civil to Stevenson, Daley rails in private against his audacity. Moreover, even the impending statewide catastrophe that Daley helped create in Illinois won't deplete his power much if he retains the office of State's Attorney and other county posts. He is, then, the long-range favorite to crush any Stevensonian insurgency. Daley's old politics may no longer win state elections but it still runs the party.

Paul S. Lerner
William Kyser

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The Campus Scholar . . .

Students need challenge, stimulation

by Bill Mobley

From discussions with students on all levels of the educational ladder it appears that a very few of our courses or instructors are including significant amounts of an important ingredient in our educational experience.

This all too frequent omission is the challenge extended by an instructor to his students to accomplish for themselves their individual development. When present, this challenge takes education from a boring recitation of facts to an exciting encounter.

AS STUDENTS we are given the task of attending from fifteen to twenty hours of classes and labs a week and only in the rarest instance are we given the opportunity to enhance our lives and ideas with the "body of knowledge" so uninterestingly thrown at us. Very little of what is taught seems to mean much to all too many students.

It is not that this material could have no relevance to our individual lives, it's that the method of its exposure encourages, with its apparently pre-digested nature, little more than marginal speculation and a passive scribbling of it in our fifty-nine cent notebooks. So we are confronted in a classroom with the stimulation to discover.

More often than not we are hardened in our conception of the classroom as not being the place to question or probe into the vast area of learning which could make our lives as satisfying and exciting as they ought to be in an educational community.

The faculty must be convinced that the sense of exploration and discovery is being sadly neglected in today's student. He must come to realize the obligation he has to challenge the individual student with his proper acceptance of the responsibility for his own education.

He must be shown that the most beneficial education can come only in an environment which stimulates and rewards the student for the exercise of his unique imagination and creativity.

The day of the lecture note "right from the book" tests with no provision for any mental activity beyond rote memorization, the day of the faculty member who neglects his teaching responsibility for his research publications, the day of the uninterested instructor content to rehash rusted facts with outdated methods, all these are gone. Unfortunately too many faculty people expect us to accept these far from adequate methods of learning.

It is said to realize that most of us by now do in fact accept these as common procedure in our educational process and very understandably are content to "live with it." As freshmen we are usually indoctrinated after our first round of hour exams and the lesson we learn then holds well throughout our security-ridden undergraduate careers. But the willingness to accept the status-quo just mentioned is as superficial as the system we now put up with.

THE STUDENT wants a challenge and, in addition he must be impressed with its importance to him as a person. The faculty has the responsibility to present this initial challenge but it's wide-

spread omission in this area at the present poses a great obstacle in the student's road to educational maturity.

Faculty and students must

work in an environment where both cooperatively challenge and respond to challenge for the true happening of education to occur.

CAMPUS OPINION

Dear Mr. Ross:

That it was necessary for you to explain, through your October 16, 1968 letter to the Daily Nebraskan, that the administration is concerned about student opinion for reasons other than pacification, is a curious state of affairs.

Why didn't you substantiate your claims with anything but the fact that you have eaten ten lunches with various students?

WHY IS IT that you did not cite pertinent examples of the University responding to organized, legitimate voices within the student body with an open, concerned, straight forward approach?

Why was it necessary for you to write a letter at all? If Jack Todd is significantly off base on an issue it will be obvious to most people. His editorials are not dogma. The group of 7000 new students you spoke of, of which I am one, don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows."

I have had numerous encounters with the administration in my short five

weeks here, and have found all of them to be extremely friendly, polite, and willing to keep quiet while I air my difficulties. But my arguments and positions were answered with much too eloquent quotes of rules and the "reason" of a never before contested status quo. Keeping quiet is not necessarily listening.

There was another article on the same page as yours, entitled "Uptight grown-ups fear their children." Did you read it?

I feel this sounds like I'm trying only to be difficult, which is not the case; I want to solve the problem.

Sincerely, John A. Hansen

Dear Editor:

On reflection, we wonder why the University of Nebraska — with upwards of 18,000 students — does not have (and to our knowledge has never had) one of the minority races represented on the cheer-leading squad?

Even more to the point, why (again to the best of our knowledge) has the overwhelming mass of cheerleaders been greek?

IT MAY SEEM like a small point but if we can demand that approved housing be open to all University students, can we not demand that our own campus organizations follow suit?

If, by the use of popular elections, we could remove the inbreeding in this — one of our more public institutions — we would be taking another small but important step in removing hypocrisy from the U. of N.

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