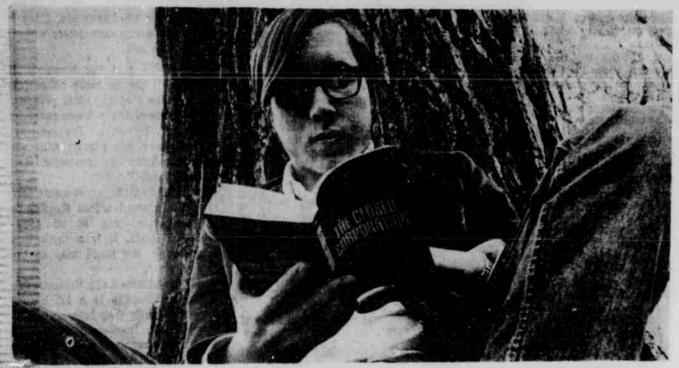
THE DAILY NEBRASKA

# Parting students evaluate with candor



**Rodney Powell** 



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Dan Looker

This year, the staff of the Nebraskan chose seven people who are leaving the University — three faculty and four students who are considered outstanding; not for their deeds and accomplishments so much, but rather for the ideas and values to which they ascribe. The following interviews present these people and their ideas. We offer these prople because of their ideas. We present their ideas because of the people they are.

by Jim Pedersen

Nebraskan Staff Writer

Are men great because of their

ideas, or are ideas made great

because the men who espouse them

are considered outstanding? It is a

rhetorical question that holds no ob-

In the past the Daily Nebraskan

has chosen one outstanding faculty

and student member of the Universi-

ty, labled them as such and delved

into their achievements in the last

vious answer.

issue of each semester.

## Rodney Powell

Most of the students here at the University don't belong in college.

Rodney Powell, former editor of the Cornhusker and member of Phi Beta Kappa, said Sunday that people graduating from high schools are just pushed into something they are not capable of doing and don't want to

"People coming out of high schools aren't ready to go to college because they aren't academically inclined." he added. "They could be doing something else. something that cou be more valuable.

could have done. That is why I am pleased with the surfacing of the Afro-American Society. These are people who know what they want and are tough enough to force the changes.

"White students aren't organized like black because they don't know what they want and how to effect changes. They also don't have the moralistic authority of blacks. The administration isn't likely to feel guilty about what has happened in the past few hundred years to af-fluent, middle class whites," Powell said.

POWELL INTENDS to carry his education further to the University

of Chicago where he will work towards his doctorate in English. 'When I look forward to four years

of graduate school, it seems like I am turning tail and hiding, but maybe I can effect the system I will be in.' "I think colleges should be like the

Centennial College," Powell added. "Relevance and action are needed but they should be a part of institutions other than universities."

#### Frank McClannahan

The university system continually emphasizes that students should not specialize, but in the end the university specializes the student in education, according to Frank McClannahan, a graduate student in English.

"I always thought that a university community was a free world," he said Thursday. "But universities are so bogged down with their cynical way of looking at things that they prevent people from being independent and creative."

McCLANNAHAN WILL receive his Masters degree in English this year. He then intends to teach in the New York City public school system for at least a year. He would then like to go into advertising where he "can think creatively." Wall Street also holds a particular attraction for McClanahan.

If a person wants to think and be independent, according to McClannahan, he must make himself independently wealthy. McClannahan thinks advertising providesevenmore opportunities to be creative.

Someone is having a lot of fun creating those Alka-Seltzer ads," he continued. "And I'm all for humor. We live in such bleak times.

"IN GRADUATE school I see people ho are unhappy because they really con't know what they want to do,' McClannahan continued. "They take emselves so seriously. Advertising people don't."

Society expects young people to know and have opinions on subjects they can't possibly know about because they haven't experienced them." he said. "Society expects people to know what

feeling. That is why Midwesterners succeed more often than Easterners. People from the east coast just don't want to work that hard."

"The people in the rural Midwest are so stable and sound," he added. "I used to think they were stifling, but they appreciate the real things in life. They aren't influenced by the art of sophistication."

McCLANN AHAN. who has been recognized both locally and nationally in poetry contests, intends to continue his writing after he graduates.

"Writing is fascinating as well as good for your spirit," he said. "It

rounds out the soul." McClannahan is not fascinated by libraries or any need to record

poetry. "A great poem is a great poem whether you record in or not," he added. "The poem must be experienced in life. That is where it counts."

### Dan Looker

The University community is too much of an "idyllic world" which makes students feel comfortable, according to Dan Looker, NU senior.

"I think when you come to the point of feeling too comfortable, you cease to grow as a person," he said Sunday, "That is when you have to get out and go elsewhere.

Looker is now training in the Peace Corps internship program to go to Colombia. If he is accepted by the Peace Corps, he will travel to South America in June. If he is not accepted, he will remain at the University and graduate in January.

"I WANT to get into the Peace Corps so that I can gain experience in life and do as many positive things as I can without being a know-it-all American," Looker added. "What the Continued on page 8

#### **Dick Davis**

There is a complete alienation between black students and the University of Nebraska, Dick Davis, former NU football player and a member of the Innocents Society, said Saturday.

"I feel that there is a lack of hope

and motivation for black students." he added. "You can only bang your head against the wall so many times until you realize that there are other alternatives."

"If those alternatives are formed out of a negative point of view against white society," Davis continued, "then that may be the only way."

Davis himself faces three alternatives about what he will do in the coming year after he graduates in June.

He will either sign to play pro foot. ball with the Cleveland Browns; work towards his masters degree in art education or sociology education at Penn State University; or he will remain here to work towards his masters in the same areas.

"If I get my Masters degree in sociology, I will want to work in an inner city area," he said. "I want to contribute to the lives of other people, I want to make life more significant for the people I come into contact with.

"When I talk about sociology, I mean black culture," Davis added, "Once you establish what motivates blacks and what does not motivate them, then you can give incentives to better the entire people."

Davis wants to create a better atmosphere for all black people so that they can live peaceably with dignity.

"Any way I can go about accomplishing that goal is fine with me," he said. "It doesn't make any difference what vehicle I use to achieve it.

Davis feels that there should be a new direction taken at the University to completely involve all students.

"I have been fairly well accepted in this university experience," Davis said. "But I wish that other people who don't play football or create a grade average could also be incorporated into the system. There should be a complete integration of thoughts.

Has there been any progress towards the acceptance of all students?

"There has been no progress towards breaking down prejudicial barriers here," Davis adled. "The same things that have existed in the past exist today."

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Frank McClanahan

ACCORDING TO Powell, most students at the University come here with a "Readers Digest" mentality.

"It has been pounded into them that they should be good kids and not question authority." he said. "As a result, what they should have learned in high school, they have to pick up in the first couple of years of college. Students then move on to a "Time Magazine" mentality, Powell continued. They think that they understand what is happening in the world because it is clearly explained in the magazine.

"CHOOSE"

THE

COMPANY

to do with their life at too early an age.

"When you are young and not stuck with responsibility, you should be ilberal and free. There isn't any punchcard on a creative mind. I may be wrong about what I want to do with my life, but it would be much worse for me to stop, give up hope and get in a rut." 

McCLANNAHAN, who has been in Massachussetss, came to Nebraska as a child.

"There is a certain stress on suffering in the Midwest," according to McClannahan. "It's good to have that

**Dick Davis** 



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