



Being a big sister is almost as much fun as having one, according to Nancy Brickson, a NU coed who does volunteer work with Student Action Front.

SAF has orientation

Student Action Front, an organization for students with a social conscience, is having an orientation session in the Nebraska Union, Thursday evening.

The 25 volunteers will be warned of some of the pitfalls encountered in volunteer work, pitfalls such as paternalism. They will also be given pointers on how to gain acceptance and how to face mistakes and failures.

Work which SAF volunteers may do includes big sister or big brother relationships, work with senior citizens, leading 4-H clubs or serving as a community organizer's assistant.

"We want more manpower for all of the jobs that need to be done," said Janet White, the program chairman for the group.

Most of those doing work this summer are attending classes, she said, but they still find time for SAF.

She added that anyone can apply for volunteer work at the SAF office located on the third floor of the Union.

The organization has been making plans for the fall semester.

"SAF wants to serve educational purposes as well as continue doing volunteer work," Miss White said.

Plans include bringing several speakers to campus for lectures and discussions, offering a course through the Free University and organizing on-call jobs, which will give students the opportunity of doing volunteer work as their schedules permit.

SAF also plans to send representatives to meetings of the Mayor's Human Rights Commission.

Many volunteers do work at the Malone Center, Miss White said. And one student is working with two ministers in trying to set up a youth center for young people who live in the Malone area.

SAF, which was organized last January, had about 70 volunteer workers during the spring semester.

Miss White says that this number "will be much larger when we get going in the fall."

University's first black administrator leaves to do hospital work in South

Black administrators are hard to find. The University's first black administrator, Joe Butler, assistant in Student Affairs who worked with foreign students and the tuition waiver group, is leaving at the end of July.

He has accepted a position as chaplain at an all black-staffed hospital in Nashville, Tenn. The hospital has a mobile unit which "has captured my imagination."

THE UNIT, offering both medical and social welfare aid, works in the Delta area. This summer the van is working in Mississippi. Last summer, the unit was at the Resurrection City encampment in Washington, D.C.

Butler will also be involved with community relations work for the hospital, he added.

Though he has had offers from other schools in the North as well as an offer to stay at the University, Butler says that he wants to return to the kind of work to which he committed himself as an ordained minister.

He refers to the widespread search by colleges and universities for black administrative staff members as "really a cry for help."

"Before the black revolution, we weren't needed," he said. "Wise administrators now sense that they have a problem in which they have neglected to become well-versed enough to handle."

BUTLER FEELS that there is also a need for white administrators to read the books coming out and the revised histories so that they themselves can understand the black students as they would try to understand other students with special problems.

"Most middle class whites are distressingly naive as to the true underlying causes of our present race problem."

To find black staff members, some schools are raiding predominantly black colleges in the south with offers of large salaries, he said.

This procedure "smacks of academic piracy."

"I hate to see large, rich northern schools, who a decade ago wouldn't have considered hiring these people, denuding southern black colleges of their best staff," he said. "These schools are still needed."

Butler says that the staff at the University has been genuine

"I HAVE FOUND my professional relationship with the staff very convivial," he said. "And all of the departments have been very cooperative with what I've been trying to do."

As far as the black students themselves are concerned he says, "we are in the midst of a revolution."

Black students are knowledgeable and increasingly so. At one time, black youths were reading comic books. Now they are reading Malcolm X and Grier and Cobbs, he said.

"They are fully aware of the causes of the present social malaise. And they are justifiably impatient and suspicious."

Butler's being with a white administration has "sort of made me a target of that suspicion."

"I guess that it was natural that I be seen as a 'house nigger' until sufficient rapport to dispell suspicion developed between me and black students. I prefer to feel that this distrust has been dispelled."

IN THIS SENSE, Butler feels, the next black administrators at the University will be "accepted with more readiness by black students."

Though he was not hired specifically for the purpose of counseling black students, Butler said that "a number of black students did come into his office on a walk-in basis."

He feels that he has been able to help many of these students, while a few "have felt it a duty to label

me an Uncle Tom, a label which I try to understand. "I think that black students will begin to see that the cause needs a unity of all blacks — administrators, students, faculty as well as the help of sincere, well-meaning whites."

He hopes that the cause will not "suffer a defeat because of self-imposed divisions."

As for his work with the tuition waiver group of 20 students last year Butler feels that the project "was tremendously successful."

He estimates that about three-fourths of the students are continuing their study at the University this fall.

THE PROGRAM, which has been expanded by the Regents to include 40 tuition waivers, is being headed by Walt Strong, interim black student coordinator.

Butler's advisory duties to foreign students will be taken over by Ivan Alphonse, Alphonse, who is a Panamanian, has been an associate in lay ministry at the Wesley Foundation on the NU campus this last year.

Butler feels that the effectiveness of the foreign student office is increased with a black adviser because many foreign students are non-white.

"Foreign students tend to appreciate the cosmopolitan flavor of a racially varied foreign student office," he said.

Search continues

The search for a counselor "to meet the needs of disadvantaged students," is continuing, according to Harry Canon, director of the University's Counseling Center.

Two candidates have been interviewed for the job, Canon said, adding that no decision has been made and the search is still under way.

"It's important to get someone qualified for the job."

"We want someone who can communicate effectively with young members of minority groups and who also can communicate their needs to the University's faculty and staff," he said.

Such a person should have a background in the behavioral sciences or in counseling, he continued.

A committee from the Afro-American Collegiate Society (AACS) is helping with the search as well as Walt Strong, the interim black student coordinator for the summer.

Prof recalls 'operation zodiac'

The moon voyage of Apollo 11 holds extraordinary satisfaction for a retired University of Nebraska engineering professor, J. P. Colbert.

More than 20 years ago — long before the first sputnik — Colbert drew many a chuckle from Nebraska civic and study club audiences with his talk, "Operation Zodiac: A Trip to the Moon."

"I always prefaced my talk with a statement that while this was to be a fanciful journey, the rocket techniques I would describe were entirely sound," Colbert recalls.

Most of those who heard the talk accepted it as whimsy, Colbert said. But he invariably received a few ad-

monitions that a University prof should not be wasting his time on such foolishness.

"One of the news wire services carried a story about my plan to launch a man-carrying rocket to the moon and I received letters from all across our nation and from Europe."

"I remember getting one important-looking letter from Hamburg, Germany," Colbert said. "It was written in German and I hurried to have somebody translate it for me. It turned out that my German correspondent had read the news story and had one comment for me: 'You're crazy!'"

Colbert said in his version of the space voyage, the rocket ship landed on and later blasted off the moon's surface. No extra "Eagle" module was involved.

"A technique such as I related in the talk," he said, "was actually considered seriously by space officials but was finally dropped because it would be far more expensive than the module method," he said.

Colbert followed the Apollo 11 moon launch from his summer cabin in Estes Park, Colo.

"And," he admitted, "I was thinking about 'Operation Zodiac' all the time."

Music school presents operatic 'Masked Ball'

Tickets for the University of Nebraska's summer opera, Giuseppe Verdi's "A Masked Ball," are on sale at the school of music.

Unlike past years, the opera will be solely a school of music production. Previously, operas were produced in collaboration with the department of speech and dramatic art.

"This is a typical grand opera filled with great arias and tremendous duets," according to John Zei, assistant professor of voice who is serving as producer, director and stage manager.

The three-act tragedy revolves around the unrequited love affair of Gustav III, a Swedish king, and Amelia, the wife of his prime minister.

Most of the members of last summer's "La Boeeme" have returned to make a company of about 50 working on the production, Zei said.

Richard Grace, associate professor of voice is the musical director. Costumes are being designed by Lee Ridge of Lincoln and Dean Tschetter, a graduate student, is designing the sets.

All seats will be reserved for the performances scheduled Aug. 16, 17 and 19. Reservations may be made any time during the day. Monday through Friday, at Room 113 in the Westbrook Music Building or by calling 472-2505. Ticket price is \$1.55.

The 8 p.m. performances will be in Howell Theatre at 12th and R Streets. Tickets will not be sold at the Howell box office until opening night Aug. 16.



Etsel Percy

Geographer to visit NU

The U.S. Department of State's geographer, Etsel Percy, will speak at a World Affairs Preview, 1:10 p.m. Thursday in the Nebraska Union's Centennial Room.

His topic will be "The New Oceanography."

According to Frank Sorenson, director of summer sessions, Percy is familiar with the world's oceans and their potentials. His topic, oceanography, deals with the study of the ocean to discover the oceans potential resources and future uses for these resources.

Percy will be a special guest at a representative faculty luncheon earlier in the day. Having just returned from a tour of France, he

will make that the topic of his luncheon address.

Percy has been the State Department's geographer since 1957. Before that, he was a foreign service officer for seven years. He also spent seven years as Trans World Airlines' geographer and he was an assistant professor of geography at the University of Missouri in 1943.

Born in Indiana, Percy earned his baccalaureate degree from the University of California at Los Angeles and his graduate degrees from Clark University, Worcester, Mass.

In addition to traveling on all continents, including Antarctica, Percy has lived in 11 different countries.

Earth-sun is on display

For its first public showing, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Earth-sun Relationship Exhibit went on display Saturday in the University of Nebraska Museum's Elephant Hall.

The newest NASA exhibit offers viewers "the most recent scientific information regarding the earth-sun relationship obtained from space exploration."

NASA's exhibit, here at the request of Allan Griesemer, the museum's curator of educational services, will be on display in Elephant Hall until Aug. 4.

Baldwin directs plays he wrote

When the playwright directs the play that he has written, he feels like he has a split personality.

At least, that's the way Joseph Baldwin, a professor in the department of speech and dramatic art, feels about directing the double-bill, "An Evening of Comedy," at Howell Theatre.

He wrote both of the plays — "The House Within the House Within" and "Chekhov List."

AND SOMETIMES the playwright gets the best of the director. For example, during rehearsal Baldwin found a few lines that he wanted to rewrite.

At other times, the director wonders what the playwright had in mind. And then Baldwin remembers that he is the one responsible for whatever the playwright wrote.

A few years ago, Baldwin was at the University of Mississippi directing another play that he had written.

Two weeks before opening night, the playwright in him decided that the last act was too long. But, as director of the play, he decided not to change it because the actors already knew their lines.

BALDWIN is enjoying the "Chekhov List" production. "Chekhov is a favorite playwright.

And I am having fun spoofing him a bit," he said.

The Russian, one of the most admired of the early modern playwrights, wrote "beautiful, poetic plays about the decay of the aristocracy" at the turn of the century.

Though his characters are bored, pathetic people usually living on country estates, Baldwin says that "at heart, Chekhov's plays are comedies, so I figured he wouldn't mind having a little fun made."

Baldwin describes his other play, "The House Within the House Within," as "something of a tragic-comedy for lack of a better word."

HIS INSPIRATION for the play came from a fascination with the mirrors in a barber shop where "you can see yourself in six or eight different mirrors all at the same time."

"You think that you are in the right place. But there always seems to be another place or room just beyond where you are sitting."

"House Within" was staged by the theatre group at the University of Alabama last summer.

Baldwin always tries to go see his plays wherever they are produced. The Alabama production "was a bang-up job," he said, adding that he has tried to do the play a little differently.

Like music which isn't considered music until it is performed, Baldwin doesn't consider a play to be a play until it is produced on stage.

THAT'S WHY the playwright in him is always happy whenever one of his plays is produced.

In fact, he calls the bulletin board in his office "my Happiness Board" because it displays programs and posters, the tangible mementos from actual performances of his plays.

Though Baldwin has not had any commercial successes, some of his plays are produced by college and university theatre groups.

"I've never had a play on Broadway," he said, "but one of my plays was produced on Staten Island, which is six miles off Broadway."

Baldwin describes the art of playwrighting as "always an adventure."

Right now, he is between plays. But as soon as the repertory season on the Howell stage is finished, Baldwin said that he will probably feel like beginning another play.

"I HAVE STACKS of ideas, which I look at once in a while. Whenever one of them starts looking good to me, then I start writing." He does much of his writing in his

office on the second floor of the Temple Building.

"Quite often, the campus police find me here on Sundays," he said. "I suppose they wonder what I'm doing here."

When Baldwin writes, he uses pen and paper.

"I have to," he says. "When I use the typewriter, I become wordy and write too much. The speeches don't speak well, then."

When he was a graduate student, Baldwin said that he would write two long plays during the year while other members of his class would spend two years polishing one play.

BALDWIN ALSO writes poetry. "I send it off, but it never gets published," he said.

Disappointed as an unpublished poet, Baldwin has another way of getting his verse published — by inserting it into his plays. Two of his plays have been written entirely in free verse.

Baldwin described himself as a "journalism student who got hooked on the theatre." He added that perhaps the discipline of counting out headlines was good for him.



Professor Joseph Baldwin is between plays now. But soon he will start writing another one.