

True life drama at NU vies with theater of the absurd

True life drama No. 10-4. The Stolen Car Incident.

Saturday, 1 p.m.:
 "Campus police, May I help you?"
 "Yeah, my car's been stolen out of the Cather-Pound parking lot."
 "Uh huh, when did you discover this?"
 "Just now. I was going down to the game and I happened to notice that my car wasn't there."
 "Uh huh. Make and model please."
 "'67 Olds, blue and white. My name's Cutberth, David Cutberth."
 "Uh huh. Well, Cutberth, we'll contact the Lincoln City Police and I'm sure they'll contact the State Patrol and they'll get right on it. You just go on to the game and rest assured that the police will find your auto as quickly as possible."
 "Yeah... O.K." CLICK.

Monday, 8:30 p.m.
 "Hello?"
 "Is this a David Cutberth, owner of a 1967 blue and white Oldsmobile?" "Yeah, I used to be. Did you find my car?"
 "Is this Cutberth?"
 "Yes, yes, did you find my car?"
 "Uh, Cutberth, this is the Campus police. The City Police just notified us that they have found your stolen auto."
 "Yes, yes, where is it?"
 "They said they found it at Avenue A and 49th Street. I suppose you could go on down and pick it up if you'd like."
 "Right." CLICK

Avenue A and 49th, 9 p.m.
 "What do you want?"
 "Officer, that's my car."
 "Uh huh, who's with you?"
 "Him? He's a friend, drove me down here. I didn't have a car. You see..."

"Uh huh, got any proof that that's your automobile?"
 "Well, I'm sure if you'd look at the registration slip. It's right here in the glove..."
 "DON'T TOUCH THAT CAR!"
 "What?"
 "I said don't touch that automobile. It's a stolen auto and hasn't been fingerprinted yet."
 "Oh. Well, when are they going to fingerprint it?"
 "Who?"
 "The fingerprinters. When are they going to do it?"
 "I don't know. May have something to do with the University police. But then again, the department may send some print boys down."
 "When will that be?"
 "I'm not sure. Tell you what, you boys can stay here and wait until they're done with the car. I'll go on back to the station."
 "O.K."

Same evening, 9:30 p.m.
 "I bet they took all my stereo tapes out of the car too."
 "Why don't you look?"
 "Maybe I should. I wish the cops would get here."
 "Why don't we call them?"
 "Campus police. May I help you?"
 "Yeah, I'm out here at Avenue A and 49th. I was wondering about whether you are sending anyone out to fingerprint my car?"
 "What?"
 "My car, it was stolen and..."
 "Stolen car? Is this a report?"
 "No, no, no, I found my car, but..."
 "Oh, you found a stolen car."
 "No, you don't understand. The City police found my car and they said I could have it as

soon as it was fingerprinted."
 "Uh huh. Where'd you say you were at?"
 "Avenue A and 49th."
 "Oh, well I afraid that's out of our jurisdiction. That's not on university property. You'll have to contact the City police about that." CLICK
 "City police. May I help you?"
 "This is David Cutberth at 49th and Avenue A. Are you sending anyone out here to fingerprint my car? It was stolen and recovered."
 "We'll have someone right out."
Same evening, 10 p.m.
 "Here comes somebody."
 "Hello, boys."
 "Aren't you the same officer that was out here earlier?"
 "Yes, I am. They sent me back out here. Print boys haven't shown yet, huh?"
 "No. Say, we were wondering if I could check in the car, see if my stereo tapes were stolen. I had about 110 bucks worth."
 "Well, you'd better let me do that. Don't want to disturb anything."
 "O.K."
 "Let's see, where'd you say they'd be?"
 "In the glove box. Don't you think you should take your hand off the steering wheel?"
 "Oh, yeah. Uh huh, there's no tapes here, boys. Wait a minute, there's a couple on the floor. These yours?"
 "Yeah. Do you think you should have touched them?"
 "Uh... I think there's something coming over on my radio. Excuse me."
 "Great. What time is it?"
 "I don't know. Pretty late."
 "Boys, you might as well go ahead and take your car. You said it was stolen from a University parking lot?"

"Well, I've just been notified that we can't handle it then. That's out of our jurisdiction. You'll have to refer it to campus police."
 "But the Campus..."
 "I'm sure they'll help you. Good night."
 "Now what?"
 "I guess I'll drive it home. Thanks for bringing me down."
Same evening, 10:45 p.m.
 "Something wrong, officer?"
 "Get out of the car."
 "What?"
 "Don't give me any backtalk, just get out of the car. Hands above your head, that's it. Frisk him, Harvey."
 "Right... nothing on him."
 "I don't quite understand, officer."
 "You mean you don't understand that this is a stolen vehicle huh?"
 "Yeah, I do. I mean, no, I mean, sure it was stolen. But it's mine. I just went and got it. I'm driving it home right now."
 "That's what they all say. Step over into the headlights, that's it. Check his ID, Harvey."
 "Right... yeah, it matches the registration."
 "Uh huh. Make sure he doesn't go anywhere. I'll go radio in."
 "Right."
Same evening 10:55 p.m.
 "Let him go, Harvey."
 "Does he check out?"
 "Yup, HQ just notified that one stolen '67 Olds has been recovered. Hope you don't misunderstand son, we're just doing our duty. I mean, when there's a stolen car report, we gotta check 'em out, don't ya see? You can go on your way now, O.K.?"
 "Yeah."
 "All right. Drive safely, 10-4."

Nebraskan editorial page

Give to football what is football's

Once again, with a little help from our friends the Corncocks and Tassels, the University of Nebraska is out to prove to the world of name entertainment that our campus is Cowntown, USA.

Not only that, but they're painting the picture with the brush of the true master, by trotting out the biggest piece of midwestern campus schlock still going—the crowning of the homecoming queen during the Peter, Paul and Mary concert Friday night.

One can only imagine what will be in the minds of the cosmopolitan trio. It may well, however, echo Bob Dylan's sentiments when a small crowd gave him weak applause almost five years ago. He responded with the classical high sign of youthful distaste.

Or they may just go back telling others the same thing the Byrds probably did this fall after the Pershing sound system was inadequate to handle the hard rock of the Underground Sunshine.

Just no place for a real entertainer to try to really entertain, folks.

The students will stand for it, because we're used to the rah-rah and starved for good entertainment. We'll also have yet another answer to the endless question—why good entertainers seem to avoid Lincoln like the plague.

Meanwhile, how about a few Budweiser ads to liven up the Hallmark Hall of Fame?

Holly Rosenberger

Open forum

Dear Editor:

About a month ago while driving in the vicinity of 16th and 'S' streets, I was stopped by the friendly fuzz. It seems as though I didn't "yield to a pedestrian in a cross-walk." Since I am not from Lincoln, I was not even aware that I had committed the dastardly deed until informed by the officer who promptly issued me a citation.

Since it was my first traffic ticket in five years, I was naturally somewhat irked. But, what was even more annoying is the fact that I have observed the police parked in front of W.R.H. time after time, too naive to understand what was churning in their devious minds each time that they sprang into the street to pursue another offender. Now I know and my experience has given me something to think about.

There is a point to be made from this, as many people who cross Sixteenth street in front of W.R.H. are well aware: this is a dangerous crossing — just ask the blind girl who was "trapped" out there a couple weeks ago. The uneven, but nearly continuous flow of students across the street at this point causes the movement of traffic to become impeded.

Because of this, especially rush hours, many motorists become impatient and "wade" through the intersection, breaking the law and endangering lives. Sometimes a student will attempt to "assert" himself and suddenly bound into the

street catching a driver off-guard, causing him to slam on his brakes. Thus, the possibility of a rear-end collision as well as injury arises. Since the flow of traffic through this part of the street is usually heavy anyway, the driver's vision is often impeded by other vehicles. Therefore, a student attempting to cross the street may not be seen until the last moment or seen at all, resulting in a near-miss.

According to the officer who issued me the traffic ticket, already there have been a number of cases of bruises and broken bones. This is a good indication that the situation at this cross-walk is no joking matter and that something should be done about it.

Since police are often right there at their post, would it not be more sensible for them to leave their car and do some good-old-fashioned traffic directing? Or is a human life worth the effort? Or if the City of Lincoln feels a little more generous, perhaps a crossing light could be installed.

Many people are eager to prevent the "senseless" killing of Americans and the horrendous destruction occurring in Vietnam. More than 50,000 Americans senselessly die right here at home on our own streets and highways in traffic accidents every year and getting crossing lights erected at Sixteenth and 'S' streets would be one step toward ending this senseless death and destruction right here in America.

Bruce Birge



Heroes in the seaweed

by Jim Evinger

Among some political scientists, Hubert Humphrey earned accolades and academicians' halos for "rising above politics" and coming to the aid of the embattled Republican president by siding with Richard Nixon against the October Moratorium.

Although the deed earned Humphrey some sought-after publicity, it also placed him in a school of thought that thinks the presidential office is under a new and unprecedented danger.

There are those that argue that new and irregular political forces in the United States succeeded in "breaking" Lyndon Johnson, and who, charged with rising expectations after the October Moratorium, are set to "break" Richard Nixon.

Indeed, many Moratorium backers here last month steered clear of the issue of supporting the President, purposely avoiding the garbled rhetoric intrinsic in such arguments. However, many people locally who refused to participate voiced the opinion that the Moratorium was actually an attack on the Administration and its Vietnam policy. They refused to separate the stated purpose of the demonstrations from the symbolic and de jure leader of the nation.

Those who view the upcoming demonstrations as an attack on the Presidency itself subscribe to an argument with an obvious flaw: Lyndon Johnson was not broken by new and irregular political forces, nor was his vilification anything that hadn't been done before in American history.

Subjecting an American president to savage, even wholly unfair and unwarranted attack is "as American as apple pie," one national columnist wrote last month.

In this century, Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman were subjected to severe criticism and attacks; yet the institution of the Presidency has survived and grown ever

more powerful among the three branches of government in our federal system.

Johnson's high-handed style and apparent politicking rendered him little backing his last three years in office, whether deserved or not. He himself recognized that he had little chance of being re-elected, and he largely brought it upon himself.

His further commitment of this nation to an undeclared war brought home a political reality — Americans will fully support a war, being the great silent majority they are, if they can be convinced that a war is necessary and justified.

Nixon is now under fire for his domestic policies, or lack of, and his efforts to end the war, or lack of. If he could end the war and curb inflation, he would probably be re-elected. If not, he'll be another grey, one-term President who passed on to his successor those issues he couldn't resolve.

The effectiveness of any man in the Presidency can be destroyed by his failure to resolve, or appear to resolve, the problems of the times. Time quickly brings the "old and regular" political forces that work in our society to confront the men in office who fail.

In perspective, the institution of the Presidency will outlast Richard Nixon — all men are expendable and replaceable in the contemporary American political system. Perhaps this is most clearly symbolized by the sacrosanctity we grant the Supreme Court.

Those who worry about an attack on the institution of the Presidency had perhaps been cautious of another front that might emerge as significant in the American political system — comprised of truly new and irregular political forces. The focus of those new forces, presently possessing more potential than viability, will be to change institutions whose policy-makers will not be moved. What will characterize such forces is the willingness to resort to violence — the severe distinction between revolution and rebellion.

Vietnam speech 'tactical failure'

by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

Washington — At a private huddle with Congressional Republican leaders in the White House shortly before his Monday night speech on Vietnam, President Nixon was strongly urged to "give the doves something" — preferably announcing a timetable of troop withdrawals.

Mr. Nixon rejected that advice because he consciously wanted to split off what he regards as a small minority of anti-war activists from his "great silent majority" of Americans. He was striving for a polarization of opinion isolating the dissenters and thereby dooming the extremist-led Nov. 15 March on Washington.

That this attempt would fail was clearly signalled by the fact that one of his own Congressional leaders specifically asked the President to lay out a withdrawal timetable.

Thus, instead of isolating the far-out doves, the President has unwittingly wedded to them a great mass of Americans tired of war — and thereby energized the Nov. 15 demonstration. What makes this ironic is Mr. Nixon's actual — but unannounced — plans for accelerated troop withdrawals.

The President's failure to achieve his purpose is evident in the immediate public reaction of Republican doves such as Sens. Jacob K. Javits of New York and Charles E. Percy of Illinois. They made clear they are not about to be silent but instead will reiterate their old positions favoring much faster troop withdrawals.

Moreover, private criticism among Republican politicians is far more critical.

"With a three-week buildup," an Eastern Republican Senator told us, "Mr. Nixon's effort had only one immediate effect — antagonize the students and guarantee a quarter of a million turnout in Washington Nov. 15."

Furthermore, the President's release of his private exchange of letters with Ho Chi Minh did not have the desired effect of depicting Mr. Nixon as a peace-seeker and Ho as an intransigent.

What Ho Chi Minh said in his Aug. 25 letter — simply a reiteration of Hanoi's demand for unilateral U.S. withdrawal — was less interesting than the fact the Nixon letter of July 15 had been answered at all and answered without Hanoi's trying to get a propaganda boost out of the exchange. During all the Johnson war years, the White House never once got a confidential note from Ho Chi Minh.

If the central purpose of Mr. Nixon's speech had been to impress Hanoi with U.S. inflexibility, the President's hard line would have had more meaning. But the speech was definitely not projected that way. It was an appeal to Americans, not a warning to Hanoi. Its political value to Mr. Nixon directly depends on his reading of the silent majority.

Thus, a powerful pro-Nixon reaction sweeping across the country would both justify the President's appraisal of the American mood and notify Hanoi that the Nixon administration had plenty of time to wait out a final negotiated settlement or a final Vietnamization of all combat chores.

What happens now may be quite the opposite. Leaders of the November anti-war demonstrations — dominated by far left sympathizers with Hanoi — are already promising a more massive show than the Oct. 15 moratorium last month. They will be backed by anti-war Democrats, who are now saying publicly what they have been feeling privately for months — "Johnson's war" has become "Nixon's war."

An announcement of a third withdrawal of troops, larger than the first two, is an excellent possibility before Christmas. If it happens, it could radically reduce the anger and disappointment of the doves in reacting to Monday night's speech. But until then, the President faces a political situation certainly no better, and probably a good deal worse, than before he went on television. Consequently, his performance must be rated a tactical failure.

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