

Farewell to glory

General de Gaulle has been buried. The bells have tolled. The eulogies have been paid.

"HE WAS A GREAT HERO," they said. And this is true.

"He was a glorious leader," they said. And this is true.

"We shall not see his like again," they said. And I can only hope, forgive me, General, that this, too, is true.

I have thought often of the General these past days. He was, I think the epitome of the great national leader, fit to hold his own with any from the pages of history.

HE WAS TRUE TO HIS IDEALS. And his ideals were those of any great national leader — the glory of his flag, the grandeur of his country, the greatness of his people.

Glory, grandeur and greatness, this was the spur. How much we commoners have admired these things in our leaders this past ten thousand years.

How we thrilled as children to read in our history books of Alexander the Great sweeping across the known world; of Joan of Arc rousing France; of Nelson routing the enemy at Trafalgar; Washington crossing the Delaware.

Think of the heroes our history books gave us: Hannibal, Caesar, Charlemagne, Napoleon and even Genghis Khan and Tamerlane.

HERE WAS GLORY! Here was greatness! Here were the values in which you and I and the General were steeped from the days we first learned to read. Would that you and I had the courage, the ability, the luck to be as great as he.

And yet where in our history books was the blood? Where was the agony? Where was the pain?

We thrill with Henry V at Agincourt. But where is the French knight tearing at the arrow in his throat? We thrill with Lawrence in Arabia. But where is the Bedouin clutching the sand with a bullet in his gut? We thrill with the "so few" of the R.A.F. But where is the German boy beating away at his flaming flesh?

Our history books inoculate us with the values of glory, grandeur and greatness—and tell us little of the suffering the pursuit of these values cause. To this extent, I think, our values are false.

BUT WE NEEDED THE GENERAL. Because Hitler wanted to be a great national leader, we needed great national leaders like de Gaulle and Roosevelt and Stalin to oppose him.

The world has recovered from the suffering of World War II—just as it recovered each time this ten thousand years from the blood and agony and pain that these false values caused.

BUT NOW WE HAVE THE HYDROGEN BOMB.

Now the end of the human race is no further away than the flick of a switch. Now we can no longer afford false values. Now we can no longer afford glory and grandeur and greatness. Now we can no longer afford great national leaders.

The part of me that still clings to the old false values I am trying to shed, admired the General highly. He was glorious, he was grand, he was great. May he rest in peace.

AND MAY WE.

—Arthur Hoppe

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Letters

PACE predictions

Editor:

Allow me to present a scenario of events surrounding the PACE proposal.

First of all, we must check the rear-view mirror and note that most of the students here (as I am) are the sons of Nebraskans. Hard-nosed, hard-working folk who don't ask for anything and won't give anything away. Politically they are inclined to vote for the man who promises the least. J. J. Exon is a most suitable example. Institutions fare no better. Chancellor Varner will very soon find out that given a choice between a great University and lower taxes, Nebraskans will settle for a mediocre University and no tax increase.

Woodstock aside, there is still truth in the dictum: "Like father, like son. Like mother, like daughter." With all this well in mind allow me to present a description of probable coming events.

1) PACE will secure many more signatures than STOPACE. This is due not only to worthiness of the cause, but also to better organization and the fact that signing is FREE.

2) ASUN will continue to be attacked not so much for supporting a good cause but for

actually spending MONEY trying to implement it.

3) Several counter-proposals, anti-counter-proposals and compromise mediation proposals will have a net effect of weakening PACE.

4) Thousands of students will say, "It's not the MONEY, it's the principle of the thing."

5) Not one student will propose a \$5 or \$10 increase of student fees to help other students. The drift is in another direction.

6) A special student referendum (costing \$7,000) will be held to make it all democratic. One might expect the following ballot:

Vote for one:
—A \$3.50 increase of student fees to provide low income scholarships.

—A voluntary 27 cents increase to provide a secretary who will allot existing funds.

—A decrease of student fees to \$1 per semester with the elimination of ASUN.

Six people will vote in the referendum resulting in a tie between proposals two and three.

7) During registration next fall students will be allowed to check a box expressing their opinion on whether or not Union coffee is fit to drink.

8) Chancellor Varner will be hospitalized from wounds inflicted by a lobotomized legislature.

9) A \$15 billion field house will be built to cover the entire State Fairgrounds.

10) Students will pay \$95 per semester for a parking sticker assuring them of a space in Cherry County.

In other words, the University will not change directions. Things will roll along about as they are now.

After all, why educate kids in the first place? They just leave.

Dan Schafer
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No 'racial bigotry'

Dear editor:

For the record: I did not accuse the Student Senate of "racial bigotry" as reported on November 16 by columnists Egger and Recker. The PACE Program, they might note, is geared to low-income students, and thus racism is not even at issue.

With Egger and Recker, I encourage debate on the program itself and on the responsibility of a state university to provide equal educational opportunity for all persons. Unlike these two "impartial" columnists I shall not resort to incorrect reporting and innuendo to color the questions at hand.

Nancy Ryan