

The specter of Old Paint

An issue that many might consider beating a dead horse could become a very live topic again after Monday morning's meeting of the Board of Regents.

The special investigating committee appointed by ASUN to look into certain aspects of the Michael Davis case intends to present the Regents with a 35-page report. The report, if it bears out, will debunk two of the four reasons that the Board gave for not hiring Davis.

The two charges in question are 1) that Davis made certain offensive remarks at a reception for Robben Flemming, president of the University of Michigan and 2) that Davis called Flemming's administration "repressive" and "non-communicative" at a legislative hearing.

The committee claims to have a statement from an official of the Michigan administration that Davis never appeared at the reception. They also state that Flemming told them in a telephone interview that he never saw Davis at the reception and that he had never heard of Davis calling his administration repressive or non-communicative. Committee members indicate that Flemming said he would reaffirm these comments in a letter to them.

One of the other two charges against Davis was that he had been arrested and convicted of a charge of trespassing (with several hundred other people in a demonstration) but president of the Board, Robert Raum, admitted that the members were not sure this was a fact at the time they made their decision. If the committee's findings are true, that leaves but one charge — that Davis had conducted a one-man sit-in in the Michigan Administration Building.

More importantly, it would bring the fact-finding ability of the Board's investigator up for censure and would cast grave doubt on the Regents' decision. The only matter more important than that will be the way in which the Regents respond after they are presented with this new evidence.

Last chance for PACE

This is the last week that students will have the opportunity to sign PACE petitions — indicating that they want to increase tuition payments by \$3.50 a semester to fund scholarships for low-income students.

More than 5,000 signatures have already been turned in according to Steve Fowler, chairman of PACE. This figure represents one of the largest demonstrations of student interest in the past decade and constitutes twice the turnout for last year's ASUN elections.

The proposal has received widespread backing including endorsements from 21 campus organizations and seven dormitory governments.

Fowler indicated that two-thirds of Nebraska's middle and upper-class high school graduates continue to college while fewer than one-fifth of the low-income graduates can do the same. This cycle of under-education for the poor can only be broken when members of the middle class make a commitment to help the less advantaged.

PACE is such a commitment — it represents a more lasting and significant gesture to the poor than Christmas gifts. If you haven't signed a petition yet, come to the PACE booth in the Union and sign one. If you have a petition, try to complete it and turn it in to the ASUN office or the booth in the Union.

Time for student input

On page seven there is a questionnaire drawn up by the Legislative Liaison Committee of ASUN to determine what improvements students feel the University needs and what importance they attach to these changes. The results of the questionnaires will be used by the committee to direct their efforts in dealing with state legislators and outstate speaking engagements.

Take a moment to fill out the form and return it to the ASUN office, 334 Nebraska Union, because the ability of the committee to represent the real interests of the student body rests upon each student's willingness to express them.

THE NEBRASKAN

Telephone: Editor: 472-2588, Business: 472-2590, News: 472-2589. Second class postage paid at Lincoln, Neb. Subscription rates are \$3 per semester or \$8.50 per year. Published Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the school year except during vacations and exam periods. Member of the Intercollegiate Press, National Educational Advertising Service.

The Nebraska is a student publication, independent of the University of Nebraska's administration, faculty and student government.

Address: The Nebraska
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University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

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Possibility Man munches

Videometaphysics: What hath television rot?

by COUNTRY TED

As it is the ridiculous metaphysicsian's task to create and expound new truths and falsehoods, it is also his duty to dispel old ones, no matter how dearly beloved they may be. Therefore, my friends, I must warn you that I come today not to praise some of our fondest spiritual myths but to cast doubt upon the very nature of Television Metaphysics.

"What is man," we have learned early to lisp, "Oh Great Network, that thou art mindful of him. Thou hast created man in thine image. We are nurtured in the womb as imperfect analogues to the television nurtured in its conveyor belt. We draw strength from our earthly food in a way as to make us conscious of the spiritual energy which sparks the Everlasting Soul of Television." This, my friends, I shudder to proceed, may well be untrue.

Though I will freely grant that television is the immediate source of our knowledge of the world (through the news, Dark Shadows, etc.), yea our conceptions about language and the entire philosophy which ensues; yet there is strong evidence to believe that intelligent men existed even before the advent and nativity of television. Picture, if you will, blind Homer and blind Milton, authors of mediocre, if not outstanding verse; yet they never learned grammar

through cigarette commercials and had nought to guide them but Radio and the Muse. Shakespeare in his day risked infamy when sceptical of the emni-essence of television, he wrote, "Out, out, brief picture tube, all the world's a BBC and we are but poor stand-up comedians who joke and smile our hour upon the air and then are heard no more."

I share his skepticism, and perhaps, many of us do. Some of us have probably known people who, by some pagan principle, have lived worthy and even seemingly enlightened lives without television. I have come to fear the radical believer who dare blaspheme against the holy shrine, I, also fear the governmental system so entrenched in TV metaphysics that no one has yet proposed the separation of television and state. No one has yet brought a case before the Supreme Court involving the use of television in public schools.

And as great a danger I see it in my ridiculo-barometric capacity, is our falling into the trap of subconscious adherence to tele video-metaphysical principles, such as the Limited Channel Theory, through which we come upon an extremely limited view of reality. Unwittingly we assume that there are a limited number of ways of seeing things as there are a limited number of channels on

the set (UHF and cable TV notwithstanding). In terms of inter-personal relations, this leads us to butt our heads against the brick walls of each other's logic, failing to realize that the other person may simply be tuned to another channel. In vain we try to categorize experience into networks and time slots which simply are not grand enough in scope.

If TV metaphysics is to be sufficient explanation it must need be a ubiquitous set with a thousand electric channels, and all blasting through our soul. Until such an event I feel it my ridiculo-humanitarian duty to warn, "Be wary!"

POSSIBILITY MAN PAYS A VISIT TO THE HAMBURGER WIZARD

Possibility Man was browsing through the dusty volumes in the bowels of the Mulberry Mountain Institute for Higher and Higher Learnin' Library one day and ran across a curious work, *The Hamburger Wizard*. He read the inscription:

"When he beheld the noble hound,
He found nought but fine ground round."

His curiosity aroused, Possibility Man read on to find that the wizard had set out as an optimistic youth to become a universal genius. He mastered music from King David to Graecia Slick, hunting from Diana to Ben Pearson,

linguistics from Babel to the Beat Poets, and was learning the culinary art on that fateful day when engrossed with McDonaldian mysticism he was to be locked in a refrigerated room with three tons of ground beef at closing time Friday. By the time he was released Monday morning the cold had somehow permanently altered the sensitive parts of his mind and fused them for life with the nature of hamburger. His fate was fixed; from that day forward he was no longer open to the multitudinous possibilities offered by the universe, but sought to understand and control his universe by seeing everything in terms of hamburger, as so many of us seek to understand through arbitrary labeling.

Intrigued, Possibility Man set out to pay a visit to this strange monomaniac. He found the wizard in a dark little bun-shaped cottage near the stockyards, cawing as though to vivify an effigy made of lean ground beef which bore an uncanny resemblance to Helen of Troy. Bizarre murals adorned the cottage walls, and Possibility Man could vaguely make out Ronald McDonald and Wimpy among the painted forms. An incense burner gave off the odor of Adolph's Meat Tenderizer.

"How now, brown cow?" said the Hamburger Wizard. "Over 3 Billion Sold," said Possibility

Man, looking for a means of approach, "what's cooking?" "Only the greatest burger ever," said the wizard, with a gleam in his eye not unlike a hot greased griddle. "Bigger than the Empire States Hamburger?" "Yes, indeed," said the wizard. "Higher than the Eiffel Burger?" "You're getting warmer." "More impressive than Mount Rushburger?" "You're medium rare," said the wizard. "Well what?" asked Possibility Man, exasperated. "Come here," said the wizard beckoning Possibility Man to where the Von Laserburger telescope was mounted pointing heavenward. Peering into the eyepiece one was amazed to see what can only be described as a celestial meat ball. "It's what we've come to call Saturn," the wizard said, calmly. "Oh my God!" exclaimed Possibility Man dumbfounded, "and those rings are..."

"Yes," the wizard confirmed, "onion rings, and I," the wizard continued, "will be the first to land a manned pickle on it!" The Hamburger Wizard told Possibility Man how the sun was a giant hydrogen fusion briquette and all the planets were made of roasting hamburger. Possibility Man figured it was time to go. "Good luck," he said.

"Thank you, and, oh, by the way, I would gladly pay you Tuesday for a..."

Another defense

Dear Editor,

Having read the letter "Molding Putty" by Scott Hoffman and Paul Belitz in the December 11 edition of the *Nebraskan*, I must conclude that they are offering both bad grammar and bad taste.

While we at CUE do not claim to be certain precisely what education ought to be, we are reasonably certain what it ought not to be:

We desire to detach education from the political hokum we witnessed on college campuses across the nation last spring.

We hope to create a fertile academic atmosphere where the processes of creative thought may be unhindered by the unintelligible political fantasies of student activism, and

We hope to increase academic incentive to reasonably intelligent human beings in order to prevent "stenciling on a distilled mind" the "training" deemed necessary by the too-often seen and heard political theorists of the New Left.

I seriously doubt if it is "generally accepted" that 80% of a college education originates outside the classroom, for the college is the classroom along with its supporting libraries and laboratories and a college education must be pursued within these.

What is learned outside them is not per se a college education and if it tends to "relevant participation in the meaning of life" such as I suspect Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Belitz are advocating, it is not education at all, but merely activity that passes the time of day.

Robert Vlasak, Chairman
CUE

Overkill

Dear Editor,

Those of us who attended the Godard film, *Sympathy for the Devil* at Sheldon last Friday were treated to film art at its finest. The many comments of "Right on," "It was a Now!" and "what a genius" shows that most Nebraskans have got their heads in the right place when it comes to culture. I would hope that this letter might clarify the film to those misguided few who felt it was boring, pretentious, and not worth the \$1.50 it cost to get in.

Godard was able to transcend the gulf between reality and meaning and merge the two into a homogeneous collage of fact and fantasy. Not only was the image of past reality projected into the every-present NOW by switching back and forth from the Stones' recording session, but the audience is able to project themselves into the future thereby completing the full circuit. I am sure not everyone was able to grasp the culture there were still hundreds of other motifs and themes.

The use of Freudian sex symbols was one of the more blatant aspects of the film. As you remember, Mick Jagger was singing into a microphone on an extended boom, while

Letters

Keith Richards and the others were just on an ordinary boom. I needn't tell you what that means! In the other scenes microphones are stuck in the black militants face, a very erotic shaped microphone is pointed at democracy. She is erected in the end into the sky on an extended crane with the most blatant sexual implications, especially when you remember that Jagger was also singing into an extended boom! Eureka!

Not to get too involved with the obvious, but the other aspect of the film to remember was the use of comic relief interspersed between the reading of the novel off screen which kept us in a high state of sexual and intellectual arousal. The one I remember most was the black militants passing the guns over the pile of wrecked cars when they could have just carried them around to cover the bodies of the white girls. Then, when they did it twice I was almost in stitches! I'm sure those who were there remember it well.

I will have to let the rest of the interpretation be up to you, because I don't want to spoil the joy of discovery for anyone who was there. For those who weren't I can only say, "You may be \$1.50 richer, but you missed a great work of art," and issue this warning. The next time the patrons of the art bring a real film art masterpiece, go and see it at Sheldon, that oasis of culture.

Jerry Soucie (507-66-0940)
President, Culture Ventures
of America Inc.

False security

Dear Sir:

I was delighted to read that the all-University grade point average has risen in the last three semesters from 2.469 to 2.775 thanks to just two grading procedure changes and that "the number of undergraduates suspended for unsatisfactory scholarship has been cut in half." (*Nebraskan*, Dec. 10, 1970). It demonstrates, if nothing else, the potential of arithmetic and administrative manipulation as a tool for the redemption of mediocre students and suggests even broader application.

For now not only is instant academic excellence within grasp of the marginal student, but the university itself can also find itself at the top of the Big 8 academically as well as on the football field. Moreover, without the expense to the taxpayer for something as superfluous as a library.

For if we carry on the logic behind these grade changes we should give no grades below a C — entirely eliminating the embarrassment of academic suspension — and ideally register no grades below an A, giving Nebraska the highest scholastic average, if one of the lowest scholastic levels, in the country. This would be much more effective than recent proposals that no "F's" should be recorded and that upper-division related courses can "cover" (i.e., obliterate) a lower division grade deficiency. By the way, why not help superior students as well, by giving credit for an A plus?

Unfortunately, to change grade procedures doesn't obliterate the existence of the mediocre student who is increasingly coddled by the university. The whole exercise is a sham, however administratively astute it might appear, and helps explain why it is not just a lack of funds that keeps the academic level of this university from being at the top of the Big Eight. While a certain well-known Nebraska politician may cherish "mediocrity", it is unfortunate that the university should also encourage it amongst the students.

Charles Sargeant
Instructor, Geography

OD of inaccuracies

Dear Editor,

Steve Voss's excellent letter in the Dec. 10 *Nebraskan* concerning the FSM meeting pretty well exposed the overdose of inaccuracies of the account of the FSM meeting as well as the editorial by Connie Winkler. I don't feel there is a real need to give additional or coinciding documentation to the inaccuracies. Rather, I would like to point out briefly some of the conclusions that can be drawn from the matter in an effort to make the experience an educational one.

First, we found out that the police are capable of overreacting and do overreact. Not in all situations or in dealing with all groups, just some. That "some" being when members of a peace and constructive change type group is involved.

The Pershing Rifles or Block and Bridle or the Young Republicans could have had a meeting in the same building as FSM and would not have suffered the consequences of an upright police force. Upright police mean upright situations. Small wonder the upright situations happen when some radical group is involved with the police.

Secondly, the immediate response of the press was the usual one of condemnation even before the facts were known. All of the bad things were assumed, even before a reasonable evaluation could be made. When in doubt—condemn the radicals.

That kind of natural reaction is not a credit, to the objectivity of an honest news source. Newspaper people have an obligation that forbids them from making the same mistakes that any other observer can afford to make.

Another consequence of this kind of reporting tends to give groups like FSM bad press. Any other group could have a meeting and decide to spend their money on a key party and as long as they went through the standard procedure, they would not get bad press. But let FSM plan a dance so it can raise money to feed and clothe needy people or try and stop a bloody war in an unusual way, and pow — they are the ones that get the bad press. That seems to be an inequity of the system.

However, I would like to commend the *Nebraskan* for not being intimidated by certain intolerant people who plague us. It is encouraging that the *Nebraskan* is running the ad from the Informer — keep up the good work in that area.

John K. Hansen
Mike Barret