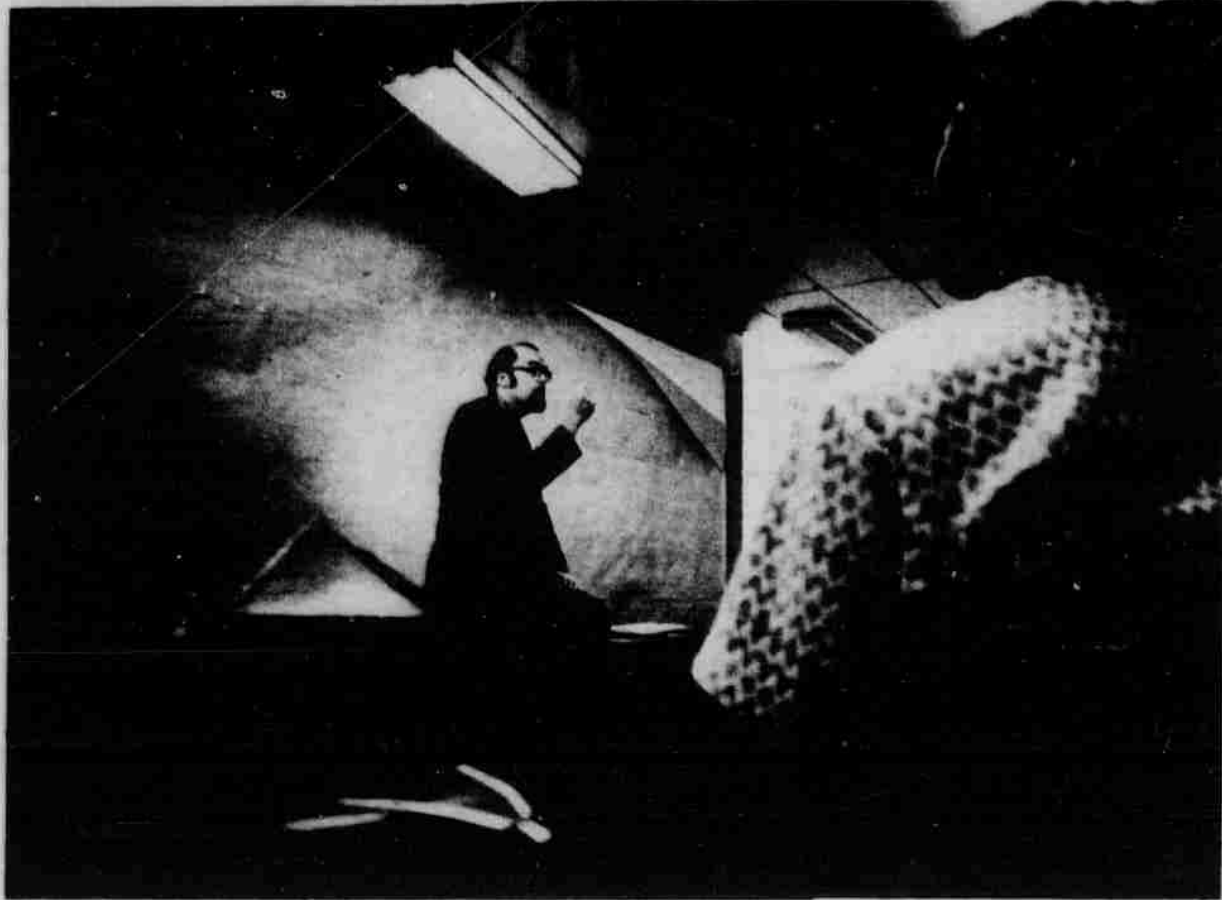


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Boohar:

'You are playing God'

by BART BECKER
Staff Writer

Because of the ecological crisis in the world today, every choice is a life-or-death decision for someone, according to a University teacher.

Richard K. Boohar, assistant professor of zoology and physiology told an Earth Day audience, "You are, in fact, playing God. You cannot avoid it, you cannot evade it."

Although he dealt primarily with the problems of overpopulation in the world, Boohar used simple examples to bring out the seriousness of the problem.

He noted that organ transplants and braces on children's teeth are examples of playing God. Because defective organs and the structure of the teeth are hereditary they will be passed on to offspring, forcing the offspring to seek corrective devices for the problem.

Someone, Boohar said, must make a decision whether to transplant the organ to the person who needs the transplant. That person is playing God because there may be other people who need the same transplant but for whom a donor is not available.

The same process holds true for the larger problems created by overpopulation in the world.

"We can feed ourselves," Boohar said, "but places like India and Latin America can't. Here, again, you have a choice. Even if you choose to do nothing you have made a choice."

Boohar stressed the idea that the choice may involve a problem of practicality on one hand, and a moral decision on the other.

"If there is no check on the population of Latin America

and India you are going to see a famine that will make everything else look like a country picnic," he warned.

The problem, according to Boohar, is this: if medicine and other supplies are sent they will contribute to the growing population, creating more overpopulation with a subsequent famine and the deaths which will accompany it.

If medicine is not sent the moral decision of causing the deaths now must be faced.

Boohar agreed that it is not an easy decision. He suggested that the audience imagine an infant relative in place of the pictures often seen of starving Indian babies.

"It hurts clear into the marrow of your bones and back out and then some," Boohar said.

He also delved into the problem of trying to raise the world standard of living onto a plane with that in the United States.

The United States, he claimed, with six per cent of the world's population consumes approximately 50 per cent of the world's resources.

Attempting to raise the world standard presents another quandary, said Boohar. "This planet cannot afford to increase the resource usage by a factor needed to raise the world standard to ours. We're not going to make it that way."

But if help is not extended to less affluent countries "pretty soon they're going to realize that there are more of them but we've got the goodies. Then you've got war—the worst kind of war."

"In what fashion do you choose to play God in this case," he asked.

He outlined a loss of

individual choice in two areas where freedom of choice is assumed—"being what you want to be, and living where you want to live."

"The first condition

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Even with all the Earth Week activity, the Broyhill Fountain has become the target of unidentified campus polluters.

Since the November dedication, "12 or 14" acts of vandalism have made it necessary to shut off, dismantle and clean the fountain of soap and trash, according to the director of the Nebraska Union. Allen Bennett added that each time this happens it costs between \$100 to \$150 to clean it up.

"What do we do now?" Bennett said. "The thing that has us bothered is that it costs man hours—which is money—and we're all being pressured to lower costs."

A fountain guard is expensive, he said, adding "we don't want to harass students." He said he has considered that the increased publicity may somehow glorify the vandalism and bring on more of it, but "we've come to the point where something must be done."

Bennett requested public assistance in reporting any vandalism, with the hope that "cooperation by mature young people will prevent the need for some kind of surveillance" of the fountain.

A conviction of causing more than \$100 damage, under the malicious destruction of property law, can mean a fine of up to \$1,000. If the damage is under \$100, the fine upon conviction is at least \$100 and can be up to \$500, or a sentence of up to six months in county jail can be ordered.

Unicameral defeats ban on 'aberrant sex courses'

A proposal to limit the teaching of courses on aberrant sexual behavior at state colleges and the University of Nebraska would be like "taking books and burning them," State Sen. Richard Proud of Omaha said late Thursday.

Apparently the majority of the State Legislature agreed, as they axed State Sen. Terry Carpenter's LB443, which would limit such classes to the NU College of Medicine.

The Legislature approved 27-15 a motion by Sen. Willard Waldo to kill the bill. The DeWitt senator said Carpenter's bill "would go too far and prevent even the mention of these subjects" in courses which touch on sexual aberration.

Carpenter introduced the bill in reaction to the University's "Pro-Seminar in Homophile Studies," offered for the first time last semester. In February the University decided to drop the course from the curriculum.

"Do you want to subject your sons and daughters to that?" asked Carpenter. The homophile course could promote aberrant sexual behavior by "stimulating the

curiosity," he added.

A number of senators Thursday noted that the bill would interfere with the constitutional authority of the Board of Regents to run the University.

Waldo said the subject is a legitimate part of courses in psychiatry, psychology and social behavior. However, he added that the homophile course "should not have been offered" at the University.

"We're not going to solve the problem by hiding it under a rug," Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh remarked.

However, Herb Nore of Genoa expressed fears that the country is beginning to "give dignity to the vices."

University officials opposed LB 443 on the grounds that it would interfere with academic freedom.

Although the University discontinued the homophile course, Chancellor D. B. Varner in February established a committee, composed of representatives from the three University campuses, to "consider curricular needs designed to deal with the expanded subject of human sexuality."

Local Democrats host Muskie

Sen. Edmund Muskie of Maine, possibly looking toward Nebraska's 1972 presidential primary, will be the featured speaker at Saturday's Democratic Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner in Lincoln.

Although he has not officially announced his candidacy, Muskie is considered the front-running Democratic possibility for the presidency in 1972.

The Maine senator gained prominence in the 1968 presidential campaign as Hubert Humphrey's vice-presidential running mate. Although the Democratic ticket lost in 1968, the 57-year-old Muskie emerged as a future presidential hopeful.

About 1,300 people are expected to attend the \$35 per plate dinner, beginning at 7 p.m. at Pershing Auditorium.



Earth Week drop-out. . .the Broyhill Fountain