

It could happen to you

On page one of today's **Daily Nebraskan** is a comprehensive examination of venereal disease by science writer Tom Hartford. Hartford doesn't skim through his subject. After you've read this article you'll have a working knowledge of the symptoms, causes, treatments, effects, and chances of contracting the two most common venereal diseases, gonorrhea and syphilis.

VD is not restricted to Boston bars or San Diego sin-bins. You don't have to be in the army to get it. You don't necessarily even have to be immoral to get it. In fact, if you caught VD right here in Lincoln, Nebraska, it wouldn't surprise anyone except perhaps you.

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department certainly wouldn't be surprised. Chairman George Underwood recently reported he is treating 15 to 20 VD patients per week at the department's free clinics. He calls it "a real gonorrhea explosion."

Hartford calls it an epidemic. VD can be a nasty, sneaky disease. A small boil in your mouth could be the only symptom you ever notice until your nervous system collapses thirty years later.

There is one preventive measure that will ensure you'll never contract VD. Don't have sexual intercourse with anyone. That usually does it.

But if that measure is unacceptable to you, read Hartford's article. In its thoroughness and detail the article is an unusual one for a newspaper to carry all in one shot.

But if you have a heavy night-time schedule, coat the article with plastic and keep it under your pillow.

Steve Strasser

Back to the hen house

Contrary to popular opinion and what sorority sisters at the University of Nebraska would like us to think, "gush rush" is still alive and well on this campus. The byproducts of this acquired disease were painfully apparent during Rush Week two weeks ago.

Perhaps it's just that after four years, one expects an institution to progress. There seemed to be hints of this last spring. Representatives to Panhellenic actually voiced their opinions that songs, skits and insincere chatter were not the way to get to know people. Some warned that freshmen this year were too sharp and far too well educated to fall for the same old sorority lines again.

They were right. Never have we been presented with a more aware, mature class.

These people were looking for friendship, answers and a bit of fun. They got songs, skits and insincere chatter reminiscent of a hen house. And so we again saw freshman women with tears in their eyes and laments of frustration on their lips.

Future freshmen of this University deserve better. Greek houses on this campus must realize that rushing methods of this sort fall short. . . short of what freshmen and upperclassmen deserve. This surely is the route to oblivion. By changing rushing methods, sororities may be able to pull the type of people who will work to keep the Greek system alive.

There are good minds as well as good looks so prevalent within a system of this sort. As has been said so many times before, this is the year to follow through and make sure ideas are in fact put into action. There may come a fall in the future when no voice will point out a need for change. There will be no system left.

Laura Willers

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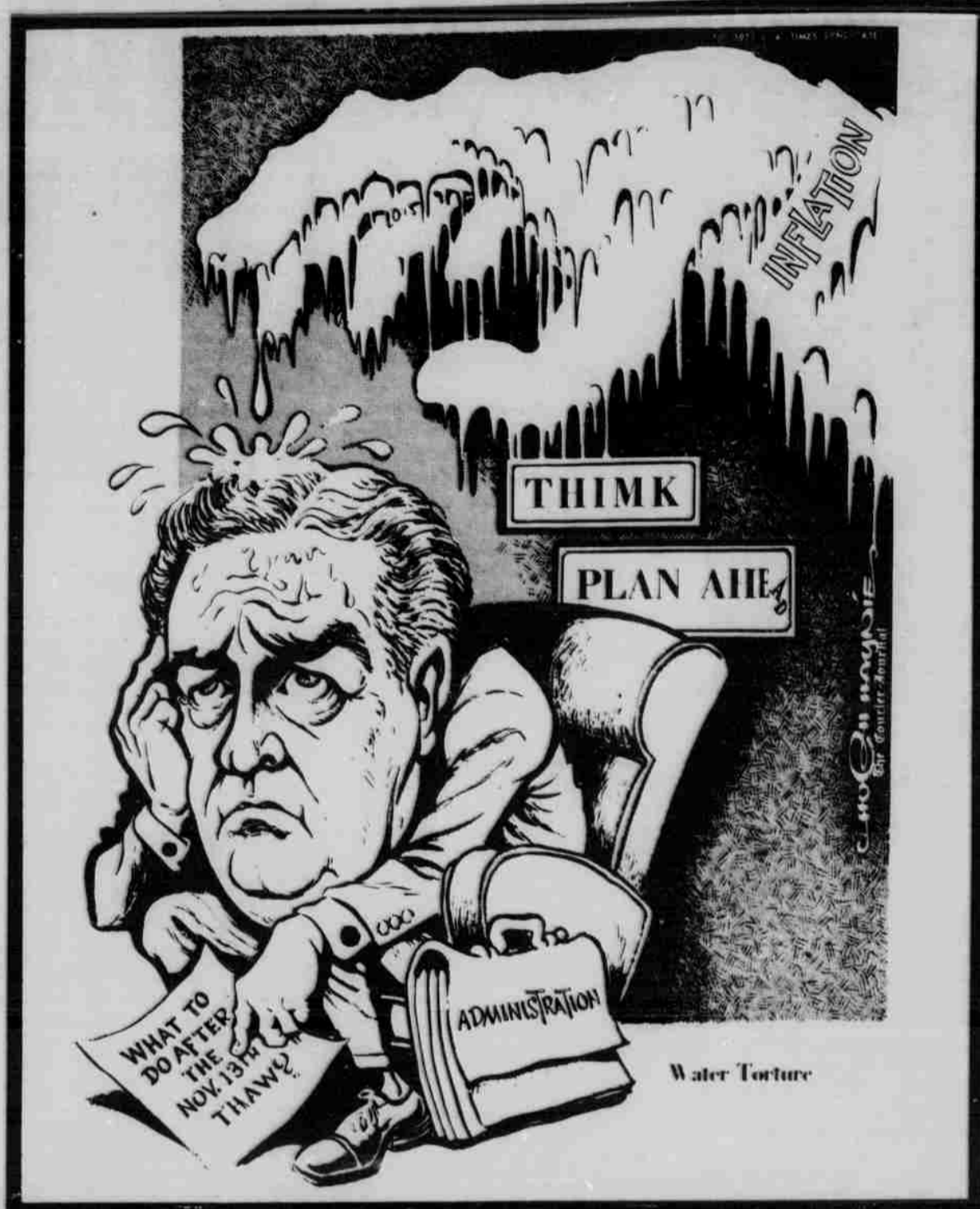
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Water Torture



tom braden

A generation's complaint

by Tom Braden

WASHINGTON—Like a great many other fathers in this country (the number increases each year) I have a child who was arrested not long ago for possession of marijuana. I risk a personal account because it seems to me to point to a general conclusion.

The episode was memorable for a number of reasons. First, it was a physical shock. Anybody who tells you that you can take a telephone call from a son who is in jail and not reflect upon it for weeks to come is a person who doesn't care about his children.

Second, it posed a moral problem. A father likes to think of himself as protector of children and defender of the upright. A son who is in jail for violating the law is a problem in allegiance.

Allegiance once decided, the episode was costly. To be reasonably certain that a child does not serve the mandatory three-year jail sentence, it is necessary to hire a lawyer who can convince the prosecuting attorney that his duty may be fulfilled by permitting the child to plead guilty to the offense for which a policeman had stopped him (a defective taillight). Even so, this particular child served three days in jail.

Fourth, and most important, the episode taught

me a lesson that I didn't want to learn, namely that there is justice in the prevalent view of the young that they are the victims of bad law and of policemen who enforce bad law selectively.

"Why did you lower the penalty?" a police officer from a small town in upper Michigan asked an official of the Bureau of Narcotics at a meeting earlier this summer. "The only way that we can get rid of long-haired kids on the Michigan peninsula is to stop them on a traffic violation and toss them in jail after we find the stuff."

The official from the Narcotics Bureau was nonplussed. He had been attempting to explain President Nixon's new federal legislation which makes first offense possessors guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to sentences of not more than a year. It had not occurred to him that the law against marijuana was a law against a generation.

And yet it can't be anything else. According to a recent poll, 39% of all college students call themselves "frequent" users of marijuana. The figure is up 15% from last year. Sixty-two percent of all college students have tried marijuana from one to three times. Shall we enforce the law? Shall we toss millions of our children into jail?

President Nixon has taken a small step in the direction of permitting us to escape this impossible choice. The new federal legislation is intended to serve as a model for the states. It lowers the penalty for possession and makes it possible for judges to suspend sentences and expunge records.

But it does not prevent policemen from harassing the young for doing what nearly all the young are doing. Nor does it satisfy one generation that it is not being chivied about by another. As the surgeon-general of the United States, Dr. Jesse L. Steinfeld has remarked, "I know of no clearer instance in which the punishment for an infraction of the law is more harmful than the crime."

Dr. Steinfeld is not yet sure whether marijuana should be given a "clean bill of health." But he points out that seven U.S. Presidents smoked it and he calls the suggestion of the San Francisco Crime Commission that we regulate marijuana as we regulate alcohol "impressive."

Meantime, we continue to spend time and money trying to enforce the unenforceable, confusing ourselves by linking marijuana with dangerous drugs and giving our children an excuse for saying that we are unfair to their generation.

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