

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Eerie tranquility

The nation's college campuses were relatively calm during the last school year after many years of turbulence and disruption. Such normal collegiate activities as drinking, football, card playing and studying are now making a comeback on campuses in place of confrontation politics.

The story is much the same at UNL as demonstrations become fewer and fewer. The big news stories are no longer about the actions of radicals.

Instead headlines are now made by the football team, youth voter registration drives, a backlash against the use of student fees for political purposes, the student government's efforts to increase student services and the attempt to organize a "Nader's Raiders" group to work for public interest causes in Nebraska. In addition, criticism of capitalism by many students has been replaced with a desire to form their own cooperatives.

Demonstrations and radical action have become passe as students show an increased desire to work within the system. What has caused the change at UNL and other college campuses?

The 18 year-old vote, draft reform, the steady withdrawals of American troops from Vietnam, a concern for the future because of a tight job market and just plain weariness are some of the reasons. A recent *Playboy* survey of student opinion gives some answers to the change on the college campuses.

The *Playboy* survey showed that 90 per cent of the students intended to register and vote, and 48 per cent said they believed the youth vote "will make a significant difference" in the 1972 election. It appears that ratification of the constitutional amendment permitting 18 to 21 year-olds to vote may have done as much as anything to curb student unrest.

Of the *Playboy* respondents, 28 per cent attributed the decline of anti-war protests to apathy. Another 25 per cent said they doubted the effectiveness of demonstrations as a tactic, 15 per cent cited fear of repression. Only 8 per cent said the lack of protest was due to greater satisfaction with the way the war was being handled.

The calm on college campuses could be an "eerie tranquility", since few of the social or educational problems that agitated students in the past have been solved. However, it appears that students are becoming committed to try to solve these problems within the democratic and capitalistic systems.

Restoring confidence

Nebraska Congressman Charles Thone has recently developed a proposal that might help restore confidence in the U.S. armed services as well as increase the number of military volunteers.

Thone said he will introduce a resolution in Congress that would make every military unit a "part-time Peace Corps team" which would undertake charitable and civic works.

The Congressman sees the program as a method of improving relations between the military bases and the communities they are located in, whether foreign or domestic. The proposal is also intended to make the armed services more attractive to youth.

The American military has been under constant attack during the last few years because of the intense opposition to the Vietnam war and the draft. One result is that many military leaders now doubt that enough volunteers can be recruited to make an all-volunteer force feasible.

If Thone's idea is adopted it could well help the U.S. make the difficult transition from the draft to an all-volunteer military force.

Gary Seacrest



"Uncle!"

bob russell

Nausea in the night, Part I

Some years ago E. William Henry of the Federal Communications Commission categorized television as "a vast wasteland." I essentially agree with him, but the fact remains that I do have a television set. In order to see if the set works, I turn it on once a week or so for two or three minutes.

Saturday night I returned to the dorm and several guys on my floor wanted to borrow my TV set. Since I hadn't experienced this American cultural phenomenon at great length for quite some time, I invited the whole gang in, we sat down, and I turned the tube on.

Who would greet us on the screen but Peter Kiewit's own Lee Terry. You see, Peter Kiewit is Omaha's Media Man, having a major thumb in the pies of KETV, Channel 7, and in that grating newspaper, *The Omaha World-Herald*.

Channel 7 is one of those channels with the "panel" type of news broadcasts. That is, the newsmen, weatherman, and sportscaster all sit at some sort of desk affair and nervously exchange small talk in between their bits. Like Lee will ask Mike May, the weatherman, "Well, did we have any weather today?"

But I'm not to the good part yet. After all the news, sports, and weather, Lee Terry gives his nightly tear-jerker editorial. Lee ought to act on soap operas. He can get worked up over nearly

anything.

Last night, for example, he nearly burst his spleen warning us that the Russians were trying to buy a 27 acre tract near Washington D.C. to use for recreational purposes for their staff. And this land used to belong to George Washington! Can you imagine what the Russians might do on this land? They might cover it with outhouses or convert it into a feed lot or something.

Then came Movie Masterpiece. I like movies that are either very good or very bad. And since most movies anywhere are very bad, I'm satisfied.

The Movie Masterpiece was "Second Time Around", a western starring Debbie Reynolds and a couple other familiar faces, but not familiar names. This movie was an old-time good-guys vs. bad guys movie.

Here is the Reader's Digest Condensed Version of the plot. This bad guy sheriff ran this town. This sheriff was a bad guy because he let people do things they liked to do, like gamble and drink and other fun things. This got Debbie Reynolds all perturbed, as well as Andy Griffith (I just remembered his name). Andy was making the moves on Debbie, but he was so pathetic that he didn't have a chance against the evil man who ran the saloon-casino. More about that later.

Election time for sheriff came up. All the womenfolk decided to stop their husbands from having any more fun, so they put Debbie up for sheriff. Somehow, women had the vote. Andy desperately tried to dissuade her and made a complete ass of himself by asking Debbie to marry him in front of a crowd. So she got elected sheriff, arrested the evil saloon-casino owner and ran the sheriff out of town.

But the nasty former sheriff got his Black Hats Gang together and ransacked the town. They even kidnapped Debbie, she being so obviously incompetent without the help of men. Well, Andy sprung the gambler and they got the town together. They went to the nasty sheriff's hideout and sprung Debbie.

Debbie then fell in love with the evil, now turned good, gambler. Obviously preferring the domestic role to a "man's" job, she threw her sheriff's star to Andy. Andy also had a happy ending. He asked the formerly evil, now good, ex-casino-saloon owner's formerly evil, now good, ex-casino-saloon girl out for some ice cream.

Next week "Nausea in the Night" will continue, with an exposition on the Late Show, "The Mole Men", Eddy Arnold selling records, the Meditation and Sign-Off, complete with the national anthem, jets, and nearly all the weapons the Pentagon cares to display.



jeffrey hart

The Democrats: we pass

It may seem odd to speak of a sprawling political institution as if it had a collective mind and made decisions much as you and I do. Nevertheless as one contemplates the situation in the Democratic Party today, some such metaphor seems useful. The party has not decided to accept the responsibility of governing the nation.

If the party were ready to take that responsibility, its various factions would now be tending to coalesce behind the Muskie candidacy. He stands near the center of the party, and by nearly every poll indication he is the Democrat with the greatest acceptability to the electorate at large.

Instead, however, centers of energy indispensable to Democratic success are engaged in the intellectual equivalent of fiddling around. McGovern bumper stickers are now adorning the vehicles of the academic and other purist liberals who have transferred to Senator Muskie the frivolous contempt they used to express for Hubert Humphrey, the "drug store liberal" as they called him. Their objections to Muskie are preposterous in national political terms: that he is too cautious, that he lacks chic, that he doesn't turn them on ideologically. All this is sheer self-indulgence.

Senator McGovern gains the support of the purists by being so far to the left as to disqualify himself completely from serious consideration. He takes absolutist positions on the war, advocates \$6,500 minimum welfare subsidies, and calls for amnesty for

the draft avoiders in Canada. But though the campus and Gloria Steinem love that sort of thing, nobody else really cares whether McGovern is running or not.

Other important segments of the Democratic coalition are behaving with equal frivolity. The media people and the New York Times are for Mayor John V. Lindsay, who has Tube Chic. Senator Henry Jackson is splitting off vital support and funds through his strong pro-Israelite stand, and he will hurt Muskie in Florida. A number of big contributors long for Humphrey's predictability. Eugene McCarthy is edging toward a fourth-party candidacy. Proxmire, Mills, and Harris are fooling around.

The adventures of these spear-carriers in the primaries will waste a fortune in campaign funds—perhaps a million dollars per candidate. This political money, or much of it, would otherwise be available for the national effort against Nixon.

It doesn't take unusual sagacity to see that Muskie is the viable candidate this year, and that the rest are on ego trips or playing ideological games. After the 1966 Congressional elections the Republican Party, in its collective will, made the decision to govern, and the movement toward Richard Nixon began. By the time of the 1968 New Hampshire primary he was the one. The Democrats have not yet decided to accept that responsibility.

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LETTERS to the NEBRASKAN

Dear editor,

Recently an article from your newspaper entitled "The Straight and Narrow" written by Steve Williams was sent to me. The article is about the coed visitation controversy that is presently plaguing your campus.

As a student at the University of Delaware I would like to explain how coed-visitation operates on our campus. Just a few years back the University administration opened their eyes to coed-visitation, and up to the present date there has been no threats of revoking this privilege that they have given us.

After a complete study was made, the University allowed us to accept the responsibility as mature students to decide on how we would like to have coed-visitation. They did not set up any kind of barrier saying we could only have the opposite sex in our rooms on a certain day of the week for a few hours in the afternoon. They realized this would be defeating the whole purpose of coed-visitation.

At the present time the University of Delaware has a twenty-four hour open dorm policy with no restrictions on the student what-so-ever. As mature students each dormitory votes on the policy that they would like to have. About ninety-five per cent of the dormitories have twenty-four hours and the remaining units have set up certain visitation hours of their own choice. The University has also set aside an all girl dorm

with no visitation at all.

The advantages of coed-visitation have proven tremendously beneficial in the past couple of years. It has enabled the members of the opposite sex to study together in an environment that is much more pleasant than that of an overcrowded lounge or library. It has also made it easier for students to work on and organize university sponsored projects. Probably one of the most important advantages is that it has added greatly to the student's social life.

Because of the success of our coed-visitation the University of Delaware has allowed us to go one step further, that is coed-dormitories. We have two dorms on campus for this purpose, and we are only the third school in the country to have such a program where the opposite sex is living in alternating rooms. I'm now living in one of the coed-dorms and there have been no problems. Sex is treated as a brother and sister relationship and it would be impossible for it to develop into anything else.

When I speak of no problems, naturally I'm referring to the student. Some people would be happy to see the University's funds cut off because of our twenty-four hour open dorm policy and our coed-living. The ignorance of these people has led them to believe that the University has given their approval to one massive orgy.

I hope the University of Nebraska finds success in forming coed-visitation.

Bill Adelman
University of Delaware
Newark, Delaware

Dear Editor,

This letter is to call attention to irresponsible acts of a group of students in the name of school spirit. I am referring to the Sigma Alpha Mu bonfire which commences Monday evening.

Perhaps in years past when environmental conditions were not as threatening, acts of this nature could be justified in view of mass University participation. However, coupled with the present environmental crisis, an examination of one's priorities becomes necessary.

Time and energy spent in preparing and tending a week-long fire could be better utilized in preserving the environment by a display of increased awareness and concerned attitudes.

I would hope that Sigma Alpha Mu, as well as the entire University community, will strive to correct this situation and look for new channels to promote the spirit they deem necessary.

Robert W. Farran

Dear editor,

Perhaps, the experience of the *Courier* shows that it is very difficult to fight an establishment monopoly, rather than that the road to financial independence is a rocky one. The desire for an independent newspaper does not die easily!

Bob Vlasak

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