

Photo by Dan Ladely

Diane Wanek, Yippie candidate for first vice-president, said that if elected "the one thing I will accomplish is Alan Siporin."

Daily Nebraskan Wednesday, April 15, 1970

Siporin dismissed the Yippie campaign mentioned in The Daily Nebraskan exerpts with, "Ladely wanted to have a Yippie campaign and he got the biggest crazy of all, which was me, for president. When I first met him I thought he was working for the FBI with that camera."

Ladely agreed "A lot of people did" and added, "I was one of the first five people with long hair on the Nebraska campus."

SIPORIN laughed, "Yeah. Ladely thinks he's the all-American boy gone bad. I was crazy from the beginning."

Siporin was more serious when talking about his life and what has changed his attitude toward political activism. When he entered the University community, he said, he felt he was alone, "like I was the only person in town thinking the way I did."

He eventually became involved with the campus SDS, acted as co-chairman of the 1969 Moratorium, and was one of the central student figures in the 1970 strike. It was the

strike action which turned him off from political activism.

"DIG IT, you always start with the premise of eternity and go from there," he said. "It's all absurd, man. Political action is irrelevant and absurd and I keep proving it personally by my own political action when I. can't hold back any more."

During the year and a half since the strike he has obviously given a good deal of thought to his life and style of living. He edged forward in his chair as he talked about it. "Even given that there may be no sense in life, there can be a community sense of it. As long as you make the commitment not to commit suicide, you o ught to make the commitment to make life nice. Develop a community."

Develop a community."

THE PHYSICAL layout of Lincoln is a barrier to devlop ment of a counter-culture community. He said the Lincoln community is simply "not well defined." He also said friction develops between the counter-culture and the straight community in Lincoln.

"Like, the people with long hair, and the ones who dress crazily, go through life with a style of entertaining their friends. I have a style, Burdick has a style, everybody does,"

"But with that style you get friction between these kinds of people and the straight community, because the straight people aren't into entertaining each other with their style."

HE ALSO contended that people don't enjoy life enough in their rush to accomplish something. He isn't working, going to school, or "producing anything that people can look at and know that I am producing. But my life is full and complete right now." He admitted that a lot of people can't understand that.

"People get too concerned

with getting to a certain spot and they can't dig on getting there," he said. "But if you put energy into your style getting there, you can dig the whole trip. It makes the end point almost totally irrelevant but you are digging it all the time.

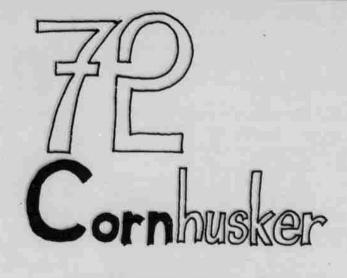
"Like, you're going to end up where you do no matter what, but you can dig the trip if you want to."

SIPORIN SAID he is into cooking, turning people on to a good meal "which I can create." He explained that his cooking is a community action

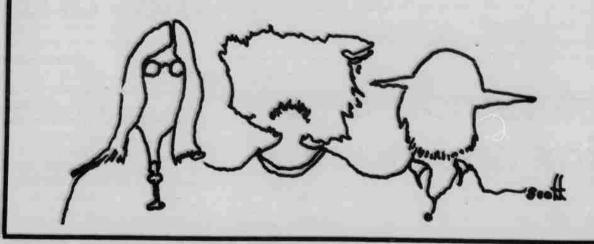
although the community is small-a few friends.

He also pointed out that "when the work/play and the teacher/student concepts are eliminated, when everything is a learning experience, then the terms 'in' and 'out of school' have no meaning.

"So it's not really true that I'm apolitical because I'm not doing the activist thing. That's not true. I just don't think about it, but I'm doing it on a personal, everyday basis."



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