

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

### Partisan politics

"We've got a lot of work to do," Nebraska Secretary of State Allen Beerman told the University's Young Republicans earlier this week. Beerman was warning his fellow Republicans that organizing the machinery for registering college-age Republican voters would be no easy task.

It will be especially difficult since the Republicans are not only starting from scratch, but they are starting late. They snubbed the nonpartisan League of Young Voters drive in early November in favor of a partisan drive now.

The Republican organization's boycott of the League's drive may have helped account for the low (4,404) registration figures compiled by the League at UNL.

The Republican drive will consist of a campaign to persuade students to register as Republicans while home on Christmas vacation. It is obvious such a campaign could never equal a drive such as the League's in effectiveness. The League arranged registration tables which permitted students to actually register or request absentee ballots right on the campus.

The Republicans aren't interested in an effective campaign to register young voters, because nationally the new voters are registering two-to-one as Democrats. The Republicans are interested only in registering Republicans.

Political parties should split over philosophies and policies, not over basic mechanics of the democratic process such as registering to vote. Yet the Young Republicans have chosen to hamper registration rather than to compete with Democrats for votes.

It is sad to see the future stalwarts of one of the nation's two major political parties look at the democratic process so narrowly and self-servingly.

Steve Strasser

### The painful economy

Is President Nixon's New Economic Policy putting the country on the road to economic recovery?

The question is being debated among economists and politicians, many who are highly critical of Nixon's economic policy. However, recent public opinion surveys indicate that Nixon's controls are popular and working.

A December Gallup Poll shows that only one American in seven wants less strict controls. "These findings," George Gallup says, "have shown the American people—both union and non-union—to be in favor of some form of controls, and sizable proportions willing to accept more rather than less strict controls."

A recent Harris survey shows that by 49 per cent to 23 per cent, most Americans agree that Nixon is putting the country on the road to economic recovery. But the survey shows that by 56 per cent to 27 per cent, a majority of the public also believes that the country is still in a recession.

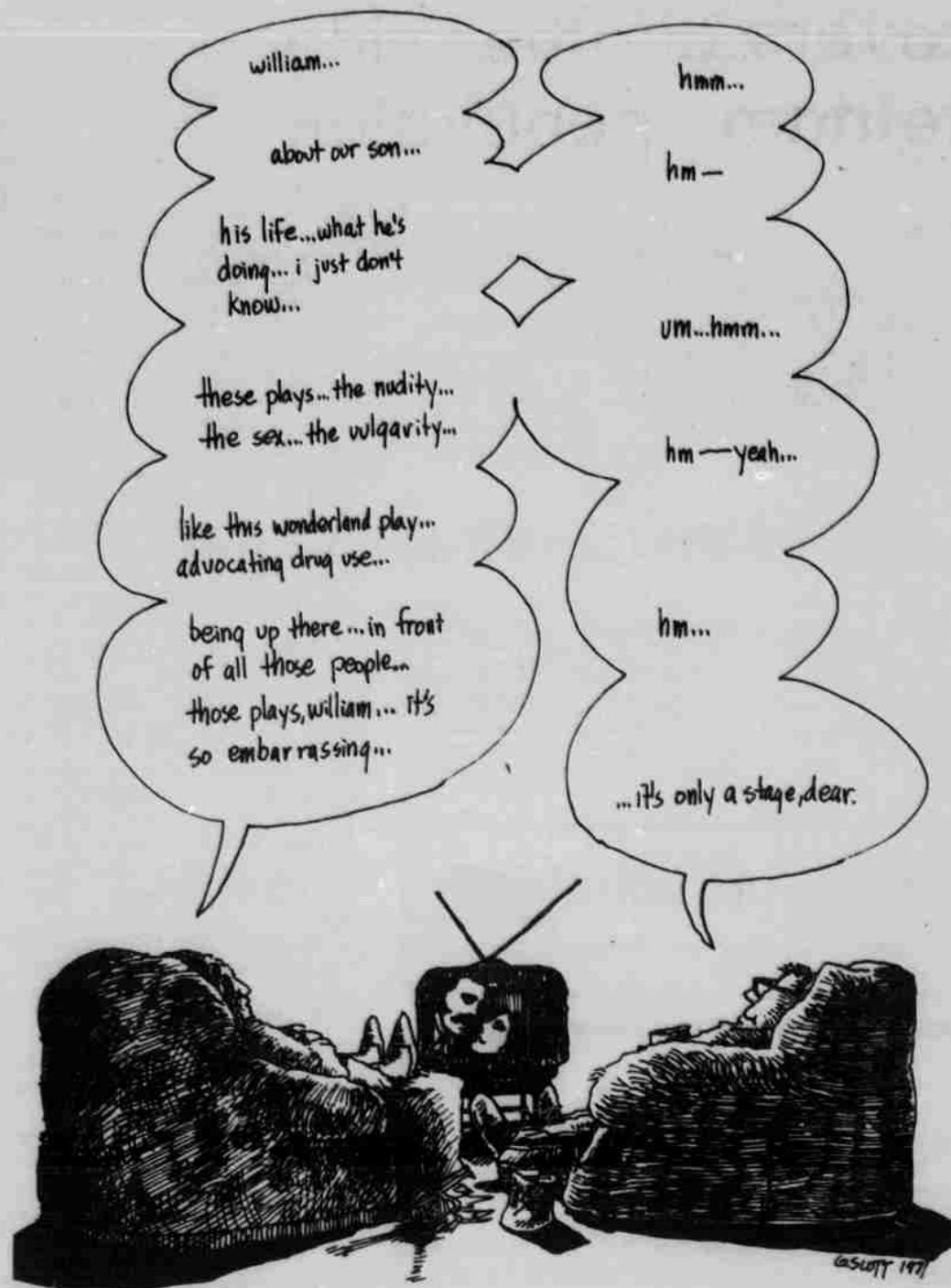
Nixon's New Economic Policy is currently holding the line on prices and wages. But two questions have to be asked. Are Nixon's controls dealing with the symptoms or the basic causes of inflation? And what happens after the controls are lifted?

Wallace Peterson, chairman of the UNL Economics Department and a Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, maintains that "inflation is the consequence of a number of 'built-in' features of the economy and won't be lessened or ended until fundamental changes are made."

Meaningful changes, according to Peterson, means less military spending combined with a real attack on concentrated economic power and a return to a competitive market economy. He also says real tax reform is needed to close many loopholes, reduce the importance of sales and payroll taxes and lessen the existing maldistribution of income and wealth.

The prospects of such changes in the near future are slim since it would be very painful for the country to make them. However, the alternatives to fundamental changes could be continued high inflation or permanent governmental control of economy.

Gary Seacrest



doug voegler

### Culture shock

At a university there should be an exchange of ideas and of cultures. Incoming speakers, conferences, etc., provide an exchange of ideas, but what about an exchange of cultures?

There are 543 foreign students at the University. Forty-three per cent are graduate students and 57 per cent are undergraduates. Students are represented from 64 nations. They come from areas such as Europe, the Mid-East, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and countries such as France, Austria, Canada, Iraq, the UAR, India, Japan, Algeria, Uganda, Mexico and the Phillipines.

Here exists an excellent source for cultural exchange. The University is especially valuable for Nebraskans in this respect. Being landlocked, in the midst of America, many foreigners normally do not pass through on business or pleasure. We have no embassies, Chinatowns or ports of entry. Further, many students will reside in Nebraska, or the Midwest at least, and their time at the University may be the only chance they have to be in contact with people of different cultures.

It is really an experience for foreign students to be in America, in many cases thousands of miles away from home. It is a strange and alien land. Language, physical, and cultural distinctions further this alienation. Guide books, pictures, maps, bus tours, and University offices help students to feel "at home" but nothing would be as beneficial as an American friendship.

Foreign students have been critical in the past of the aloof, apathetic and unfriendly attitude of American students toward people "different" than themselves. Americans have always been noticeably ethnocentric, but a committed effort can overcome this attitude. Friendships with foreign students can be interesting, enjoyable and beneficial to both.

The university experience does not end outside the classroom. It continues in our

informal associations. This applies for foreign students as well.

Out of necessity and out of natural desire, foreign students' main social life is promoted through organizations such as the Chinese Students Association, India Association, Arab Student Association and African Students Organization. The fact that these provide a social outlet in America for foreign students does not mean that we should be contented and continue to ignore the foreign student. The existence of these organizations does not mean that they have no desire to associate socially with Americans.

Many foreign students are upset, and rightfully so, with the University housing policy over vacation. Twenty-six per cent of foreign students reside in University Residence Halls. When vacation roles around notices are put up, the dorms are shut down and all students must leave. American students have no problem driving or flying home but many foreign students, thousands of miles from home, can not afford to fly home for so short a time. They are hence forced to seek other housing, which can present a serious problem. Many times the transient residents they find can hardly be described as fit places for anyone to live.

Dormitory food has also been a problem for many, especially when they first arrive and are not used to the American food.

Concerned American students could certainly increase efforts to solve these problems.

Several activities on campus promote the exchange of culture. The International House is perhaps the best and the most notable of several. The International Fair, put on by YWCA, and International night where students perform their native talents are others. Model United Nations also draws many foreign students and provides an excellent opportunity to learn about a particular country.