

Failing format

The educational value of a conference format appeared almost negligible on this campus last week. The time has come for a serious appraisal of programming done on the UNL campus.

Conferences that boast of a topic that is interesting to a large and vague audience can't respond to the intellectual demands of this academic community.

There is a twofold solution to this dilemma. It consists of defining the audience, and selecting a topic with that specific audience in mind. Time must also be a consideration in planning a non-classroom educational experience, since students often find it difficult to commit the better part of their day to a presentation or series of presentations.

If the proposed program does indeed have a defined audience to relate to, then arrangements should be made with academic departments in the University to emphasize its worth. Participation of faculty and students in a program and the possibility of coordinating the program with optional classroom assignments and academic credit might be beneficial. Colleges and departments could be very useful groups in promoting this type of programming.

The Union Talks and Topics Committee would lend itself to this type of programming very well. It should survey the community and determine to whom it could gear the individual elements of its year long program. Once this determination is made, then educational programs could be nearly guaranteed success. Requests for specific types of speakers and programs would be heard and considered, and the whole mass of student fee-payers could be pleased.

Imagine bringing a Henry Ford III to campus for a

one-day program. He could lecture to business administration classes, finance classes and more. A keynote speech could be open to the entire community, with particular interest generated among engineers and business students. The day would abound with classroom appearances, a luncheon, dinner, and end with informal rap sessions in residence or the engineering or business colleges.

Before programming on this campus becomes stale, innovations such as a "Henry Ford III Day" must be considered. Possibilities are infinite. It's time that UNL programming became the viable educational tool it was designed to be.

Not so hot dog

Don't eat that wiener!

If anyone in the world is a fan of Ralph Nader, he should never again touch one of those Coney Island delectables. In a report recently published, Nader claims that lab reports have clearly demonstrated that brand name hot dogs contain significant levels of bacteria. The self-made raider described instances in which insect fragments and rodent remains existed in about one-sixth of the samples tested.

One can only wonder in this world of many consume and few consumer advocates how many products our own society are polluted.

Now that the hot dog, the foremost of American culinary institutions, has been found to be corrupt, is there anything left to be trusted?

Barry Pilger

editorial



"But, first, a word from our sponsor. . . ."

arthur
hoppe
innocent
bystander

WASHINGTON—Washington is talking about little else these days than The Great IPP Scandal. On the theory that the rest of the country, as usual, doesn't know what Washington is talking about, here is a brief outline of the plot:

It begins with President Nixon deciding he'd like to have the GOP Convention this summer in San Diego, it being nearby to the White House in San Clemente and handy to Tijuana.

Unfortunately, San Diego is always jammed to the rafters with tourists in August anyway and why didn't the Republicans go have their convention in Appalachia or someplace, thank you.

That's where the giant International Peanuts & Popcorn conglomerate stepped in. As a gesture of good will toward the local community, IPP offered the Republicans \$400,000 in cash and popcorn (which isn't peanuts) if they'd hold their convention in San Diego, which didn't want it in the first place.

But that was okay because IPP explained it would make the \$400,000 back selling peanuts (which isn't popcorn) to the delegates during the three-day convention. So it was strictly a business deal.

A week later, the Republicans' Justice Department approved a merger between IPP and the Sure Fire Fire Insurance Company.

So much for the unrelated facts. The scandal broke when Andy Jackerson, a known columnist, leaked a memo from IPP's tough, widely-respected female lobbyist, Dowdee Whiskers, to her bosses.

"Don't worry gang," wrote Whiskers, "the deal's in the bag. In return for our \$400,000 the President, the old Attorney General and the new Attorney General have promised us six more mergers, the Washington Monument and

two utility infielders. Please eat this memo."

The moment the story was published, Whiskers vanished on a long-planned vacation to Denver where she had a long-planned heart attack.

Immediately Republican leaders from coast-to-coast began issuing statements—two or three per leader. In their final statements all agreed they hadn't bothered to inform top GOP officials of the \$400,000 contribution because if the party knew how rich it was it might get overconfident.

Meanwhile, the new Attorney General, taking bold action in the crisis, wrote an incriminating letter to, of all people, the Democratic National Committee and then demanded a Senate investigation to clear his name.

He hadn't read the incriminating letter to the Democratic National Committee before he signed it, he explained, because he was a very busy man and didn't have time to read all the incriminating letters he sent to the Democratic National Committee.

From her hospital bed, Whiskers issued a statement firmly denying what her memo said had any relation to what her memo said.

To clinch the matter, IPP officials said Whiskers wasn't a tough, widely-respected lobbyist at all but really a zany, drunken crackpot, whom they'd retained as their top Washington representative for years because they believed in hiring the handicapped.

So the scandal, of course, involves the management of IPP. Imagine a huge corporation that would hire drunken crackpots, alienate San Diego and pay \$400,000 for what the Republicans wanted to give them for nothing.

It's unbelievable.

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