

Cultural waste?

Consider entertainment. Better yet, consider entertainment in the form of fine arts and the performing arts.

It remains to be seen whether this campus and community can enthusiastically support a broad range of quality fine arts programs appreciable by a large number of people.

The problem is easily diagnosed. There just aren't very many people who appreciate these types of events. A small crowd with limited resources, no matter how enthusiastic they may be about classical and cultural productions, cannot sustain a number of these programs with any measure of quality.

An editorial in the *Daily Nebraskan* on September 18, 1967, concluded that Nebraska was not really a "vast cultural wasteland", simply because of the wide variety of offerings in the areas of cinema, music, art and theater. That claim still holds true. However, all of these events are still lacking in one thing—a regular, diverse and enthusiastic audience. It is assumed that the same group of people who were supporting the fine arts in 1967 are sustaining the same type of programming today. They do this with sheer perseverance and love of the arts.

The cause for this lack of awareness may be pinned any number of places. One group to blame is the high schools in the state, for their lack of emphasis on the fine arts in their curriculums. Another possible cause is the fact that Nebraska is situated nowhere near a large metropolitan area that can more readily accommodate the performing arts.

Anyone stating that these events are not available is certainly in error. But if people continue to ignore performances and fine arts programs, then that speculation may come true.

For example, the UNL School of Music is staging an excellent series of six performances the weekend of April 20-23. It includes an address by Clive Barnes, music and drama critic for the *New York Times*, an opera and five other diverse and potentially exciting

vocal and instrumental performances.

The future of similar music festivals produced by the School of Music rests with the success of the program planned for next week. Advance tickets sales started slowly and tapered off. Response to date has been less than mediocre.

If Nebraska one day is to be termed a cultural wasteland, it is only reflective of the people who refuse to be a part of the colorful, educational and pleasurable experience of the performing arts.

If the UNL School of Music's "Weekend with Music Festival" and other fine arts presentations fail, it can only point out that the minds of a great number of UNL students and Nebraska citizens are the real cultural wastelands.

E-Week's share

It's not just a display of monkey wrenches and transistors.

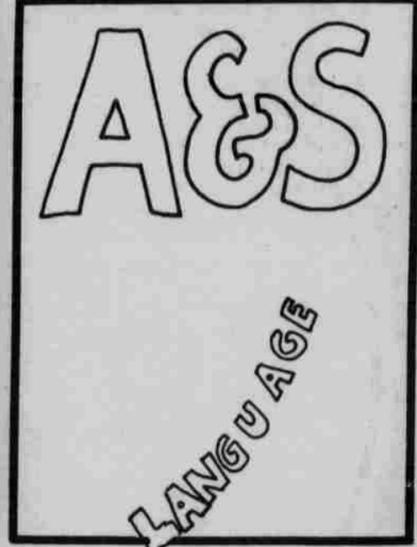
The common contention that engineers are dull is usually dispelled yearly as the students and faculty of the College of Engineering put on their E-Week program.

The engineers have run into some problems again this year, however. In yesterday's ASUN meeting, senators voted not to give E-Week money to help defray expenses incurred in staging the event to be held this weekend.

In past years ASUN has been equally as helpful to the Engineering College, by not exactly freely contributing funds to the program. At the same time, the student government group shells out money to support other organizations and what are purported to be educational programs.

This year's E-Week, "A New Look at Engineering" is a serious attempt to look at the "engineering world in revolution" and present those observations to the state and local community.

As long as ASUN is in part funding other programs and organizations, E-Week deserves its fair share.



Flexibility

Latitude in curriculum and more freedom of course choice is a virtue when it is the part of an undergraduate education. Or is it?

The Arts and Sciences faculty will apparently be gathering this week to answer that very question. Before them now are a number of proposals dealing with changes in the group requirements. Although there are a number of proposals expected at the meeting, two new programs are being brought forward by members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee.

Part of the proposed plans is the fate of the language requirement. It now consists of the completion of four semesters of college level foreign language or its equivalent. That requirement alone has led many students into other colleges, denying them their first choice major.

The language requirement is not all bad, however. The ability to use a foreign language is a valuable

research tool for graduate students and career academicians. It is also a cultural asset in today's global village. Something may be wrong.

Aside from the language question, the proposals may include changing the six categories of requirements into three or four. Mandatory courses within each of the categories also could be fewer.

Although implementation would not come for another several semesters, (fall 1973 is the rumored implementation date), increased latitude in undergraduate course selection would be most desirable.

It is sad that in an institution with graduate programs available, undergraduate education innovation is slow in coming.

If the Arts and Sciences faculty chooses to act on a proposal this week that would provide the individual student in the College of Arts and Sciences with more flexibility in planning his own curriculum, this University will be on the way to appropriately renovating the lower levels of higher education.

Barry Pilger

editorial