

American studies

Just by reading today's **Daily Nebraskan** front page story about the Arts and Sciences faculty one could easily make some nasty inferences about educational reform at UNL. Despite the stultifying actions of the majority of that college's faculty, there are some new programs that choose to treat today's student like an undergraduate of the seventies.

A new interdisciplinary studies program has been proposed for next fall. The new program is known as the American Studies Program.

Although there are relatively few right now, interdepartmental courses have been around UNL for a while. The African-American Studies, comparative literature, ecology and a group major in social welfare programs are among those now offered. Also, the integrated studies program is another significant step in enabling an undergraduate to pursue an academic path that leads the student through more than one major department.

Two courses that may be offered next fall are American studies 100 and 190. The first course is designed to familiarize students with integrative work through the examination of some major theme, time period, issue or movement. It appears to transcend the type of undergraduate education that requires the digestion of facts, names, dates and places. One advantage is that the introductory course plans a

maximum enrollment of 45 students.

As now outlined, the studies program plans to attract 30 majors by the end of the next academic year. Growth in that figure beyond June 1973 will be accommodated with course options involving independent studies, work experience and off-campus opportunities, ad hoc courses and interdisciplinary courses. The object of this variety is an admirable one—a more flexible curriculum.

The proposal for the American Studies Program was formally adopted by the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee on April 12, 1972. The document outlining the structure is most comprehensive. It includes information gained from surveying 66 schools that now offer similar programs.

The entire outline was prepared with the University and state of Nebraska in mind. It hopes to meet a set of objectives unique to this part of the country.

Educational reform and the development of creative curriculums can happen on this campus. It takes time and effort, and it requires the cooperation of the community.

Before formal implementation can be completed, the proposal needs approval by the University Curriculum Committee and the Arts and Sciences faculty. It would be most desirable for these groups to approve the program expeditiously. American Studies is the type of program UNL could be proud of.

Barry Pilger

editorial



The Senate judiciary hearings get curiouseer and curiouseer.

arthur
hoppe
innocent
bystander

Now that the GOP seems likely to move its convention from San Diego to Miami Beach, the true story behind The Great International Peanuts & Popcorn Case can be revealed.

The story begins last June in the somewhat run-down offices of IPP, a deadbeat conglomerate. IPP President Gullery McFagin, nervously fingering his zircon stick pin, has called an emergency meeting of his staff, all of whom wear blue suede shoes.

"Gang," he says, "unless the Justice Department approves our merger with the Sure-Fire Fire Insurance Co., we're going to have to find honest work."

"Good news, chief," says IPP Counsel, Mawworm Pecksniff. "I just heard that if we airmail \$400,000 in a plain wrapper to the White House, we'll get 16 mergers, an autographed golf ball and the popcorn concession on Air Force One. Of course, that isn't peanuts."

"Peanuts we got," says McFagin gloomily. "An 11-cent stamp we don't."

"Wait, chief," says Pecksniff. "I got an idea. What we do is guarantee \$400,000 to San Diego to hold the convention there. We say it's for 'good community relations' on account we still got two motels and a hot dog stand there."

"You out of your skull? The town's jammed in August. The last thing that good community wants is a convention in San Diego."

"They don't, but the President does," says Pecksniff with a smile. "It's handy to San Clemente. Now if we handle our cards right..."

So it was that IPP hired a broken down character actress named Dotty Whiskers to play the role of their crazy, old, drunken Washington lobbyist.

With great fanfare, McFagin announced the \$400,000 guarantee and the merger was quietly approved.

Then Whiskers went to work and wrote the now famous memo: "The crooked administration has accepted our dishonest bribe. Shred this and serve with mayonnaise. (Blind copy to Andy Jackson, the known columnist.) Yours for bigger and better graft, Dotty."

Once Jackson had published the memo, Whiskers called Pecksniff: "Okay, the fat's in the fire. Do I deny now I wrote the thing?"

"You want to cool it, you idiot?" says Pecksniff in horror. "Kindly go have a heart attack some place."

Well, the rest of the story is well-known. Whiskers, after admitting she wrote the memo, vanished on a long-planned vacation to Denver where she had a recently planned heart attack.

After three long weeks of newspaper headlines and, finally, a call from a happy Pecksniff, Whiskers suddenly remembered something. She suddenly remembered she hadn't written the memo at all.

But by now it was too late, of course. Senators were investigating, the Att. Gen. Designate's confirmation was in doubt and the GOP began talking about moving the convention to Miami Beach—a prospect that made San Diego and IPP equally happy.

With IPP one merger and \$400,000 ahead, McFagin called Pecksniff in to congratulate him and ask him to fix a \$10 parking ticket.

"No problem," said Pecksniff, rubbing his hands. "First you offer to contribute \$50 to this judge's campaign. Then you write this memo, see? And..."

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