

The unelection

If predictions come true, the anti-climax of what has been the bleakest, dullest campaign in decades will probably come tomorrow as an unusually low number of citizens decide the most vital races in those same decades.

Election prognosticators believe that an extremely small percentage of those registered will vote in Tuesday's election. This, they say, is due to several things: a general climate of complacency, noncomprehension of basic issues, confusion about candidates' positions and, most importantly, predicted landslide wins for incumbent officeholders. It would seem that this year many voters have fallen into a pattern of unconcern, which may have led them to total political ineffectiveness.

Agreed, the democratic system is based on the general public making vital governmental

decisions. And in our qualified republic, those decisions consist mostly of picking the men who represent us in government.

But in this instance, a low voting percentage could serve the best interests of that very government in the long run.

It is strictly conjecture, but some sources have claimed to have noticed an extremely high complacency percentage in one specific cultural group, which they say could profoundly alter the outcome of the election.

These sources claim the administration's Silent Majority may be just those citizens who decide to stay home and grab a beer in front of the tube, rather than trek to the polls.

The poetic justice there would be superb.

Imagine, if you can, the Silent Majority lulled into nonvoting by the glossy propaganda spewed out by administration officials. Imagine the administration tangled in the web of its own half-truths. And imagine its costly, if none too energetic, Clockwork

Campaign backfiring in the interest of common good.

But imagine most of all the changes which could come from such an election. Veteran political hacks could be culled from office, bringing some life and perhaps some compassion into government. Outmoded and ineffective systems could once again be brought into action.

And even more importantly, the individual voter just might realize that his single ballot just might have some impact, some meaning on the vast political machinery he sees around him. The effects could be staggering.

Realistically however, it is doubtful that any such major shift will occur as a result of this election.

Most likely, the same people will be elected to the same offices. And Wednesday may be an instant replay of Monday.

But in times like these, who knows?

Jim Gray

The Editorial (etc...) Cartoonist Speaks... Out!

Like, I mean, What IF it really Happens?



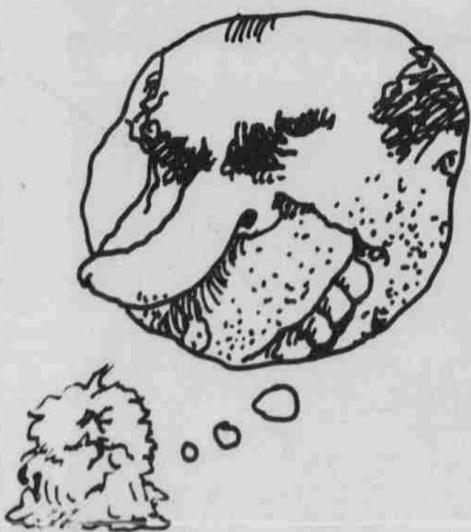
I mean Four More Years! Wow!



Think of it! It's Amazing!



Four Years...



Four MORE Years...



Of drawing that... FACE!!!



'What good does my one vote do?'

Open Letter to the Students
University of Nebraska

My fellow Nebraskans,

On Nov. 7, the day of the general election, many of you will have your first opportunity to participate directly in the governmental process by casting your ballot.

Some students (fortunately a very few) have asked me "What good does my one vote do?" My reply is, "you have only one vote, do you know of anyone who has two votes?" Over the years, dozens of county, city and district races have been won or lost by one or two votes. After each election, the State Canvass Board meets and usually the board must "flip a coin" to

decide a contest that ended in a tie vote.

Your first election as 18 and 19-year-old voters is important. Your record of participation must be good. The news media has placed a real emphasis on reporting the "youth vote". Unfortunately, your group has

been singled out for careful scrutiny of voter participation.

It should be pointed out that the "older Nebraskans" don't have a very good record over the years. Nebraska has approximately 1,000,000 potential voters. There are about 750,000 registered and the average turnout at the polls has been a meager 500,000.

Sad record indeed. I hope you'll help establish better records.

Finally, I want to point out why you have both the privilege and duty of voting. Young people pay the same rate of sales and income tax as the "older citizens". Every purchase and every income regardless of age is taxed at the same rates. Your property tax on an automobile for example is figured on the same rates and values as all other citizens. Herein lies your basic right to vote and I add your duty to vote.

I urge you to exercise your new franchise. Please do your best to cast a ballot on Nov. 7, the general election.

Allen J. Beerman
Secretary of State

guest opinion