

## Short subjects

The long-awaited University Studies program is underway and all indications are that it may be about the most significant change the University has made in a number of years.

Following the lead of the Centennial Education Program which began in 1969, the new program, which is scheduled to begin some coursework second semester, seems to be a definite stride in the direction of less structured, more self-initiated study.

At this point, it is most important that the University make a concentrated effort to improve and, perhaps, revive the educational process. The University studies plan is just that.

Experimentation in methods of teaching is one of the best ways the University can advance itself, not only academically but in overall operation. Self teaching methods and more personally-tailored education can only improve the system's status with students.

And an enrollment increased by improved academic stature certainly wouldn't hurt NU. If looks don't lie, everyone will win if University Studies is successful.

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Saturday's anti-war rally generally represented the last hurrah for an old genre—the protest confrontation.

What was originally construed to be an old-fashioned draft card burning and sign carrying meeting of the emotions turned out to actually be something a lot more constructive.

The 50 or so persons who attended the rally simply

sat down and, using a new rational approach to problem-solving, discussed methods for improving human services and human life in order to provide a system where wars won't exist.

All this, of course, represents a new direction for the anti-war movement. And not an unwelcome one. It is refreshing to note that through re-evaluation, those involved have decided that their actions can best be directed through and underneath the current system rather than outside-the-system head-banging.

And that's not bad.

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After appraising the situation, we've come to the conclusion that there may not be much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving after all.

Unless, of course you can be thankful for the increased price you're paying for that Thanksgiving turkey. Or if you can be thankful that thousands of soldiers have died this year in a war that will be all but forgotten in a few months. Or if you can be thankful that more children than ever are starving in ghettos while stuffed shirts stuff themselves on stuffed turkey.

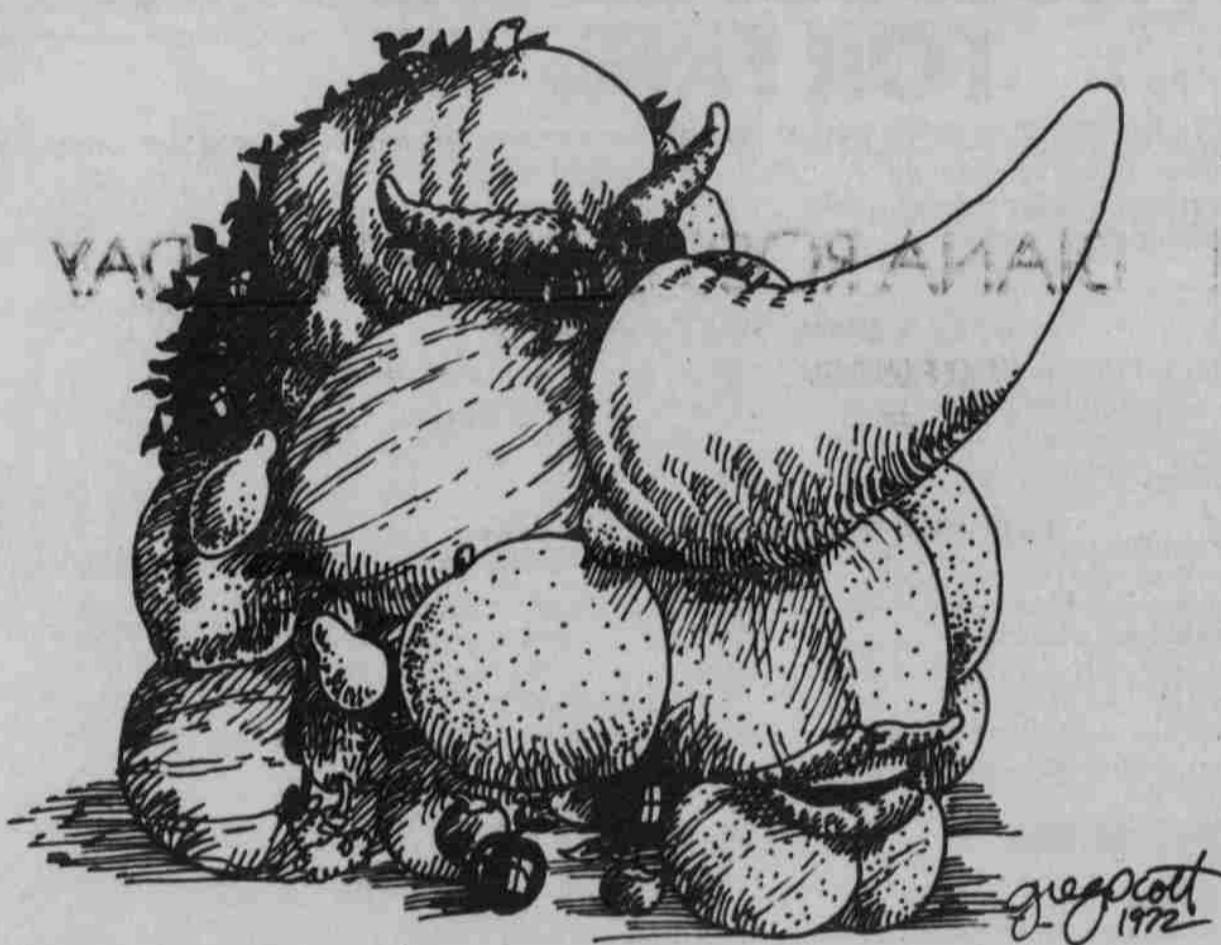
Or, most of all, if you can be thankful that we're headed for four more years of the same administration that put us where we are today.

If you can be thankful for all that, good luck.

But it's time America stopped fooling itself with vague visions of a better tomorrow while it watches football on its rose-colored TV.

The world is a little wider than a 21-inch diagonal. And happier Thanksgivings won't come without work.

Jim Gray



Over the river and out of the woods,  
Back to the White House he goes.  
The person's the same  
Who'll carry the blame  
For four more years of woe.  
Over the river and out of the woods,  
It cost a hunk of dough  
They didn't believe  
What's up his sleeve,  
So out of the woods he goes.

## UPC should offer more rock artists

by Kris Collins

*Kris Collins is a sophomore whose major is undeclared.*

With top name rock bands filtering their way into the cultural wasteland of Mid-America, Lincoln is finding itself in good strategic location for top quality productions.

Pershing Auditorium has become the center of attention. A reasonable capacity of 8,000 or more (Fillmore style) and fair acoustical potential makes Pershing very attractive.

Consequently, big time promoters have taken notice. They have produced top rock talent and ripped off the audience. This is a nice arrangement if you're on the rock promotional side. For the students at whom the concerts are primarily aimed it's extreme, unnecessary exploitation.

This is not necessary when Union Program Council (UPC) has the ways and means to offer a top quality rock concert at reasonable prices. UPC production has its share of disadvantages which bite sharply into the muscle ingredients of a good concert, but it still remains possible.

The problem begins with UPC attitudes and financial structure. Art Thompson, a UPC advisor, feels UPC has the responsibility to bring in musical groups which represent other areas of music since rock music activity is increasing at Pershing Auditorium.

Thompson explained that three years ago, when good rock groups rarely came to Lincoln, UPC promoted several top quality groups, among which were Chicago and the Birds. He said top rock groups were a "good risk" at that time.

It's true music of various styles need exposure, but if UPC programs other types of music it is neglecting the need of

students with rock tastes. Last year's rock groups included Fanny and Crow. These bands are good, but they are not on the level of talent which could be presented.

It is important to remember events at Pershing are not directly sponsored for the University while UPC's are. The program council holds a responsibility to provide good rock music as well as other forms of music to UNL students.

The UPC concert committee is crippled most by its financial situation. The money financing UPC comes from student fees. The concert committee then receives \$6,000 to last a school year. Jack Hart, concert committee chairman, has a tremendous record, considering the handicap.

Last year's free concerts featuring McCoy Tyner and leading bluegrass pickers were very good. This year's free Muddy Waters concert also was fine.

Top rock groups are big business. Most of these groups require a down payment. This is where UPC has no power. State law requires goods to be paid after delivery and not before. This makes it easy for hardened managers and agents to up UNL.

As far as facilities go, the UNL coliseum is about it. It's acoustics aren't Carnegie Hall, but it is enough to get by. Capacity is the Coliseum's major asset. Eight thousand plus puts the Coliseum in direct competition with Pershing.

These difficulties definitely are frustrating, but they can be overcome. Universities and colleges all across the country are promoting top rock talent for their students. Why can't Nebraska?

The University UPC has ways and means sitting in their laps to promote a top rock concert at decent prices. It is time to use that opportunity.

guest  
opinion