

JFK death prompted advent of 'terrible 60s'

By Mark Kjeldgaard

Ten years ago Thursday, when most of today's university students were grade schoolers, John F. Kennedy, 35th president of the United States, was assassinated.

Somehow, in retrospect, the assassination seems like a beginning as well as an end. Everything crazy and terrible seemed to happen after that—things that Jackie in her pink suit, accepting flowers at the Dallas airport, and a smiling Lyndon Johnson and the thousands waiting in the midday sun for the parade to pass, would never dream of. Kennedy's death ended the promising 60s and began the terrible 60s.

Who was Kennedy? What role did he play in the history of America? Kennedy, as I see him, was the last president of an America that still knew where it was going.

opinion

Current admirers of John F. Kennedy, who praise his idealism and his sense of purpose, seldom mention one of his highest ideals. Kennedy was ardently (gasp!) anti-Communist.

Yes! That is what makes one realize that it has indeed been ten years. Anti-Communism is no longer a thing to be ardent about.

When the betrayed Bay of Pigs invaders returned to our soil, Kennedy greeted them with choked-up Churchillian congratulations of how the Castros of the world could oppress human bodies, but not human spirits. Indeed, paraphrasing Churchill would have been appropriate to those soldiers, who were deserted by American air power. We will fight on the beaches, all right. Never have so few owed so little to so many.

During the Cuban missile crisis, Kennedy was undeniably hard-line. He said that an attack on a Latin American country would be considered an attack on the United States, that further Soviet military activities in this hemisphere would mean nuclear war. Suburbanites built thousands of private fallout shelters, which later became rec rooms and

winecellars.

In starting our big space program, Kennedy stressed the importance of landing men on the moon before the Russians.

When he went to Berlin, Kennedy praised the island-city of freedom in the Communist sea and received applause the like of which that city had not heard since the early forties. The applause came before the interpreter translated Kennedy's words, primarily because the paragraphs often ended with German phrases such as "Ich bin ein Berliner!" ("I am a Berliner!").

The audience did not need to understand the rest of the speech, because they knew that the American president would support them all the way in their resistance against the forces of Russian imperialism.

How impossibly archaic that now seems. Just try to imagine Richard Nixon in Taipei, shouting "I am a Nationalist Chinese!" before the cheering citizens of Taiwan.

We live in a different age now. We live in the age of *detente*, to which the table-pounding Khrushchev is strangely ancient. In Kennedy's time, school children in Mao's genial land bayoneted effigies of American soldiers.

Kennedy's anti-Communism dug us deep into Vietnam. South Vietnam, to him, was a free nation being overrun by external forces of totalitarianism. He committed 17,000 "advisers" to a conflict in which 44,000 would die.

Historically Kennedy was fortunate, because it was the Johnson Administration which extended the syllogism of Asian land war to its absurd conclusion.

Vietnam, more than anything else, blunted America's sword of democracy and ended our dream of a universal republic. Eisenhower and Kennedy, in their supreme acts of anti-Communism, initiated the destruction of anti-Communism.

Today, popular liberal opinion scoffs at anti-Communism. In my personal circles it is a dirty word. We go to China, now, to visit the Hobbitts and Chuck Connors drops in on Brezhnev. Despite Solzhenitsyn and Amalrik, "tyranny" is not part of our foreign policy vocabulary.

Kennedy is a pop hero, however, and pop heroes can hardly be hard-liners, so his "free world" notions are draped in a pleasant blanket of vagueness which



John F. Kennedy

obscures his human frailties.

To his deeply secular white followers, Martin Luther King was only incidentally Christian, his Moses analogies regarded as innocuous metaphors. So, to his believers, Kennedy is remembered for the Peace Corps, for saying good things about civil rights, for giving his country "style" and vitality.

Vacation cuts UNL operations

Thanksgiving vacation brings pumpkin pie, cranberry sauce, turkey and football games. But it also takes away the *Daily Nebraskan*, the Nebraska Union, Love Library, dormitories and classes.

Vacation at UNL officially begins at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday. Therefore, today's edition of the *Daily Nebraskan* is the last until after Thanksgiving. The *Daily Nebraskan* will resume publication Nov. 28.

The Union will be open limited hours on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday the building, South Crib and vending area will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. The North Crib will close at 3 p.m., the North Desk at 4:30 p.m. and the South Desk at 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday the building, the South Crib and vending area will be open from 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. The North and South Desks, the North Crib and the Colonial Dining Room will be closed.

UNL libraries also will operate under different hours during vacation. All libraries will be open Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. They will be closed from Thursday through Saturday and will open again Sunday from 1:30 p.m. to 10:50 p.m.

Residence hall switchboards will close at midnight Tuesday. All dormitory residents must be out of the dorms by 8 a.m. Wednesday. Residents can move in again Sunday after 1 p.m. School and its services will resume Monday.

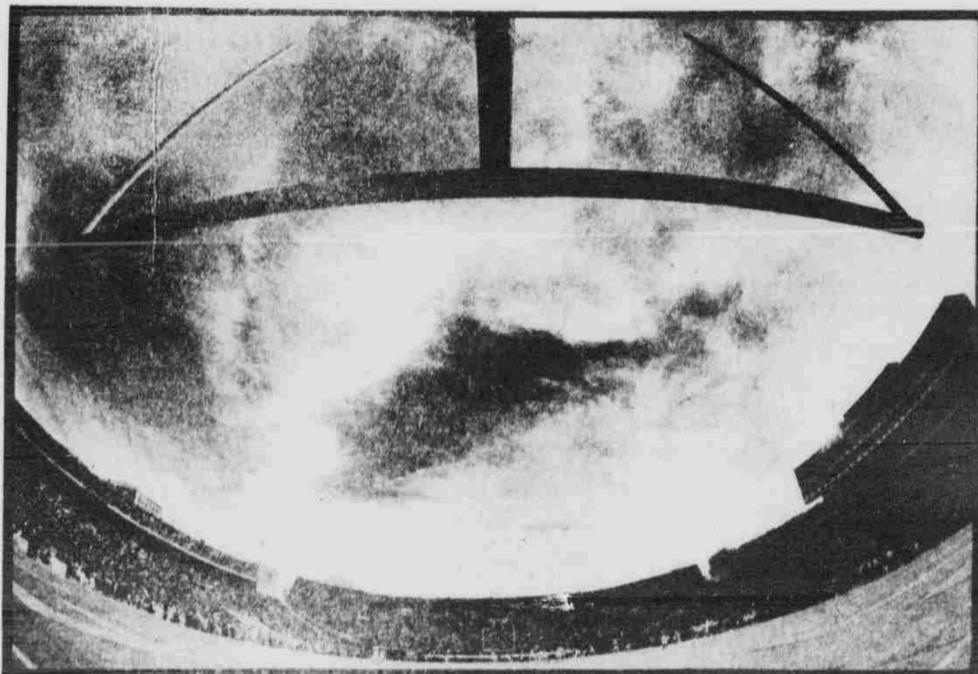


Photo by Bill Ganzel

When airplanes land at Lincoln's Municipal Airport, stewardesses announce this is the home of the Big Red. Today in a special pullout section, the *Daily Nebraskan* takes a

look at UNL football, highlighting the annual Thanksgiving weekend battle between the Sooners of Oklahoma and the Nebraska Cornhuskers. See pages 7 through 10.

Open sessions set to discuss altering Five Year Plan

What are the major functions of the University? How important is graduate education? Should faculty teach more instead of doing research?

UNL students can offer their opinions on these and other questions at special Faculty Senate meetings on Tuesday, Nov. 20 and 27.

At the meetings, the senate plans to discuss priorities for the University and possible revisions of the Five Year Plan, which has established certain goals for NU.

Senate members hope students will attend the meetings and express their opinions, according to Max Larsen of the senate's Academic Planning Committee.

Thone to appear Tuesday in Union

The Union Talks and Topics Committee is sponsoring the program "Meet Your Congressman" at 1:15 p.m. Tuesday in the Nebraska Union Small Auditorium.

Rep. Charles Thone (R-Neb) is to meet individually with students and answer questions at the session, according to an aide.