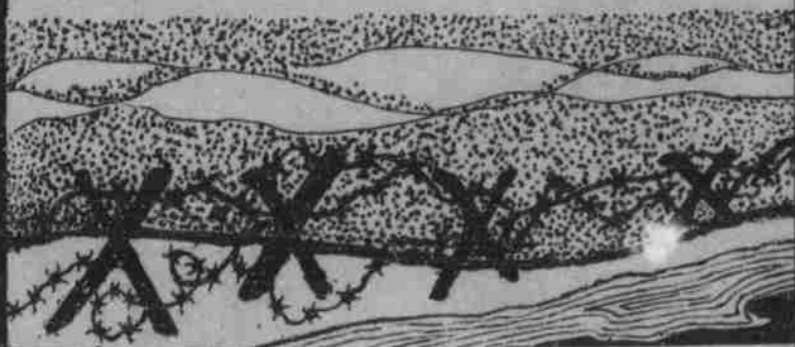


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Music by Country Joe McDonald.

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Today at 3, 7 & 9 p.m.

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## entertainment

### Cash, Lightfoot convey Americana

Lincoln concert-goers are presented with a double-barrelled assault on their auditory inputs this week, with both Johnny Cash and Gordon Lightfoot putting in appearances at Pershing Auditorium, purveying two different but related visions of country-flavored Americana (or Canadiana, if you prefer, in the case of Lightfoot).

The problem then lies in choosing which concert is worthy of your last grocery check. On the one hand Cash, performing tonight, offers a rough fundamentalism delivered in a gravelly tone that, while painful to listen to, acquires a deliberate honest richness which can (and does, I am assured by a Cash afficionado) move an audience to tears-in-the-eyes-and lumps-in-the-throat.

On the other hand Lightfoot, from time to time referred to as Canada's John Denver, will perform at Pershing Auditorium Friday night. Lightfoot's style embodies a polish and a free-wheeling feeling missing in the greater portion of Cash's repertoire. Running through Lightfoot's work is a vein of self-deprecating, faintly bemused cynicism that lightens the tone of songs which would otherwise sink beneath their weighty subject matter.

However different their respective styles, the two are united by a common theme; that of escaping a bad situation. In Cash's case, the situation was the dark carousel of alcohol and drugs he found himself riding in the mid-60s. Aided by his wife, June Carter, and by a renovated faith in God, Cash fought back to health and rebuilt his career.

In Lightfoot's case, the situation is not as definable, but perhaps symptomatic of it is his much-publicized divorce and alimony settlement, upon which Lightfoot commented, "Over \$1100 per week is a bit much for babysitting."

Both turn out excellent music, in styles that are distinctive and clean. Perhaps Lightfoot is the more commercial of the pair, and Cash certainly is the more countrified of the two, but whichever one you pick you can hardly make a mistake.

### dave ware strike up the band

## 'Traveler': handbook for life

the universal traveler: A Soft-Systems Guide to Creativity, Problem Solving and the Process of Reaching Goals; by Don Koberg and Jim Bagnall; William Kaufmann, Inc. \$3.95.

Remember the Whole Earth Catalog? That resource book was a guide to making the world a more comfortable place. Now, in very similar format, we have The Universal Traveler. The difference is in the subject: The Universal Traveler deals with the mechanics of life itself.

### vince boucher footnotes

Koberg is an architect and Bagnall is a graphic coordinator, both at California Polytechnic State University. They have developed what they call a soft-systems guide to getting through life happily and creatively. By comparing the decision making process, and all that goes with it, such as alternatives, approaches and methods of analysis to taking a trip, with all the necessary travel precautions, they present a simplified, logical travel guide for life.

#### Not always simple

Sounds easy? The authors show that isn't always simple, through 127 pages of methods and possibilities. After the preliminary section on Travel Tips, the reader visits the Universal Travel Agency.

"The Universal Travel Agency" is a storehouse of means and methods for getting from here to there," the authors write. Tourist traps, the inevitable bugaboo, include everything from, "Warning: Don't let your nerves get shattered by drinking too much coffee or tea. Don't eat too much nonnutritive, fatty, low energy foods. . . . Don't expect

to operate well without sleep. When tired, take a nap and then go on," to "Once into a problem, it may appear that the problem is really too small to warrant your attention. Everything looks easy. You get puffed up by your "beginner's luck."

After the traps comes the journey, marked by a succession of stops along the way from problem to solution. Each stop is accompanied by an introduction, language guide, methods for acceptance and finally Travel Guides, which are references to other sources on the same subject. The route progresses as the various stages of problem solving are reached: acceptance, analysis, definition, ideation, idea selection, implementation and evaluation. We've heard some of the methods before, such as listing all the attributes of a subject. Others, such as various written exercises which take a geometrical form on paper, originate with the authors reflect their concern with order and symmetry.

#### Side trips

The last section of the book is devoted to what the authors call "side trips." These include a guide to measurable objectives, lessons from problem solving, synectics (using the tools of analogy, metaphors and simile to provoke discussion of a problem), self hypnosis procedure (a modified type of yoga), a communications checklist, wiring diagrams (a series of classifications for types of ideas) and a number of games for creativity.

The approach of the book is casual but systematic. The authors say they think life and its inevitable decisions are solved through an ordered approach, with lots of room for alternatives, new ideas and lack of habits to keep a person going. Their philosophy is attractive and calming just like their brown-toned paperback book.

The Universal Traveler will find a rocky road, but, as the authors say, he doesn't have to stumble over the rocks.