

d.n. soapbox

ralph by ron wheeler



letters to the editor

I was amused to see Gore Vidal's latest book described as part of a "patriotic trilogy." Vidal is not an American patriot so I wonder what country his works are supposed to represent.

Vidal is a radical who makes a lot of money and has gained much fame because he is "cute." His novels have gone consistently downhill (including *Burr*) but the liberal media idolizes him, and his lack of real talent is overlooked. Vidal is overrated. The "pretty boy" is a tainted star.

Pat Wilson

Obsession with normalcy

Once again we have "professionals" (Marc and Brenda Feigen-Fasteau) telling people how to be "normal." Why won't they all just let us alone? Why the gross over-emphasis on male-female relations?

I think the obsession with "normalcy" and revolution in sex has been the cause of more problems, not more solutions. I think, deep down, that everyone feels the way I do. Stop all the sex studies and start natural living. Back to the wholesome basics.

Sarah Thompson

word unheard | American Party full of it- Birch Society bullfeathers

By Del Gustafson

Monday night, Tom Anderson, national chairman of the American Party, addressed an Omaha gathering of the party faithful. The American Party, in case you don't remember, was the political vehicle of George Wallace in his 1968 third-party campaign. With Wallace out in 1972, John Birchers took over the party apparatus and proceeded to run one of their own, John Schmitz, for president that year.

The American Party became, as all organizations do that come into intimate contact with the John Birch Society, a showcase for the exhibition of the Bircher's inexhaustible supply of kookiness. The Party fixed its steadfast gaze upon the three evils besetting America: Communism, rich people, and fluoridated water (or creeping dentalism); fortunately, the nation's gaze was elsewhere.

Now the American Party is gearing up for another presidential campaign, and while the Birchism is watered down, it still is there. One feels its presence in the rhetoric. To the true Bircher, no non-believer is ever innocently wrong or even stupid; his error is always a conscious attempt to do evil.

Illustrative of this first principle of Birchism was the

innocent bystander | Brothers tells wives all— except how to tell husband

By Arthur Hoppe

Dear Dr. Joyce Brothers: Boy, am I ever glad you turned 48 and changed your mind about us housewives over 40 having affairs. You're certainly right that an affair is the solution to "a dull marriage." Mine sure solved mine.

But your advice did cause a few problems. The first was how to tell my husband, Fred.

You see, I read about your new book, "Better than Ever," in Newsweek. I liked the part where you said having an affair would "add a lot to a marriage. That extra sparkle in a woman's eye, that little bounce in her walk, those newly sensuous gestures as she brushes her hair back from her face or shrugs a shoulder, are all tremendous sexual come-ons. Her husband can't help but be intrigued."

So true. But the part I liked best is where you said husbands over 40 shouldn't have affairs because they might have a heart attack. That was the part I didn't know how to tell Fred.

Temptation in path

I mean I couldn't tell him, "Fred, Dr. Brothers says you shouldn't have an affair because you would find another woman so exciting you'd probably drop dead."

That would be just putting temptation in his path. "What a way to go!" he'd say. And, besides, how would that make me look to him? Duller than ever.

So I decided to tell Fred nothing at all. Let him kill himself for all I care, the dirty two-timing rat!

My next problem was whom to have an affair with. Seeing I was having it for Fred's sake, I thought I'd have it with his best friend, Harry.

"Please pass the tartar sauce, Harry," I whispered to him at our very next dinner party, "and would you like to have an affair?"

Fault found

We met the next day at noon in the Bide-an-Hour

Motel. And were you ever right, Dr. Brothers! At 12:14 Harry dropped dead. Did I mention he was married?

You may find fault with me for picking a married man. But, after all, how many unmarried men over 40 do Fred and I know? I mean who would be interested.

But poor old Harry, I'm glad to say, did not die in vain. The very fact that he found me that exciting, gave me a new feeling of confidence, a new sense of my own allure. Overnight, I was a new woman.

Was intrigued

And, just as you so accurately predicted, Fred couldn't help but be intrigued. It wasn't two evenings later, as we were getting ready for bed, that he took my hand in his and said softly:

"Dearest, that extra sparkle in your eye, that little bounce in your walk, those newly sensuous gestures as you brush the hair back from your face or shrug a shoulder, are all the most tremendous sexual come-ons I've ever seen. Let me take you in my arms and... Aaagghhh!"

And, with that, he clutched his chest and over he keeled.

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Guest opinions should be typed, triple-spaced, on nonerasable paper. They should be accompanied by the author's name, class standing and major, or occupation. All material submitted to these pages is subject to editing and condensation, and cannot be returned to the writer.

Dispatch: one-sided coin

Well, I have noticed that the socialist newspaper of Lincoln, the Dispatch, has folded. . . and it's about time. I wondered how long the people of our community would stand for such one-sided journalistic endeavors. I imagine the Gazette is not far behind.

In this day and age it is virtually impossible to just present a single, solitary biased view of life and life's people and get away with it. The Dispatch wasn't too bad an idea at first, but it just went too far in one, narrow direction. A far left and far-out direction. Yes, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. The Dispatch was good intentions gone astray. Rest in peace, and I wish the wake had been sooner. No more one-sided coins.

Jordan Oliver

Abolish Yell Squad

I think I have a sensible solution to the Yell Squad controversy. Why don't we abolish the Yell Squad?

No one pays any attention to the Yell Squad at athletic events. No one can even hear the Yell Squad when it really counts. No one thinks that the best people are necessarily chosen for Yell Squad membership.

Just think of all the disappointing tears that would be saved by all the crying girls who aren't selected if we didn't have a Yell Squad. The Yell Squad makes as much sense as Homecoming Royalty. Exactly none!

H.T. Turner

A garbage can for everyone

In response to Jim Zalewski's article concerning the farewell to the Coliseum, I do not think the old barn is a "snake pit" for any opposing teams. I think it is a garbage can for everyone.

Instead of having fires on fraternity row, I suggest that the frat houses put a torch to the Coliseum at the end of the season. The Coliseum is an eyesore and never should have been allowed to remain standing this long.

The new complex will be a breath of fresh air compared to the dungeon that the roundballers have to play in now. I recommend that the Coliseum be razed and a new Men's Physical Education Bldg. and high-rise parking garage be put in its place. A garbage can is only worth one thing. . . garbage. One Coliseum in Rome is enough.

Rich McCarthy

ASUN Senate's childish squabble

Instead of doing what they were elected to do, the ASUN Senate is having a childish squabble over the free speech of CSL.

I suggest that ASUN keep its own house in order and stop trying to demonstrate powers that it doesn't have.

I am beginning to think that ASUN does not know how to do an honest day's work. ASUN and CSL are doing nothing but increasing the amount of juvenile delinquency with their personality disputes and childish bickering.

"Help Wanted"

Corpses in the Yangtze

Erratum: I apologize in making a misinterpretation (Guest Opinion, March 8) that corpses floating in Yangtze River cited in Del Gustafson's article are the same as those in Pearl River floating down to Hong Kong. However to my knowledge, I know no such incidence that several thousand dead bodies were discovered in the Yangtze River. It will be helpful if Gustafson could substantiate evidence for his remark.

W.K. Yeung

Mao provided

Del Gustafson, in writing about the "China Myth," (Daily Nebraskan, March 3) has made the mistake of judging a totally different society according to the traditional American values. Here in America, where most people have their basic needs and wants satisfied, the less materialistic things like freedom and diversity of life seem important. It is doubtful if a mother who has seen her children starved to death will have the same priorities. Mao's revolution was a success not because "the sight of a few thousand ancestor-worshippers, black marketeers and various other social misfits floating dead down the Yangtze" terrorized the Chinese, but because he promised and provided his people with what they needed most—food, shelter and clothing. Most people who claim to cherish their freedom more than anything else probably have never experienced starvation. Freedom has a taste only on a full stomach.

Asghar Alam