

Ed Sullivan forgotten by MTV generation

I was talking with an 18-year-old girl, a senior in high school. She said she wanted to ask me something.

"Who was Ed Sullivan?" she said.

I said I didn't think I understood the question.



Bob Greene

"I mean, who was he?" she said. "Was he like, your generation's David Letterman?"

"Not precisely," I said.

"Well, what did he look like?" she said.

I asked her if she meant that, were Ed Sullivan to walk into the room at that very moment, she would not recognize him?

"No," she said. "I wouldn't."

Then she said:

"Did he look like this?"

She stood up and let her arms hang in front of her like an orangutan.

I said that he actually had, indeed, looked a little like that. Where had she seen him?

"I think I saw him in a Beatles video," she said.

The Beatles hadn't made any videos, I said; they had made movies.

"Let me ask you something else," she said.

I said to go ahead.

"Is it true that Elvis Presley and the Beatles made their first appearances on the Ed Sullivan show?" she said.

I said that basically that was true.

"Well, why did you watch them, then?" she said. "If they hadn't been on TV before, how did you know that you wanted to see them?"

I said that we watched Ed Sullivan every week. "You mean you watched his show no matter what was on it?" she said.

I said yes.

"I see," she said. "Kind of like MTV."

Alas... it has come to pass. My generation, which alienated the rest of America in the '60s and '70s by acting as if we had created the concept of youth, is now on the far side of a generation gap that excludes millions of our younger countrymen who have no real memory of Ed Sullivan.

The young woman is not alone; there are millions upon millions of bright, intelligent young people out there who are no more familiar with Iron Butterfly or Dobie Gillis than we were with Rudy Vallee or Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy. To them Lyndon Johnson is as distant a figure as FDR was to us; to them the idea of watching Jack Parr on television is as unimaginable as our thoughts of listening to Fred Allen on network radio.

This shouldn't be so surprising, of course; it happens to every generation, and it is probably a healthy thing.

But there has never been a generation so happily, smugly sure that it was inventing the world for the first time than those of us in the so-called Baby Boom. Because we represented a big hump in the country's demographic profile, we always felt comfortably surrounded by others just like us; there are so many members of our generation that often we felt important just by being alive.

Which makes it all the bigger shock when we now realize that a completely new generation has come along — a generation that frankly regards us as middle-aged and sort of quaint. The fact that they're right doesn't help any.

This phenomenon has even extended to politics. Those of us who grew up during the war in Indo-

china and were still relatively young when Watergate happened view the universe with a gimlet-eyed perspective that we always considered sort of weather-beaten and world-weary. We may have assumed the generation that came along after us would eagerly imitate our political attitudes.

But as my 18-year-old acquaintance said to me: "I'm real sorry about Vietnam and everything, but I don't see why your generation hates the government and hates America so much."

Although she was oversimplifying, I knew exactly what she meant; it is far more likely that a member of her generation will join the Marines than end up marching on a picket line protesting some bit of American foreign policy.

Continued on Page 6

GOOD PAY FOR ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Over \$1,000 per month during your senior year. The Air Force has a new financial aid program for students in various engineering fields. Both juniors and seniors may apply. Find out today if you qualify. Limited program. Contact:

TSgt. Bob Waters (402) 471-5501
Call Collect

AIR FORCE
A great way of life.

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1984 Daily Nebraskan. They are written by this semester's editor in chief, Larry Sparks.

Other staff members will write editorials throughout the semester. They will carry the author's name after the final sentence.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the newspaper.

According to the policy set by the regents, responsibility for the content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.

Daily Nebraskan

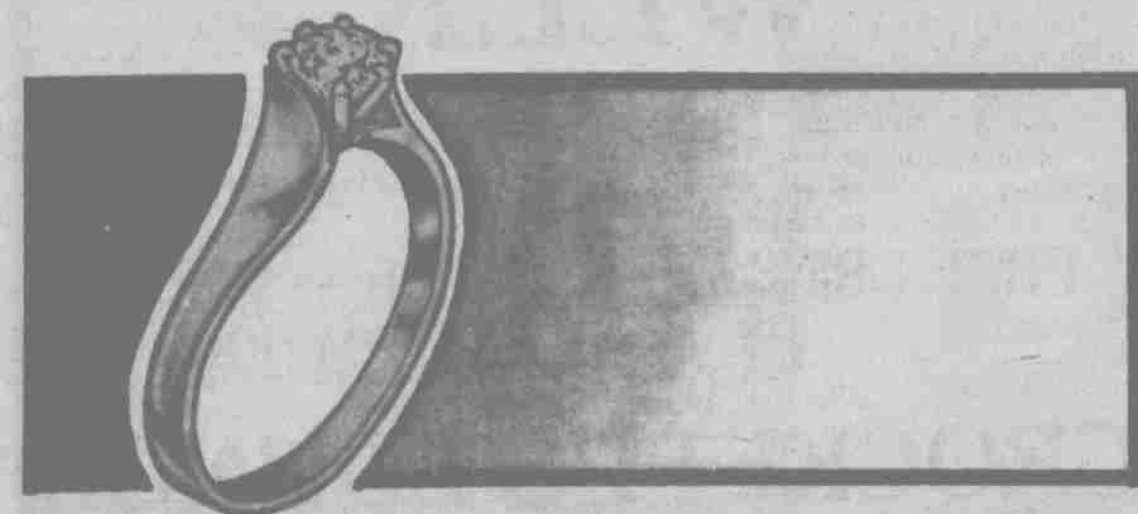
EDITOR	Larry Sparks, 472-1766
GENERAL MANAGER	Daniel Shattil
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Kitty Policky
ADVERTISING MANAGER	Tracy L. Beavers
ASSISTANT	
ADVERTISING MANAGER	Kelly Grosseohme
CIRCULATION MANAGER	Steve Meyer
NEWS EDITOR	Ward W. Triplett III
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITORS	Lauri Hopple Jann Nyffeler Vicki Ruhga Jeff Browne
SPORTS EDITOR	
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT	
EDITOR	Mike Frost
COPY DESK SUPERVISOR	Patty Pryor
NIGHT NEWS EDITORS	Jeff Goodwin Chris Welsch Mike Frost
WIRE EDITOR	Chris Welsch
ART DIRECTOR	Lorri Mongar
PHOTO CHIEF	Craig Andressen
ASSISTANT PHOTO CHIEF	Dave Trouba
PUBLICATIONS BOARD	
CHAIRPERSON	Carla Johnson, 477-5703
PROFESSIONAL ADVISER	Don Walton, 473-7301

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday in the fall and spring semesters and Tuesdays and Fridays in the summer sessions, except during vacations.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-2588 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, call Carla Johnson, 477-5703.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1984 DAILY NEBRASKAN

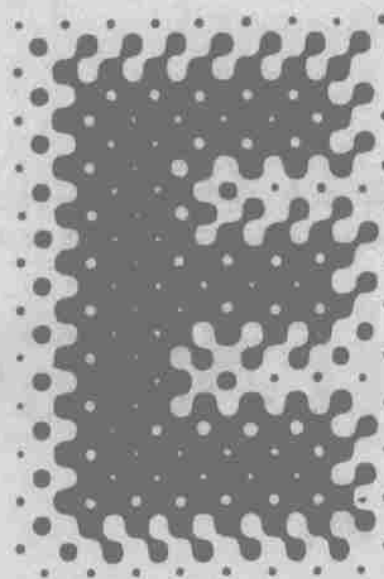


...We at Wright's want to create the jewelry that will give joy through the generations.



Wright's
JEWELERS

CORNER OF 13th & P



ASTIGMATISM

A common vision problem, and it can mean blurry vision, even with soft contact lenses. At Family Contact Lens Center, we now fit the new HYDROCURVE[™] toric soft lens. It's specifically designed to correct astigmatism. This breakthrough in lens design means you can now have the comfort of soft lenses, and good vision too.

For more information call 483-4000
We offer free consultation,
and a 60-day trial period.



Where the health of your eyes comes first.



6909 East "O" Street
Financing Available

