

opinion / editorial

Parking action displays consideration for students

A new idea—perhaps the smartest one yet to come out of the alumni association affair—surfaced at the Parking Advisory Committee meeting Wednesday.

This summer \$500,000 was donated to the alumni association with the designation that the money be used, with matching private funds, for the construction of a new alumni center.

The UNL Central Planning Committee has approved a plan to build the proposed center in the metered

lot north of the Nebraska Union. The proposal is on hold, however, while the committee completes a 90-day search for an off-campus site.

In the meantime, the furor about the loss of 200 parking spaces the building would take from students continues. It was revealed at Wednesday's meeting that, as planned, the alumni center would have only 18 stalls. So, not only would the building eliminate a parking lot, but visitors to the center, presumably more than 18, would take up other park-

ing sites as well.

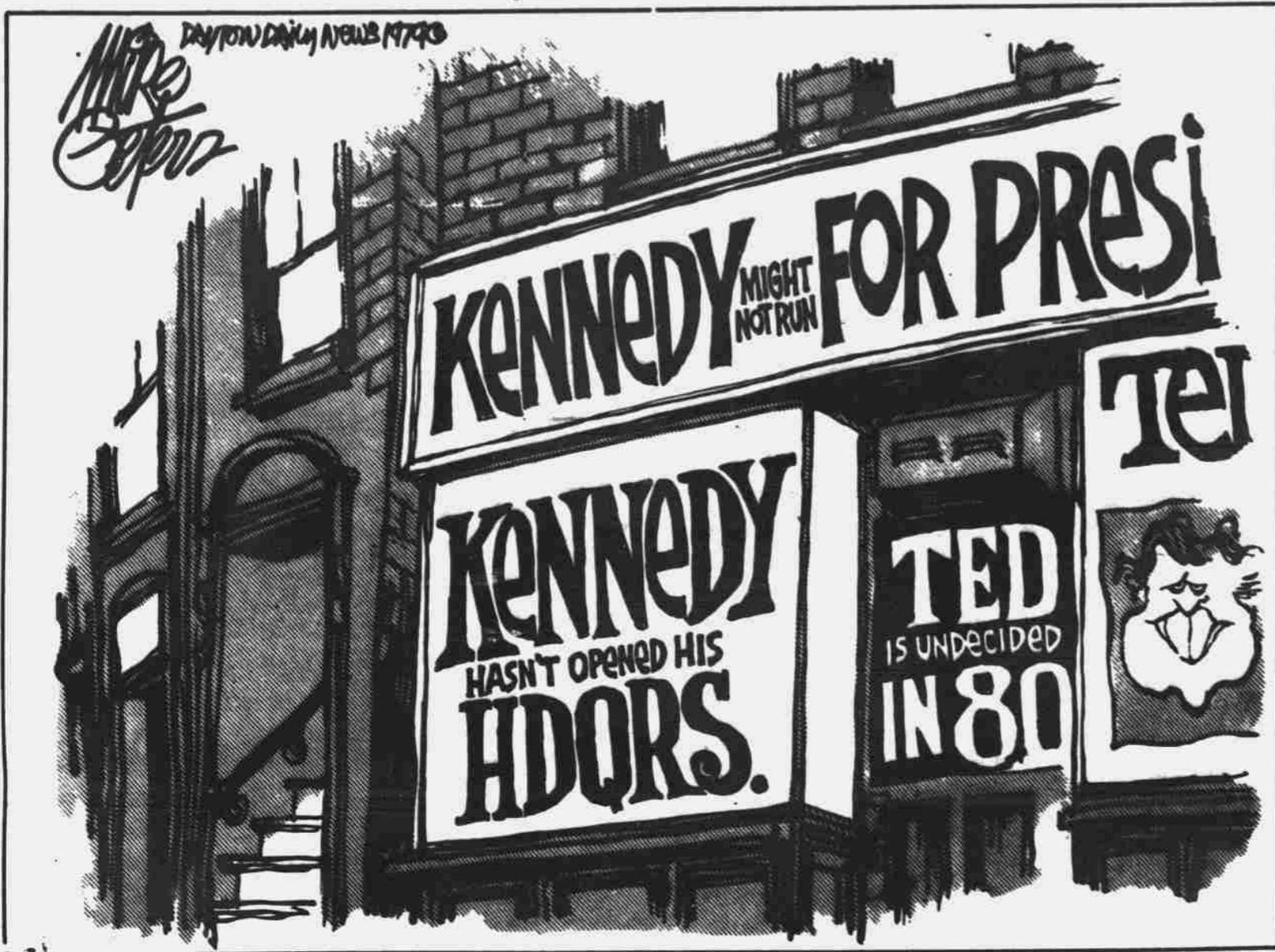
Recent debate on the issue has focused on how to replace that parking and on who should pay for that replacement. Proposals have included constructing a parking garage (paid for by renting the spaces or increasing the cost of permits) or by constructing lots on the perimeter of campus, forcing students to walk long distances to get to classes.

In all of these cases, students would suffer from action on which they have had little say and from

which they would receive few benefits.

A proposal by the Parking Advisory Committee would be a step in the right direction. It has proposed that the cost of replacing parking stalls be included in the construction budget for the center. This would force those who benefit from the center to pay for it. This is as it should be.

The needs of students in this matter finally are getting serious consideration.



Terrorists freed; reasons questioned

Washington—Maybe there are perfectly good reasons why President Carter has freed four Puerto Rican terrorists while Waymon Cunningham remains locked up. But Cunningham doesn't know what those reasons might be.

Neither do I.

Let me tell you about Waymon Cunningham. He was convicted in the killing of a police officer during an armed robbery of a "numbers" establishment.

william raspberry

Both Cunningham and the Puerto Ricans, that is to say, were convicted of particularly heinous crimes. But there the similarity ends.

The Puerto Ricans—Oscar Collazo, 65 who was convicted in the Blair House attempt on Truman's life, and Lolita Lebron, 59, Irving Flores Rodriques, 53, and Rafael Cancel Miranda, 49, convicted in the House gallery attack—are free. Cunningham isn't, although he has been reassigned to an out-of-prison program that brings him into Washington every day, while he spends his nights and weekends in the Lorton Reformatory.

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Staff, sources must work together

Another lazy Thursday morning at the Daily Nebraskan. The only thing making noise around here is the fly hovering above last night's coffee cups, and a group of reporters talking about the one that got away. Seems that a group of people on campus took a vote and decided that they would rather not have a news story written about them. The obligatory "what have they go to hide" jokes follow, and then peter out. The fly once again reigns supreme. I wait patiently for something to catch fire.

ombudsman

People tend to be a little nervous about having something written about them in the paper, but usually like to have the exposure. Those who are reasonably self-contained and content with what they are doing and would just as soon remain somewhat anonymous are few and far between. It seems everyone is just a little hungry for recognition.

When a story idea falls through down here, the reactions range from resigned sighs to sheer panic. Around deadline time stories tend to resemble chattel more than anything else. The object is to get the story in and get the paper out. When anything gets in the way, it is regarded with a mixture of fear and loathing. Sometimes it causes problems with the copy we do have. It's not treated as tenderly as it sometimes deserves.

On the other side of the fence, Joe Shmo who just got interviewed is waiting with his own fears. He is worried about how he is going to come off in the interview. Did he say anything stupid? Did the reporter get everything right? How will the public and his friends react? Why didn't he say something else?

The reporter did his or her best to sort through the information. He is trying to make a readable story out of a list of facts and perceptions that will hopefully be of interest to everybody. Sometimes they find the job nearly impossible.

Once the story hits print anything can happen, sighs of relief to the rapid sucking in of breath. The most common problems are complaints that someone has been misrepresented or misquoted. This of course doesn't happen all the

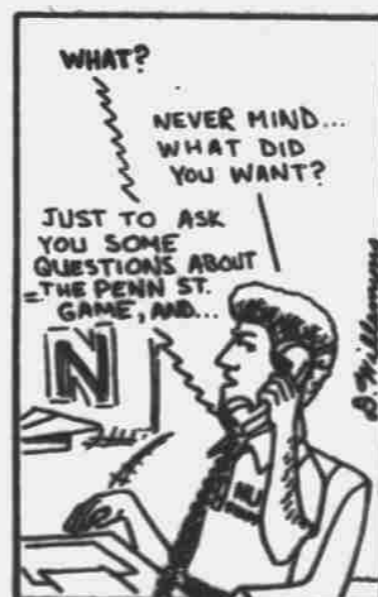
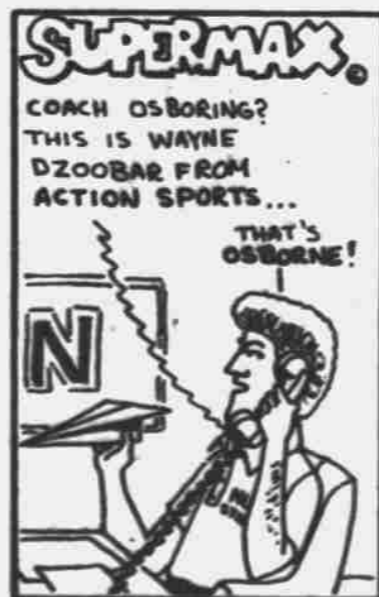
time. Usually, people are either pleased or relieved at what does go into the paper. In the extreme cases where the paper is charged with doing a shoddy job, there are two schools of thought.

Either the reporter really did make a mistake in the story, or the person who the story is about got cold feet and changed his mind about what he said. Either way there is a run on Roloids in the store. Nobody is very happy.

There are a couple of ways to keep this from happening. I am of the opinion that reporters should take a tape recorder with them to their interview. In any case, reporters try to take comprehensive notes during the interview. If you are being interviewed, it is perfectly legitimate to ask the reporter to read back what they got out of your talk. It is also a good idea to go over important points several times. Don't be afraid to ask the reporters questions about your interview. Once the story hits the paper there is very little anyone can do about it.

The reporters set out to do a good job. If something goes wrong it affects them just as much as it does you. Bad headlines and typographical errors have been known to send reporters screaming at their editors with double bitted axes or slide rules. This tends to disrupt the meditative silence around here. The flies usually vacate the office at this time, and I accept bets at reasonable odds on who will survive the semester.

When there are problems with the paper, those odds go down considerably.



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