

Editorials

Commentary

Black and white

History.

Look at that word again. Notice what makes it meaningful. Reduced to reality, it is markings surrounded by white. The markings are black. Were it not for the markings there would be nothing there. Only white.

And such is most students' knowledge of history. It is white. What you know is the white. It flows in your mind, themes and trends . . . all in white.

This week you can put some black markings in your knowledge of history. Black History Week starts today.

THERE ARE opportunities open daily. Negro art displays, historical displays, NEBRASKAN stories for contemplation.

If you were to do your thing with Black History Week, your knowledge of history would no longer be all white. It would be black and white — just like the word above.

And as the word takes form through a mixture of black and white, your understanding of history and the developments of our time will take more accurate form through black and white.

MIX THE KNOWLEDGE of white history, so dutifully taught throughout the educational process, with the understanding to be attained through participation in Black History Week. History can take a relevant form.

The Daily Nebraskan has run, is running, and will run stories on the displays and possibilities of Black History Week. By taking the time to digest some of it, you may get a new outlook on people, places, things.

By the way, if the contrast of black and white frightens you, don't take part. The damage you do yourself by understanding can be permanent.

The lonely crowd

... by Dave Buntain

After over a year of legal gymnastics, it is finally certain that the findings of the Warren Commission on President Kennedy's assassination will be tested in a court of law.

Last week New Orleans' flamboyant D.A., James Garrison, successfully cleared the last defense hurdle and began introducing his "evidence" that Clay Shaw and Lee Harvey Oswald conspired to murder the President five years ago. Strange as it may seem both the Shaw trial and its equally sensational counterpart, the Sirhan trial in Los Angeles, both bear directly on University student programming this year.

THOSE STUDENTS still in possession of a Nebraska Union Speakers brochure will note that the controversial Mr. Garrison had been scheduled to speak at the Union on April 1 (some critics suggested that this "April Fool's Day" appearance was quite appropriate). Since the Shaw trial will probably last well into the spring, the union was forced to drop him from its calendar. The skeptics among us wonder how much of a drawing-card Garrison will be at the conclusion of the trial.

Ironically, the Sirhan trial may also impinge upon the Union's Speakers Series and force cancellation of a speech by writer-socialite George Plimpton on Feb. 20.

Author of PAPER LION and a close friend of the Kennedys, Plimpton was in the Ambassador Hotel Ballroom to hear Robert Kennedy's victory speech and witnessed his assassination. Sirhan's prosecutors have said Plimpton will be subpoenaed to testify, which may preclude his appearance at Nebraska.

MANY OLDTIMERS at NU may remember a "preview" of the Shaw trial presented by author-lawyer Mark Lane in a speech here on Nov. 17, 1967. Lane, you may recall, produced a lucid, heavily-documented challenge to the Warren Commission findings entitled RUSH TO JUDGMENT.

He kept a capacity Union Ballroom crowd entranced for two hours as he outlined his objections to the Warren Commission report and defended the investigations being conducted by Garrison. As the Shaw trial unfolds it is interesting to review Lane's comments as I reported them in the DAILY NEBRASKAN the following day.

Lane noted at the outset that he had recently moved to New Orleans, "because I wanted to know who killed President Kennedy." With an obvious reference to the Warren inquiry, he suggested, "the first serious investigation since the shots were fired is taking place now in New Orleans."

WHEN THIS investigation is brought into the courtroom (via the Shaw trial), "there will be a great shock in this country — people are ill-prepared for what will happen. They are going to learn for the first time who killed President Kennedy, why he was killed and why the federal government from Lyndon Baines Johnson on down has acted to suppress relevant evidence."

Lane was eager to defend Garrison from the harsh criticism levelled at him by the press who had termed him "psychopathic" and "crazy." He said this was part of "an almost orchestrated response on the part of the news media" in denouncing the D.A.'s activities. Terming Garrison an intellectual, Lane asserted, "there is no question in my mind that he has turned up the most significant evidence since the day of the assassination."

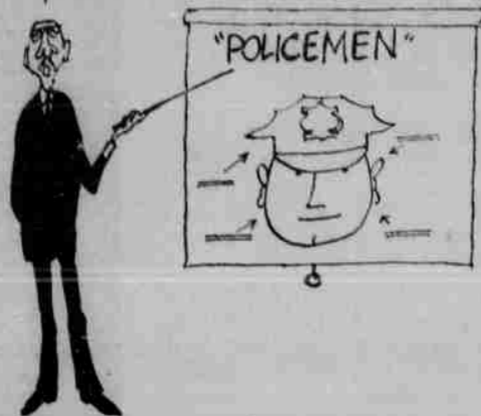
Lane's skillful presentation that day met with a mixed but vocal response. Some dismissed Lane and Garrison as "amateur sleuths" and "crackpots," while others were puzzled as to what to think, fearing to distrust the Warren Commission findings but seeing in his remarks a number of reasons for distrust.

THIS PUZZLEMENT seemed to feed on a suspicion common to many Americans that perhaps U.S. leaders could really be successful in suppressing the truth about the assassination if they so desired. All in attendance seemed eager that somehow, sometime the controversy over President Kennedy's death might be finally laid to rest.

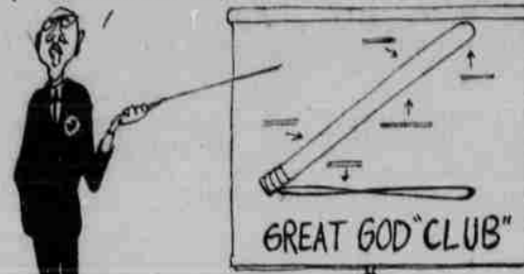
That time may be at hand. Garrison, Lane and the Warren Commission critics are about to have their day in court. We are about to hear for the first time the significant evidence which Garrison claims will point unmistakably to a conspiracy involving not only Shaw and Oswald but a host of other "faceless men."

If Garrison is correct he will deserve the thanks of what will certainly be an incredulous nation. If he is wrong he will suffer a less glorious fate. But in either event one hopes that the Clay Shaw trial will conclusively answer the question of how John Kennedy died, so that we might finally get on with that serious business for which he lived.

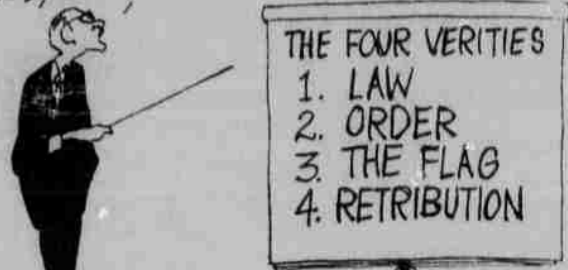
A MISUNDERSTOOD AND INCREASINGLY PERSECUTED RELIGIOUS SECT ARE:



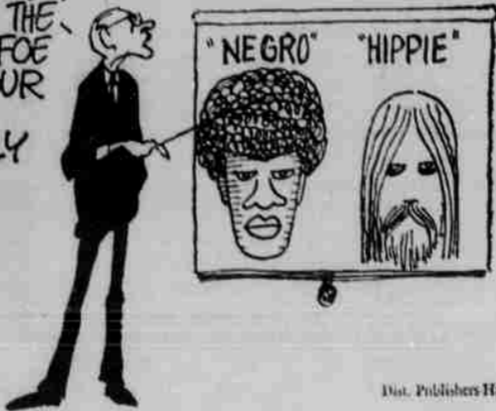
'POLICEMEN' TRADITIONALLY WEAR BLUE AND PRAY TO THE GREAT GOD 'CLUB,' THE GIVER OF ALL LAW, THE FOUNT OF ALL WISDOM.



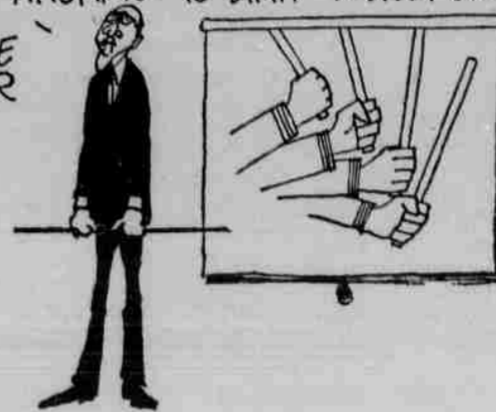
'POLICEMEN' AT ALL TIMES CARRY SMALL REPLICAS OF THE GREAT GOD 'CLUB' CALLED 'BILLIES,' SYMBOLIZING THE FOUR VERITIES:



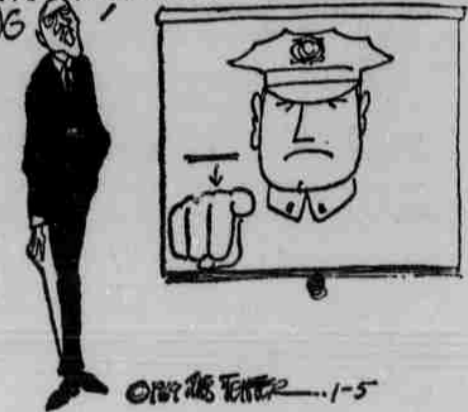
'POLICEMEN' PERIODICALLY ENGAGE IN FERTILITY RITES CALLED 'RIOTS' DURING WHICH THEY BEAT THEIR 'BILLIES' ON THE BODIES OF THE SYMBOLIC FOE OF THE FOUR VERITIES ALTERNATELY CALLED 'NEGROES' AND 'HIPPIES.'



ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN PRESERVING OUR TRADITION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WILL PROTEST ATTEMPTS TO LIMIT 'POLICEMEN' IN THE PRACTICE OF THEIR FAITH..



FOR IT IS WISE TO REMEMBER: IF WE JUDGE 'POLICEMEN' HARSHLY NOW, SOMEDAY 'POLICEMEN' MAY BE JUDGING US.



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First play of the dangerous game

by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

Washington — President Nixon's quick decision to talk to the Russians on the Middle East crisis is only the opening gambit in a fascinating but dangerous game of power politics he is now sketching out with his national security advisers.

Nixon is well aware that the Soviet Union is becoming compulsive in its desire to negotiate with the U.S. — not on the Arab-Israeli confrontation, but on control of the escalating arms race.

President Nixon, however, puts heavier emphasis on the danger of another Middle Eastern war, which might suck in the two superpowers on opposite sides. To Nixon the question of arms control, while important, is not so lethal a time bomb as the possible breakdown of the fragile truce-between Israel and the surrounding Arab states.

ACCORDINGLY, the Nixon game is to test Soviet willingness to do serious business with the Americans in the imminent United Nations talks on a settlement of the 1967 war. If Moscow displays what top Administration officials now believe is possible — a willingness to agree on a Middle East settlement that both sides could then accept — President Nixon will proceed from there to talks on the control of arms, particularly new defensive and offensive nuclear systems.

Bold and imaginative though it is, this plan is fraught with danger. In particular, a deadlock in the U.S.-Soviet talks at the UN could so sour relations that later negotiations on arms control would be seriously threatened.

But the President is willing to accept that

risk in return for the enormous gains that might result from a successful negotiation on the Middle East. Moreover, Nixon is convinced that an easing of the vicious Arab-Israeli antagonisms is essential. Otherwise, an outbreak of hostilities going far beyond the present cycle of Arab guerrilla attack and Israeli reprisal is a possibility.

FURTHERMORE, Nixon tells intimates he is getting worried over signs of anti-Israeli feelings in this country. He is not alone. The last major Israeli reprisal against civilian Arab aircraft at the Beirut, Lebanon, airport last month — a retaliation for the loss of an Israeli life in an Arab terrorist attack in Athens — caused an angry response in the U.S.

Neither the government of Israel nor the Jewish community here favors the U.S.-Soviet talks at the UN. What bothers them is the possibility that the super-powers are preparing to "impose" a peace.

To deal with this, Mr. Nixon has held a number of private talks with leading U.S. Jews, including Sen. Jacob K. Javits of New York, and has transmitted a number of messages to the Israeli government in Jerusalem.

He has stressed two things: first, the U.S. will not be party to an "imposed" peace unacceptable to Israel and will underwrite any agreement acceptable to both sides; second, no matter what agreements are made with the Russians on stopping the arms flow to the Middle East, there will be no change in the delivery schedule of 50 F-4 aircraft to Israel (to be started the end of this year).

JAVITS, it is known, had a lengthy private conversation with both the President and his chief national security adviser, Dr. Henry Kissinger, last Friday in the White House. Javits strongly urged Mr. Nixon to tell the Russians at the outset of the UN talks that the U.S. would never allow the Middle East to be absorbed into the Communist sphere, either by direct Soviet action or by the action of Egypt and her Arab allies. He agreed. At the same time, the President said he has sent the Israelis an urgent warning on reprisal raids against the Arabs during UN negotiations. Mr. Nixon is fearful that the cycle of raid and counter-raid could get out of hand and foil the talks.

Against that background, the President's decision on U.S.-Soviet-Middle East talks is the first move in the scenario of power politics now opening. On the outcome hangs not only peace in the Middle East and eventual agreement on arms control but perhaps the whole direction of Mr. Nixon's bold foreign policy.

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Pourquoi

... by Randy Reeves

Last summer in early July, Dean Rusk met with a group of Senate interns (college students with summer jobs in Senators' offices) and candidly discussed his own future and the future of the republic he had served as Secretary of State for nearly eight years.

Personally, he appeared fed up with the role which he had been forced to assume, i.e., that of the principle defender of an unpopular cause. He welcomed the customary resignation that he would file upon the election of a new Administration in November. It was obvious that Mr. Rusk would be very reluctant to accept reappointment.

THE INEVITABLE question arose: what will be the most menacing problem in international relations during the 1970's? Mr. Rusk's reply did not involve Communist aggression Chinese-style in Southeast Asia, nor did it concern the imposition of Soviet Communism on unwilling Eastern Europeans.

Surprisingly enough, he insisted that the volatile situation in the Middle East, while worthy of grave concern, would not be the most insoluble of the dilemmas facing the State Department during the next decade.

According to Mr. Rusk, the struggle being waged by the Black man in America is but a symptom of a much more dangerous predicament being shaped in the international sphere by the black-white confrontation in Africa.

The racist governments of Rhodesia and South Africa, both of which virtually exclude Black majorities from any participation or representation in the decision-making process, are rapidly becoming anachronistic. The tide of history is grudgingly turning to the Black man's advantage. With each new gain achieved in the name of civil, or natural, rights, the Black community acquires confidence and momentum.

THE RELATIVE peace that prevails in Africa today is a restive one at best. As Black majorities in southern Africa are made increasingly aware of the unjust treatment being imposed on them by the white settlers, they are bound to precipitate a crisis that will have international ramifications.

Britain has adamantly refused to use military force against its renegade Rhodesian colony, relying exclusively on the United Nations enforced economic sanctions to bring the white settler government to its knees.

Britain's reluctance to use force, even in light of the obvious ineffectiveness of the sanctions, is significant. It indicates that she has reached a milestone in the development of her policy. She has come to grips with her limitations, realizing her dependence on good trade relations with both South Africa and Black Africa. Her involvement in African colonial affairs has proved precarious in recent years, and the most propitious thing for Britain to do now is to get out as inoffensively as possible.

AMERICA CAN regard the British experience as instructive. Vicariously, we have learned that all-out war on home territory is hell.

We have learned, or are learning rapidly in Vietnam, the futility and frustration of limited engagements. Our newly-acquired sense of tragedy tells us that ours will always be an imperfect world and that America's ability to impose cherished democratic principles on the world is severely limited.

Just as Britain refused to send troops to Africa, the United States swallowed a large gulp of pride and allowed the Pueblo crew to remain in North Korean hands for nearly a year.

If the world as we know it is to survive the 1970's, a lot more pride is going to have to be set aside. The competitive spirit, the urge to be recognized as superior, must be dispensed with in favor of a more moderate desire to coexist, to tolerate, to try to understand.

AND, AS Martin Luther King said, men must learn that to admit error is one of the most "moral" actions a man can take. The United States, as the world's alleged "moral" leader, has always found it extremely repugnant to say that we made a mistake, that our judgment was wrong.

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"PLEASE DON'T TAKE ME TO CUBA. I WAS ONLY GOIN' TO THE WASHROOM FOR SOME WATER."