

# Nebraskan editorial page

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THE DAILY NEBRASKA

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## Conservative or liberal?

The question most often asked the editor of the Daily Nebraskan since being appointed in May has been, "Will the paper be liberal, conservative or middle-of-the-road."

This is impossible to answer.

First, one must differentiate between news and editorial pages. The Nebraskan staff will try to give readers an objective, impartial report of campus and campus-related events on the news pages, and strive to present a wide range of commentary and opinions of events and issues on the editorial page.

The editor does not plan to select liberalism or conservatism as a policy and base his thinking around a single point of view. An objective for the semester will be to write editorials only after considering all sides to an issue. Readers' criticisms, opinions and ideas are invited.

It will be up to the Nebraskan readers, however, to determine the editor's philosophical views. At times, they will probably be termed "liberal"; at other times "conservative."

Perhaps it was Joseph Pulitzer who best characterized the role of an editor. He warned editors to keep a constant vigil and "protect the public interest," but to remember their privilege to agree with the majority.

## Fairground parking fair to commuter?

There seems to be only one way accurately to describe the parking situation on campus — a mess.

The closing of 500 parking spaces south of Nebraska Hall for a new engineering complex and the opening of a 985-car lot at the State Fairgrounds has caused a major inconvenience for commuter students.

The campus-fairground shuttle bus service leaves much to be desired. The published route map lists "frequent runs" of "between 5 and 10 per hour." This means a student could have to wait more than 10 minutes for a bus. Add a ride of about five minutes and another five minutes to walk to the car once at the fairgrounds, a student could spend about 20 minutes getting to his car. This means 40 minutes on an average a day, or more than three hours a week.

The shuttle service runs only to 6 p.m. This means a 30 minute walk for the student wanting to spend extra time on campus.

In addition, only one bus pass was issued with each parking permit. A commuter must drive back into campus to pick up additional passengers.

All this, not to mention a parking fee hike to \$15 this year.

The Daily Nebraskan does not expect parking places across the street from classrooms, and it realizes the need for a modern engineering building.

However, the parking situation shows lack of planning on the part of administrators. Parking garages or underground stalls have been used successfully on other campuses. Many Big Eight schools use parking garages. The University of Nebraska at Omaha is investigating plans to build garages for as many as 7,300 cars.

With planning, centrally located garages or underground units could receive maximum use — such as a garage within easy access of downtown Lincoln to be used by shoppers on Saturdays and during the summer.

Parking garages are expensive. Officials in Omaha believe that stalls being considered there would cost about \$2,000 each to build.

However, with a conveniently located garage or underground unit, a fee hike would be in order, and theoretically the stalls eventually would pay for themselves.

As it stands now, University planners and administrators take a zero for such poor parking facilities.

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## Belfast, Newark, Detroit—same story shows up with new faces

by Whitney M. Young Jr.

**Editor's Note:** Whitney M. Young Jr., executive director of the National Urban League, will write a weekly column for the Daily Nebraskan.

The story is a familiar one to Americans, the kind of tale we've become used to.

An oppressed minority is denied decent housing, jobs, and equal protection of the laws. It complains of police brutality and bitter discrimination. There are demonstrations and protests.

An incident occurs. Rioting starts. Bands of young toughs invade the minority community, beating people at random. The minority group fights back. Blood flows. The riots spread from the largest city to smaller ones. Houses burn to the ground, barricades are erected, special police squads hot up minority neighborhoods.

Finally, troops are flown in to restore order. After a few days, the smoke of battle lifts and the toll is taken. Eight people are dead, 800 injured.

Representatives of the majority community are appalled at what happened. They promise some reforms, but basically they admit they're just trying to reduce tensions.

"We can't do in three days what we failed to do in 300 years," one leader says.

The minority is watchful, fearful. Its members distrust the majority that has oppressed them. They don't want to take down the barricades that give them a little protection. They await the next blows, preparing to defend themselves while counting their dead and injured.

A country is torn apart by communal

warfare. The whole world watches, shaking its head in disbelief, wondering why it all happened, why the two groups can't see that it's in their own interests to come together and remove the social and economic barriers that led to death and destruction.

Yes, this is a familiar story to Americans, but it's not about America. It's about Northern Ireland.

The civil rights conflict wasn't between whites and blacks, but between Protestants and the Catholic minority. It wasn't black leadership that demanded complete equality; it was Irish Catholic leadership demanding full rights for Catholics in Northern Ireland.

A familiar story, but one that took place far from Detroit or Newark. So many of the elements involved are similar that it is impossible for an American to view the situation without drawing parallels with his own country.

Black people immediately identified with the oppressed Catholic minority. They saw people — white people for a change — being discriminated against and brutalized. They know what it's like, and their sympathies went out.

But many white Americans were able to look at the Irish situation and understand the legitimate grievances of the Catholic minority. The irrational American color prejudice was no longer a factor — the oppression felt by the Catholic minority was immediately felt by many Americans previously indifferent to the sufferings of the black minority in their own country.

Perhaps this experience will change the attitudes of these white Americans. I hope they'll be able to make the mental leap from the Irish situation to their own, and understand that sympathy and support for Irish Catholic civil rights

has to be joined by support for the demands for equality by black people here.

Americans of Irish and Catholic backgrounds especially should note the similarities. One of the most frustrating things about the American scene is the vocal opposition to equality by people who belong to ethnic groups that have suffered similar oppression abroad.

Too many people from ethnic groups like the Irish, Poles, Italians, and others have been in the forefront of opposition to blacks. The Irish civil rights struggle should bring home to such individuals the fact that what black people are seeking is the same dignity and equality for which their compatriots across the ocean are fighting.

## Letter policy

To have letters to the editor printed in the paper, readers will be asked to follow several rules:

— Signed with the writer's full name. A pen name or initials will be used upon request. Any student, faculty member or administrator may obtain the name of a person writing under a pen name or initials if he submits a request in writing to the editor.

— Typed, double spaced.

— Addressed to Editor, 34 Nebraska Union, or brought to the office.

— The editor reserves the right to edit letters submitted.

## House Republicans start to chafe at bit

waging the conflict without a declaration of war.

### Bring into open

The Tonkin Bay resolution, of course, will not be repealed no matter how many Republicans sign the repeal resolution. But that is not its real purpose.

What the Republicans want is to give the President a clear, public message of their discontent with the pace of disengagement from the war.

Throughout the summer, many Republicans in Congress and some inside the Administration have privately grumbled that Mr. Nixon has listened too much to the U.S. military, the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and President Thieu of South Vietnam.

Where  
the  
action  
is!

This discontent was fanned during the August recess when voters asked why, so long as the U.S. had no intention of winning the war, don't we get out right now?

Consequently, when Congress returned, two young, second-term Republicans — Reps. Donald Riegle, 31, of Michigan and Paul McCloskey, 41, of California — began devising a strategy to test Congressional sentiment.

### Others join

More significant, other Republicans not in the peace vanguard have expressed deep interest in the Tonkin repeal resolution. Several of these will join Riegle and McCloskey in sponsoring the resolution. Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon has agreed to introduce it there, and additional Republican Senate sponsors are being sought.

The strategy behind the Riegle-McCloskey move is to avoid overt provocation of the President that might make fellow Republicans feel guilty about disloyalty. Thus, no Democrats are wanted to sponsor the repeal. Further, a suggested provision to set a Dec. 31, 1970, deadline for mandatory withdrawal of all U.S. troops was omitted as overly harsh.

The theme of the Republican repeal movement is not so much to criticize the President as to prod Congress to assert its Constitutional prerogatives.

Thus, a draft copy of the letter to be circulated says:

"This action should not be interpreted as a challenge to the President; on the contrary, we believe it coincides with his expressed hope to de-Americanize the Vietnam war within a reasonable period of time. We do seek to restore the Constitutional obligation and responsibility of the Congress — and only the Congress — to determine when this country is to engage in war."

### Pic on President's face

Nevertheless, the repeal movement will be intensely embarrassing to the President, a fact recognized inside the White House.

Furthermore, there are signs that Vietnam, the question that wrecked the Democratic party in 1968, is potentially as divisive an issue for the Republicans.

Riegle has found this out. Just before the recess, when he completed a floor speech criticizing Congress for surrendering its Constitutional responsibility on Vietnam, a veteran conservative Republican called him an s.o.b.

The fact that President Nixon and the Riegle-McCloskey group are both heading toward the same goal — disengagement from Vietnam — probably averts a repetition of Lyndon Johnson's blood-feud with Democratic Congressmen.

But this new challenge to the Republican President by juniors in his own party shows that they don't think Mr. Nixon is moving nearly fast enough toward the goal he has publicly set for himself.

