

Vote Today

Vote Dave Bingham for Write-in 1st VP

Vote Mark Theisen for 2nd VP

Vote Arts and Science Senators:
Emily Cameron, Steve Fowler, Mick Moriarty, Duane Sneddeker, Rita Watson, Steve Williams.

Vote Graduate and Professional Senators:
Georgia Glass, Dan O'Connor, Nancy Ryan.

Vote Engineering and Architecture Senators:
Dan Lawler, Bob Rosenow

Vote Business Senator:
Bruce Price

Earth Day

Amidst the belated cries of "save our environment" now spewing forth from the mouths of politicians and government officials, the question must arise as to why the sudden interest in ecology. Did these individuals suddenly realize the perilous position of the world's natural resources? Were they convinced by the active protest of students and scientists? For that matter, why did the masses of America's amateur activists suddenly turn to ecology as their issue?

A part of the answer is obvious. The problem is great; it must be resolved now if life is to be liveable by the end of this century. But the birth of the ecology movement came out of the death of the civil rights movement and the dying anti-war movement. Oddly, it is an issue on which people of all ages agree and most are willing to work for. Probably because it is a "safe" movement.

Ecology, like civil rights, will not always be a "safe" movement. Soon it will run up against industry and institutions who will no longer deplore the awful conditions along with everyone else, but instead will talk of the cost of pollution. Just as the American power structure allowed the civil rights movement to go only so far, American industry may allow the anti-pollution movement to go only to the point where its pocketbooks are jeopardized.

When you go to the Earth Day events today, learn about pollution and conservation, but think about cost also. Because that is where it's at. The American people seem convinced of the seriousness the pollution problem, but are they willing to pay to solve it?

Jim Pedersen

Retraction

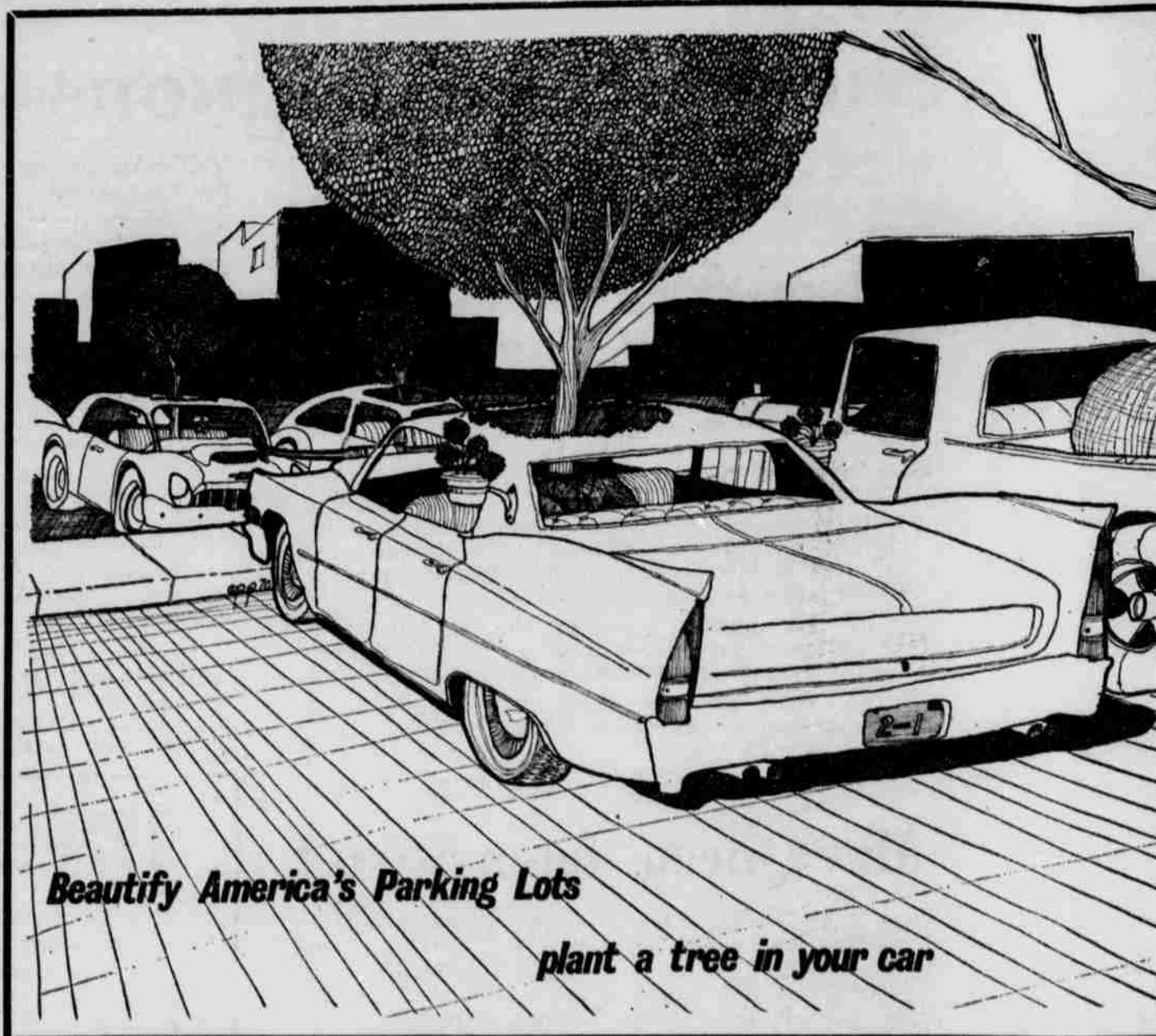
The Daily Nebraskan wishes to retract an error which appeared in Monday's editorial. "Bob Pfeiffer has no ASUN experience." Pfeiffer has had ASUN experience as a senator and member of the legislative liaison committee.

Jim Pedersen

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

Second class postage paid at Lincoln, Neb.
Telephones: Editor 472-2588, Business 472-2589, News 472-2590.
Subscription rates are \$4 per semester or \$6 per year.
Published Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the school year except during vacations and exam periods.
Member of Intercollegiate Press, National Educational Advertising Service.

The Daily Nebraskan is a student publication, independent of the University of Nebraska's administration, faculty and student government.
Address: Daily Nebraskan
34 Nebraska Union
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508



The tables are turned

by DICK GREGORY

It is at once odd and sad that both blacks and whites in America today are just beginning to realize the high price one must pay for the privilege of apathy and silence. History seems to have a way of turning the tables in its repetition, and those who choose to ignore the horrors of one historical era can almost expect to be the victims of the same horror the second time around.

In the black community today, one hears the repeated observation, "It looks like this country is fixin' to practice genocide." That observation merely illustrates that ignorance knows no color distinction. Just go up to the Indian reservation some day and ask my red brother how long this country has been known for its ability to not only practice but enforce genocide. America has always practiced genocide. She is now merely "fixin'" to expand her group. And the sad truth of the matter is that black folks sat by for years and watched this American system oppress and destroy the Indians without raising a voice of outraged protest.

ONE MUST PAY a high price for being silent. Silence is the friend of oppression, and when the silence is broken in the name of justice, the oppressor will always seek to restore it by repression and imprisonment. I imagine there were many good thinking Germans in Germany during the days of Hitler's rise to power, who stood silently by and watched the Nazis have a field day because they were afraid to open their mouths. But one day they looked up in the sky and saw the bombers open up on Berlin.

White folks in America are just beginning to fully realize the terrible price one must pay for silence. Twenty years ago, when the crime syndicate was restricting its dope pushing activity to black ghettos, black parents cried out to white America, "Please stop those syndicate hoodlums from pushing reefer and heroin to young black kids."

But white America looked the other way. Little did white America realize that if it permitted the syndicate hoodlums to push dope to young black kids without fear of reprisal, it would only be a matter of time before the same hoodlums would be pushing dope to young white kids.

NOW IT IS white America's turn to live with the tragic results of an earlier silence. Newspaper editorials and magazine feature stories are finally recognizing the terrible problem of narcotics — now that young white kids are becoming addicted. Some of white America's most prominent families — in government, in the entertainment industry, in high society — have been touched by narcotics addiction. Yet it is odd to notice that narcotics addiction in the black community has decreased during the last decade according to statistics of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A decrease has resulted in spite of the silence and apathy of the white community.

It is also ironic that dope addiction has traditionally been a problem only in the most impoverished black communities. Middle and upper middle income black families, those who benefited from higher education and good jobs, seldom had to worry about their kids being hooked on dope. Black kids who suffered most from addiction were the children of poverty stricken, uneducated black folks.

NOW THAT it is white folks' turn to be plagued by the horrors of dope addiction, it is the children of upper income families who are getting hooked. Young white kids in Appalachia are not turning on and getting high. Odd, isn't it, that when it comes to dope addiction at least white folks' best seems to equal black folks' worst.

When the tables of history turn, those who have been silent cannot seem to comprehend the consequences of their silence. For years, white folks stood by in silent approval as buses were used to transport white kids and black kids in the interest of maintaining segregated schools. Now that busing is being used as a strategy to promote school integration, white folks act like black folks invented buses.

President Nixon extols the virtues of the silent majority and, in his inaugural address, urged the nation to lower its voice. Vice President Agnew condemns loud voices of protest and Attorney General Mitchell tries to silence them. Daniel Patrick Moynihan urges a policy of 'benign neglect' and a shroud of silence over the race issue.

But if silence does prevail, one cannot help wondering who will prove to be history's ultimate victims.