

Fanaticism and the press

There are a lot of frustrated people walking around these days. Many of them happen to be on this campus.

For example, today's letter to the editor is exemplary of how some people in this University feel (with emphasis on the word feel as opposed to think).

Then, of course, numerous groups are voicing, more precisely, screaming, views diametrically opposed to those stated in the letter to the editor.

However, one thing seems to be clear: the polarization is increasing. And historically the press is usually one of the first social institutions to feel the effects of fanaticism.

What is happening on the campus and in the state legislature, especially in regards to the *Daily Nebraskan* and LB 70, surely substantiates the point made in the report by the College Press Service. That is, censorship is on the rise, and it is bound to continue.

How all of this effects individual students, particularly the average, middle-of-the-road student, remains a question.

Hypothesizing about these results is definitely in order.

What happens if the *Daily Nebraskan* closes down? First of all, it's doubtful that it will make this University a better place, despite pronouncements to the contrary.

Consider for a moment where student opinion, whether it be to the right or to the left, will be channeled. If you try to hold back the views of the leftists and moderates,

Another topic, which most assuredly does not belong to any class of aesthetics, is the university budget.

According to preliminary estimates, very few members of the university will be pleased. And it appears that the Lincoln campus will be hit hardest.

Governor Exon has delivered more than a promise. He has dropped an austerity bomb.

If the Governor has his way, and the Unicameral

you encourage the burning of buildings. (In fact, you guarantee it!)

To further aggravate right-wing students is to also guarantee increased fanaticism.

But more important than any of those reasons is one which deals with the efficacy of this institution: its right and responsibility to pursue Truth.

Unfortunately, many persons refuse to listen to any arguments. Certainly, many more cogent and compelling arguments can be presented in defense of freedom of the press than those presented here but ultimately reason is no match for vicious repression.

There is no question but that the students own this newspaper. And if those opposed to this organ of information have sufficiently (in their own minds) tried to change those aspects of it which they do not like, then their decision to kill the paper is probably justified.

Assuming students are capable of possessing intellectual honesty, which is demanded of them if they attend this University, it is highly unlikely that closing down this paper is justified by anyone.

But if the "people" prefer to believe in the rhetoric and demagoguery of one white-haired old man, then those who support him must share the responsibility for the consequences.

Regardless of the political arena in which you stand, those consequences will not be beautiful.

voting procedures for appropriations pretty much guarantee that he will, the university is, in no uncertain terms, going to suffer and suffer badly.

For the students: increased tuition.

For the faculty: increased teaching loads.

For the administration and Regents: disappointment.

For the university itself: perhaps disaster.

And if you put them all together, for the Governor: political success.

dear editor

Dear Editor,

The vicious, racist assaults on black doctors and black medical students casts a slur on the human race worthy of a Goebbels or a Mussolini.

For years in this desperate capitalist economy there has been a quote on rich, often stupid, incompetent, far right medical students who turned out to be quacks but had the money to attend medical school and purchase a degree in medicine while many a black man who might have made a brilliant physician was turned away for lack of funds. The vice-president of this pig ruled country has tried to begin a trend in our thinking that can lead only to race-hatred and furtherance of a dying capitalist empire.

The modern Goebbels has

also attacked black lawyers indirectly and fat Japanese newsmen... it could lead to attacking black construction workers, Jewish pawnshop operators and harmless hippy students, as lazy worthless bums fit only as cannonfodder for the army or material for concentration camps and political prisons.

Finally, as to quota systems of idiots, the rabid conservative Goldwaterite, William Buckley, it now taking up space that could be used by an honest liberal or radical columnist. It is absurd to carry fair play to such an extreme that a liberal paper should include his feverish drivewhileconservative papers attempt to monopolize public opinion.

Thank you,
C. M. Dalrymple

Pre-programmed President

by FRANK MANKIEWICZ
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WASHINGTON—If the strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) continue as they are now going and no new American initiative is forthcoming, it is possible that this country will soon have what the defense planners call a "pre-programmed President." It is even conceivable—given his re-election—that the first pre-programmed President might be Richard Nixon. This so, he might behave someday as follows:

The President is speaking to an airport crowd—let us say at Colorado Springs. In mid-sentence, a man wearing a brown hat steps from the circle behind him and grasps his elbow. The President turns, looks him full in the face, and without a word of apology turns his back on the microphone.

"We verify 100 SS-9s incoming, Mr. President," says the man at his elbow. "Indicated response is Code 1."

Code 1, the President knows, is to fire a specific number of Minuteman missiles at Russian ICBM sites which have not been emptied by the "100 SS-9s incoming"—or maybe at a Russian city.

In what time he has to think, he might be grateful that the indicated response is not "Code 2" or "Code 3," contingencies for meeting larger incoming forces. But the President does not have much time to think.

Certainly, you cannot exercise a human desire to get back aboard Air Force One and make a few telephone calls. He would already have decided—some months previously—that his response to the man in the brown hat would be "Code 1" and that he would not ask for time.

In approximately 20 minutes, if the man in the brown hat is right those 100 SS-9s will be crashing down upon the country. Response, counter-response and counter-counter-response would follow. Depending upon what these were, the question as to whether the man in the

brown hat was reporting an accident—or even a false alarm—might be as relevant as the question of whether a tree crashing in the forest makes a sound, if there is nobody to hear it.

The pre-programmed President will be necessary whenever the arms race with Russia reaches the point of "launch on warning"—that is to say, at that future point where we believe that the Russians are capable—with one strike—of destroying not only our bases but our ability to strike back as well.

At the moment, it is likely that a Russian premier will be pre-programmed before our President is because the United States is reaching that first-strike capability much faster than the Russians are. But this is not something to be thankful about; it only means that the Russians will arrive logically at a "launch on warning" status before we do.

What is happening at the SALT talks which makes "pre-programming" and "launch on warning" thinkable thoughts for the first time is that our side is resisting any limitations on MIRV, the multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicles.

We are suggesting instead a limitation on the number of nuclear weapons with on-site inspection as a guarantee. This has all the earmarks of being put forward so that it will be rejected, since it is almost meaningless.

It is meaningless because the Russians know we are now in production on MIRV and that once we have equipped our missiles with MIRV we have the capabilities of a pre-emptive strike.

The Russians are not yet in production on MIRV, nor do they have a nuclear submarine force of real deterrent capabilities. That is why they will be worrying about "launch on warning" before we do.

So what we should be talking about at SALT is MIRV—ceasing production, testing and deployment—in return for a Soviet pledge not to begin. Somebody is going to have to say, in effect, "Let's quit." The alternative is the day of a pre-programmed President.