

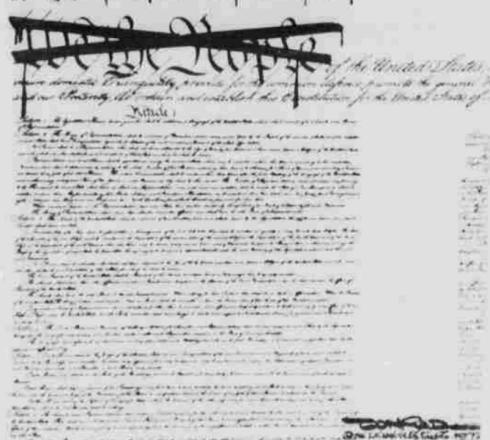
## Fair question

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's news conference last week answered a major question and has revealed something about the Nixon administration's attitude toward foreign affairs. Kissinger was asked whether last week's troop alert was a decoy to divert public attention from the events of last weekend.

This question later drew fire from Nixon's cohorts. They said it was vicious and unfairly suggested that the administration would tamper with international events to shove the spotlight off the Watergate scandal.

That question was not only fair, but necessary. The administration has implied many times that domestic questions should be put aside in times of international disorder. Nixon restated this position during his Friday news conference. He said the U.S. and the Soviet Union were making progress toward a Mideast settlement. Then he added: "A ceasefire at home might be more difficult."

## I, Richard Nixon



Furthermore, the President must be aware that a national leader's popularity usually increases when he exercises leadership in foreign affairs. What better way would there

be to diminish talk of impeachment than to manufacture an international crisis?

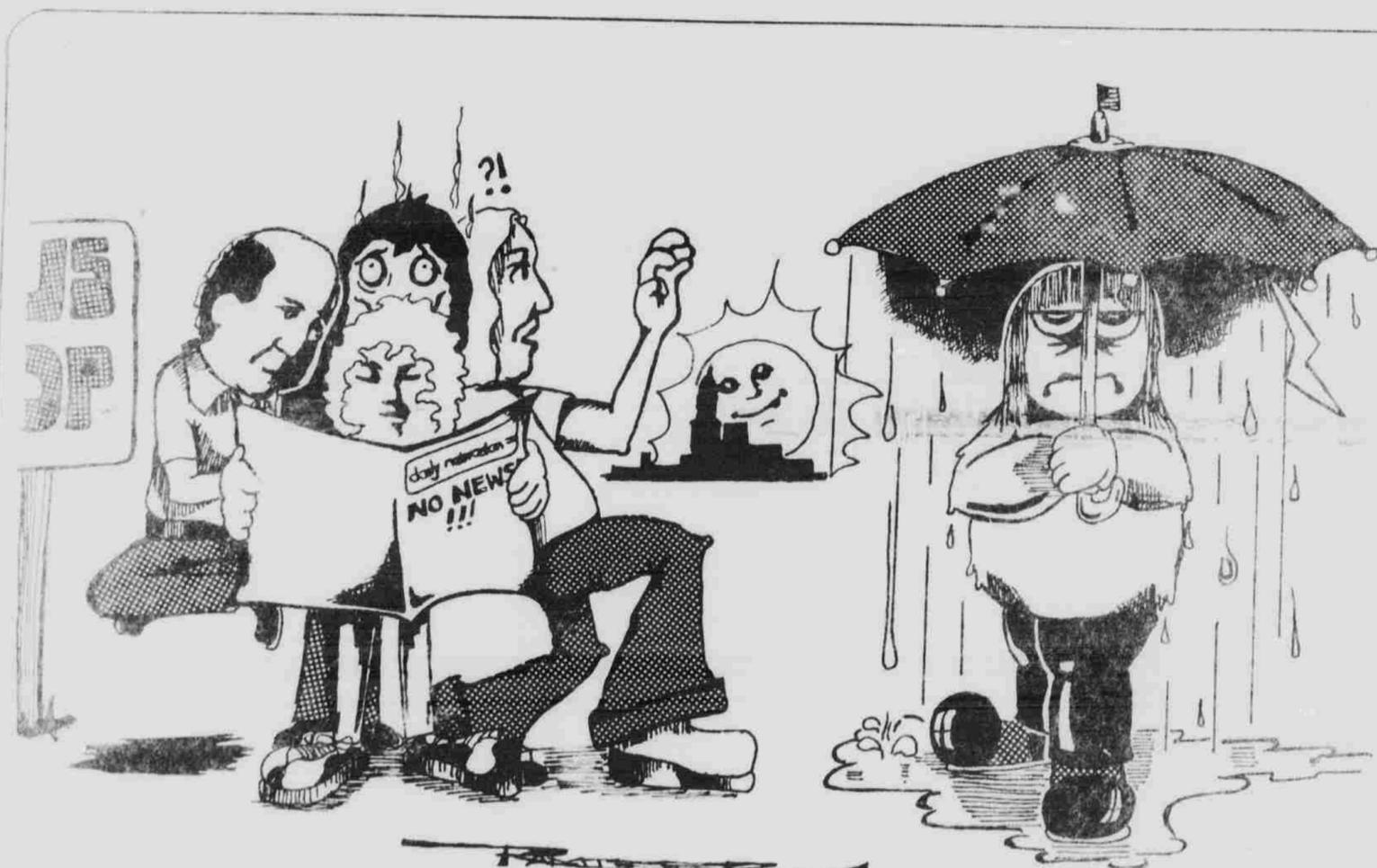
But it seems that was not the case. With what seemed to be unusual candor, Kissinger told of discussions within presidential circles and how the troop alert decision was reached. He made it clear that the decision was neither hasty nor unadvised.

It should be hoped that understanding will come out of the question asked and the answer given. The public must realize that despite the frequently irrational behavior of the President, this decision was not intended to throw the Watergate bloodhounds off the track.

But that doesn't mean that the decision to place the troops on alert was a wise one. It was an overreaction to rumors of Soviet troop intervention in the Mideast, rumors which still are unproven.

The American people must reject this sort of military flexing. It alienates the nations threatened, creates international ill will and is another step toward a militaristic foreign policy.

Michael (O.J.) Nelson



## In-between days perplex calendar dressers

Have you ever considered how one decides what clothing to wear? There is little doubt in my mind that this choice of dress is far more complex than people seem willing to believe. Specifically, what correlation is there between clothing and the weather?

When asked how they decide what clothes to wear, most people would respond, "It depends on the weather." There are only two things wrong with this answer. First, the weather, especially in Nebraska, constantly is changing, even during the span of a single day. Second, people simply don't do it.

A great number of people, regardless of the current meteorological conditions, insist on dressing by the calendar. Regardless of how brightly the sun is shining or how high the mercury climbs on Dec. 21, out will come the 50 degrees below zero parkas. Winter will have come.

The times that really perplex the calendar dresser are those in-between days when the calendar seasons just aren't clear cut.

Doctors and medicine advertisements constantly refer to the "cold season." Did you ever wonder why these seasons never fall in the winter at its coldest or summer at its draftiest? It doesn't happen because summer and winter are too clear cut.

Once the calendar says it's OK to be cold and wear warm clothes, even wishful thinkers take the

hint. It's on the in-between days, with no calendar to guide us, that Kleenex sales rise 40 per cent.

This past week has been a fine example: everything from a barefooted girl in a halter top to a longhair in his parka and mittens could be found on campus. People seem lost without their calendars.

The confusion caused by lack of calendar

john michael o'shea  
distant thunder

guidance is compounded further by the "Halloween Syndrome." A current trend in the dress, justified under the banner of doing one's own thing, is to wear the costume of what a person wishes he was, but isn't. As a result, one can at any time on campus see pretend cowboys, woodsmen, soldiers, poets, barmaids and any number of other occupations.

The problem in Nebraska is the changing climate. This radical, annual temperature shift leaves the pretenders one of two choices. They can make up

two pretend images, one for each season, or they can stick with their chosen pretension and as a result, suffer a little physical discomfort as well as looking and feeling a little silly. (Imagine pretending to be an Eskimo during July).

But even these cannot compare with the confusion caused by the "positive power of wishful thinking." This is a formalization of the belief that if you pretend something's not there, it will go away. As applied to choice of dress, it comes out something like, "If I dress like it's summer, maybe winter won't come."

If it sounds like I'm stretching the point, think back to your own experience. After a long, hot summer, one feels eager for the start of autumn and the wearing of flannel shirts and wool mackinaws. Then at the first opportunity—at the first hint it might be just a slight bit chilly—out they come.

More often than not, however, this chilliness disappears within an hour or two in the morning, and by the end of the day, one finds himself carrying that mackinaw, that sweater and that flannel shirt.

Yet, in spite of this wishful thinking, through the clothing a subtle message creeps out from each and every individual—the barefoot girl, who by her bare feet prevents summer's dismissal, or the ROTC instructor whose short-sleeve shirt proves discipline's victory over adversity despite his goosebumps.