

Weapons of peace

It appears that the Mideast, after being pressured by the U.S. and the Soviet Union, is settling into an uneasy peace. Now all that remains is the exchange of prisoners, counting the dead and the plotting of future military strategy based on what was learned during the conflict.

Perhaps 20 years from now, historians will view this, the fourth mideast war in less than 30 years, as being a testing ground for weapons to be used in some later blood bath—in other words, like the Spanish Civil War of the 30s.

The Pentagon strategists are at it already. News reports have said they are pleased with the way the U.S. tanks outfought the new Soviet models. They also are reported to be concerned with the U.S. Army's shortage of infantry-operated missiles which proved themselves during the fighting.

As a result of these concerns and probably concern over a British research report that says the U.S. Navy no longer rules the waves, the American people probably can expect soon a major Defense Dept. push for a larger "weapons development" budget.

The result of the fighting ought not be so much a test of the capabilities of the weapons of war, but of the forces for peace. For another lesson has been learned in this conflict: because of the need for oil, the major powers could be pulled into a fifth Mideast war. The American people must petition Congress to make sure such a thing will not happen.

A beautiful adventure'

Black Elk, a Sioux holy man, said of John Neihardt: "This world is a garden. Over this garden go his words like rain and where they fall they leave it a little greener." Our world is indeed a little greener for his having lived.

Michael (O.J.) Nelson

to the editor



Regent rhetoric

Dear editor,

How reassuring of Regent Schwartzkopf to let us know if he receives Federal District Court order directing a change in dormitory regulations "then I'll go along with it" (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 19).

Who does he think he is deceiving with rhetorical flourishes like "positive procedures for changing dormitory regulations"? What procedures? The regents have the authority. RHA has made the students' position clear to the regents. Therefore, it is not up to the students to propose anything, it is up to the regents now. They should do their job and fulfill their responsibility to RHA, otherwise tell us why they are not doing their job and just who or what exactly is causing the delay.

These are simple problems, not sophisticated political problems in international relations. It's in the interest of the regents to make them appear complicated. If they are able to do this, they may avoid any changes and continue to deny dormitory residents their civil rights.

Rolf E. Shasteen

Letters appear in the Daily Nebraskan at the editor's discretion. A letter's appearance is judged on its timeliness, originality, coherence and interest. All letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name, but may be submitted for publication under a pen name or initials. Use of such letters will be determined by the editor. Brevity is encouraged. All letters are subject to condensation and editing. Send letters to: Editor, Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union.

Hep up pep

Dear editor,

I recently read in the Daily Nebraskan a story about the Yell Squad members at UNL. I attend the Nebraska games faithfully and I agree, after watching other schools, that Nebraska needs to improve its Yell Squad. Nebraska's crowd's pep is great, but it needs better and more support of the main source: the yell members and the cheerleaders.

I think the male members need to improve their spirit and cheering. I noticed yell members from other schools were more fantastic. Even when their team was behind, they came through with great yells and stunts. Maybe if Nebraska started losing a few games, that would kick our yell members into really caring about what they do and say. But let's hope it doesn't come down to that.

Cindy Patterson

Homecoming displays

Dear editor,

I am writing to express my thanks to all of the students who helped create the clever and attractive homecoming displays. Our whole family enjoyed them.

Mrs. Frank C. Sidles

White House secret storm show draws viewers' 'impeach' rating

Editor's note: Chris Harper is a UNL School of Journalism graduate and a former Daily Nebraskan staff member. He now is enrolled as a graduate student at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and is working for Medill News Service in Washington, D.C.

By Chris Harper

Washington—Not only have the television news commentators been giving President Richard Nixon a prime tough time.

But somebody in the network scheduling office must have enjoyed the events of recent weeks as the same Nixon folks who brought you the Soviet television spectacular and the Peking road show stumbled across the tube with the greatest of ease.

guest opinion

A summary of that possible new series, *Mr. Nixon Leaves from Washington*, looked like this:

—The televised announcement of the resignation of Spiro Agnew as vice president and his no contest plea to tax evasion interrupted *The New Price is Right Game*.

—Nixon's televised nomination of Rep. Gerald Ford (R-Mich.) was viewed by rabid fans who awaited the pre-empted ABC Friday night movie, *Dracula*.

—Agnew's farewell speech interrupted Bob Barker and *Truth or Consequences*.

—But more appropriately, when Nixon finally got around to his much postponed press conference, he interrupted the television series, *Mission: Impossible*.

The bumbling schedule gave Washington a needed laugh as rumors circulated around town that the Nielsen ratings showed great potential for a new series.

Long before the advent of television, the

caustic H.L. Mencken said in 1926 that "democracy...is incomparably idiotic, and hence incomparably amusing. Does it exalt dunderheads, cowards, trimmers, frauds, cads? Then the pain of seeing them go up is balanced and obliterated by the joy of seeing them come down...Is rascality at the very heart of it? Well, we have borne rascality since 1776 and continued to survive. In the long run, it may turn out that rascality is an ineradicable necessity to human government and even to civilization itself."

With television, that tumble has been at least sometimes bitterly amusing. And when we lose our ability to laugh, we lose our ability to confront the problems we face.

Amid the tragedy and humor, however, the often stumbling democratic process worked well. After Nixon dismissed Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, the President's "silent majority" spoke loudly and vigorously.

Within an hour after the firing, telegrams from citizens throughout the United States relayed a simple message to their congressmen: "Impeach Nixon." Letters followed. Within three days, 300,000 telegrams repeated the same message. Where lawyers and politicians had failed to dislodge the presidential tape recordings for four months, the American people had succeeded in 40 hours.

After the events, two Nixon appointees, Elliot Richardson and William French Smith, also resigned for reasons of principle rather than because they were associated with any alleged political corruption.

Because of his apparent isolation, the President had misjudged badly the response to the tapes compromise. And as a result, Congress gained new momentum to regain the influence it had deserted previously.

Although recent events have proved traumatic for the nation, the reaffirmation of faith in Washington used to come each Sunday—not in church, but rather at the Redskins' football game. But, alas, when things go wrong in Washington, they apparently go haywire—as the listless Redskins lost to the New Orleans Saints last Sunday. But the Redskins, like Congress, have the chance this week to flex their muscles.



"ALAS, POOR AGNEW, MITCHELL, STANS, EHRLICHMAN, HALDENAN, DEAN, KALMBACH, LA RUE, MARDIAN, STRACHAN, M'CORD, LIDDY, CHAPIN, HUNT, COUSAR, KEEGAN, MAERUDER, YOUNG—I KNEW THEM..."

