

# Tape testimony

Can you blame Judge John J. Sirica? The respected jurist, a man applauded by some leading Republicans as being primarily responsible for breaking open the Pandora's box which has come to be known as the Watergate scandal, has indicated he is less than persuaded by the testimony of Rose Mary Woods, President Nixon's personal secretary.

Consider Woods' testimony: She said in early November that she "couldn't have been so stupid" as to erase accidentally any part of the Watergate tapes when she was transcribing

them for the White House. Then, recently, she told of how she might have erased an 18-minute segment of the tapes accidentally.

Now, in concluding her testimony, she has said she isn't sure she erased anything, she was not sure she even played over part of the conversation with the record button on, and if she erased anything it could not have been more than four or five minutes.

Contradictions are nothing new in the Watergate mess. Any person who watched the hearings this summer would have heard them by the score. But Woods' conflicting statements are more important than those. If she lied in earlier testimony, the result would be to reinforce the public's doubt, a doubting of President Nixon's innocence in the

cover-up.

President Nixon's innocence would be directly involved because Woods has been his loyal servant for more than 20 years. If someone was going to lie for the boss, who would it be? Someone like Rose Mary.

The final jury in the Watergate case is the public, and it isn't going to believe Woods. It is time the President took Sen. Barry Goldwater's advice and appeared before the Watergate committee. There he could present his case and be cross-examined. He also should give up the tattered notion of executive privilege. To do anything else is to endanger further his chances of redeeming his administration in the eyes of the people.

Michael (O.J.) Nelson

"...HUMMMMMMMMMMM...!"



## to the editor

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.

### Racial harmony?

Dear editor,

Assuming the Student Bar Association wants to recruit more minority students in the interest of racial harmony, I believe their program is incompatible with their goals. Anyone in competition with a minority person for a position could be expected to resent his race if he receives more consideration merely because of his skin color. Why not use individual merit as a criterion? Admittedly it's not the American way of doing things, but it could be tried.

What is the SBA going to recommend if they happened to achieve 3.5 per cent minority lawyers with only 3.4 per cent of the population "minority"? Should the extra one-tenth per cent minority lawyers be disbarred or deported? The SBA could move to cut minority

recruitings.

Prejudice only is going to disappear when the attitude of the masses is changed, and that can't be done by executive order.

Randy Carlson

### Even-Steven

Dear editor,

After attending the Nebraska vs. Oklahoma game last week, I must make a suggestion dealing with our Nebraska pep squad.

Our cheerleaders would be more effective if they "evened up" their squad. By this, I mean having an equal number of guys and girls. The present eight girls/three guys is a ridiculous size for a pep unit.

Oklahoma had a squad of many of each, and it seemed as though they kept their fans in constant excitement. It's really kind of embarrassing to see other evenly-proportioned squads on the opposing side compared to our female-dominated squad.

If nothing else, let's get more guys than girls on our squad—after all, guys were the original members of college pep squads, right? I'm sure more cheerleaders (in particular, males) would help create more spirit and enthusiasm among our faithful "Go Big Red" crowds. For sure, more pep leaders wouldn't detract from Nebraska fans and Husker pride.

Name withheld by request

# White House dick solves whodunit in office oust

How the President rose from the muck of Watergate to achieve true greatness in his final three years in office can now be revealed. The key, of course, was his firing of Mr. Nixon.

The President had won universal admiration for his courage and wisdom in handling foreign affairs. But as Mr. Nixon's chicanery and deceit in dealing with domestic matters dragged the President down into the mire, the rift between the two men widened.

Things culminated one weekend in November as the President read a good book to improve his noble mind, while Mr. Nixon sat idly watching the Redskins on television.

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**The President:** Listen to this, Dick: "He is such an incarnate hypocrite, that whatever object he pursues, he pursues crookedly...Creeping along the ground to some small end, he will always magnify every object in the way and consequently will hate and suspect everything that comes, in the most innocent manner, between him and it. So the crooked course will become crookeder..."

**Mr. Nixon (humbly):** They shouldn't say that about us, sir. I'll attack the press again immediately.

**The President:** That's a description of Uriah Heep, Dick, from *David Copperfield*.

**Mr. Nixon:** Oh, it's nothing to do with us, then.

**The President (thoughtfully):** I'm not so sure. Anyway, I've decided to come clean with every Congressman and cooperate fully with the courts. You may have destroyed the tape of my conversation with John Dean, but I'll give them my recollections of it that I dictated into my Dictograph.

**Mr. Nixon (smiling secretly):** Gosh, I can't find them anywhere, sir.

**The President:** It's good I didn't trust you and also wrote down my missing recollections of that missing tape in my diary.

**Mr. Nixon (slyly):** If I'd known that, sir, I'd have used something else to start the fire.

**The President (angrily):** At last I see through you, you fiend! It was you who hired those Watergate bumbler, blackmailed the milk industry, pulled off the Vescoe deal...

**Mr. Nixon (fawningly):** Only to assure your re-election, sir.

**The President:** It was you who bugged and burglarized innocent citizens.

**Mr. Nixon (cringing):** Only to protect your security, sir.

**The President:** It was you who advised me to defy Congress and the courts.

**Mr. Nixon (desperately):** Only to preserve your presidential powers, sir.

arthur hoppe  
innocent bystander

