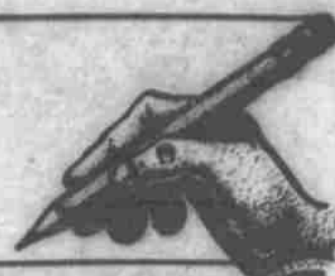


opinion



UNL parking garage unnecessary

Nebraska Union Director Al Bennett's suggestion at last week's Council on Student Life (CSL) meeting that UNL needs a high-rise parking garage has not yet become a formal proposal. If and when it does, it should be received with a healthy dose of skepticism by students and the rest of the UNL community.

Bennett claimed the garage would provide "an economically sound future" for the Nebraska Union. It seems Bennett is having trouble attracting Lincolmites outside the campus community to union events and he is blaming the lack of parking space.

High rise garages within a few blocks of the union provide hundreds of parking spaces. Unless we want a parking garage built in the center of campus, UNL's garage would be at least as far away as the nearest downtown parking building.

There is evidence also, that when someone or something is important enough, the community does not let parking stand in its way.

Even if a parking garage would substantially increase union use, it wouldn't be worth it.

Bennett's prediction of the cost of a 650-car garage seems about right. Last spring, in another discussion of parking garages, Ray Coffey, UNL's assistant business and finance manager, estimated the cost of such a building at about \$3,000 per vehicle space. This cost would be absorbed by the students. Unless building financing policies have changed, the fact that the union could be built from bond surplus would not eliminate student costs, as Bennett told CSL.

The Nebraska East Union is being paid for with bond surplus. Student fees will be \$5 higher beginning next fall to pay back the money.

A parking garage is not essential to the union's financial future. The students have paid for the union since it was built in 1938 and we will continue to do so as long as the union is responsive to the day to day needs of the UNL community and students.

More parking not solution

The problem facing the Residence Hall Association in regard to parking space is similar to the traffic flow problem facing the people of Lincoln. One asks where do we put all these cars and the other asks where can all the cars travel with minimum congestion and maximum efficiency. The similarity lies in the fact that there are now and will be in the future too many cars for the existing available space.

Our solution lies in either creating new space for cars or somehow reducing the number of cars. The Residence Hall Association suggests the creation of a parking lot where there now stands a milo-millet field. The city of Lincoln proposes the construction of a highway through Wilderness Park. Both involve costly outlays and irreversible action. I think the simpler and more efficient alternative is a reduction in the number of cars on the campus and in the city.

The ASUN Senate can seriously study the situation and come up with acceptable means of reducing the number of cars on campus. The Lincoln City Council can do likewise. This alternative needs consideration.

Sincerely,
William Kerrey

Open invitation

In response to Randal Jauken's comments in the Oct. 12 *Daily Nebraskan* I would like to explain the selection procedure we go through in bringing speakers to UNL and consequently spend student fees.

Selection of speakers for the academic year is done during the spring semester of the year before. This year's speakers (and the symposium format and topics) were selected in the spring of 1975. This selection process takes about one and a half months, and consists of sifting through the hundreds of available speakers and collecting as much input as possible from students and faculty members before finally choosing them.

This is all done in public meetings and as chairman, I have always desired as broad a representation as possible on the selecting committee. We have never been approached by any one on behalf of the Young Americans for Freedom.

Instead of complaining about the selection process and the final product of the programs which interested and dedicated students have put together, I invite those wishing to affect the speakers program to become a part of the Talks and Topics committee and make inputs at the time they will do some good—during the selection process—instead of after the program has already begun. I can be reached through the Union Program Office, Nebraska Union 115. The telephone number is 472-2454. This invitation is for anyone interested in helping to plan next year's speakers program.

Bruce Whitacrell

Both stores popular, cheap

The "Orion" cartoon strip of Wednesday, Oct. 13 bothers me. Trying to be derogatory, Stewart compares the new Dirt Cheap Record Store with McDonald's. But, suprisingly this is not all that incorrect a comparison. McDonald's is a successful American institution because they sell a popular product for a reasonable price. The same goes for Dirt Cheap; and because they have been successful, they wished to move to a nicer store, a store more comfortable to work in. So, even though the new store is larger, cleaner, and brighter, it still has the same popular product for a reasonable price.

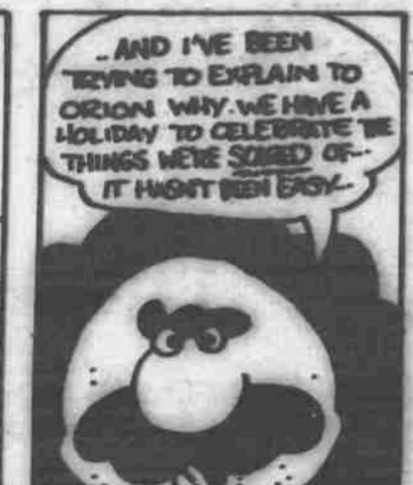
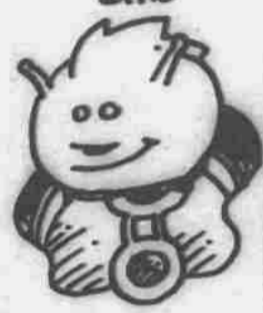
Sincerely yours,
Bob Robinson

A big hand for...

Re the letter in the Oct. 21 *Daily Nebraskan* from the men of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity: Now that you fine young men have single-handedly resurrected Homecoming into a position that pleases the alumni, what are your plans for next year's float? A giant hand patting the back of a huge chicken-wire and tissue-paper ATO man?

Joe Hudson

orion
by
STEWART
GYLE



U.S. reporting on Mao's widow shows media's unconscious bias

By Nicholas Von Hoffman

By our standards putting Chiang Ching, Mao Tse-tung's old lady, in the slammer would be like locking up Martha Washington.

If you speak Chinese and live in a commune, what's happening there probably makes perfectly good sense, it makes none to occidentals of the American stripe, but while the reporting on the affair sheds no intelligible light on what is transpiring in Peking it reveals the unconscious biases of our mass media.

There can be no other way to explain the description of Chiang Ching and her crowd as "leftist leaders." What is a leftist leader in a nation where everything down to the last safety pin is nationalized and the property of the state?

You can also hear Chiang Ching's people called "ideologically motivated" and "radicals" on the radio and television here.

The *New York Times* does make an effort at defining some of this nomenclature. Thus Fox Butterfield writing from Hong Kong tells us that: "The radicals, a generally

are those who favor "reforms in education, the economy. . ." Radicals originally got their alarming reputations because they were people who went to the radix, the root of matters, and therefore advocated causing upheavals. The word still has that connotation, but notice how it is applied to persons advocating far less drastic measures summed up in the word "reform." In the news columns of the *Times*, radicals and reformers are the same people.

This kind of thing isn't deliberate. It probably passes through the hands of the editors and the copy readers unremarked on because that's how they think; that's their mind-set. While they're too sophisticated to agree that all reformers are radicals, they'll print that very assertion if the words radical and reformer are separated by a clause or two.

Along the same lines the people who oppose doing such things as making "party officials. . . spend more time at manual labor" are regarded as pragmatists.

Even if this totally communist, collectivist society is one which nobody on the staff on any American news gathering agency could stand living in, the Chinese whom the journalists conceive of as defending a hierarchical social structure are the ones on whom the favorable word "pragmatist" is used. They are the ones who, in the language of the *Times*, "put economic growth and orderly administration above ideological campaigns and revolutionary purity."

The practical, moderate and hard-headed folks who get results against the wild, impractical, fanatics who would rather spout dreams than grow bread. Whether or not such divisions exist in China they are a perfect paradigm of how our own politics is described to us by our news people.

As a consequence, a premium is given to the politician most able to extrude an unbroken paste of insipid sincerity. The stance for winning the highest approval is immobile, quiet and cotton candy-benign. The other night, cloud-wrapped Eric (the Wise) Sevareid rebuked Jimmy Peanut for revealing "an instinct for the deliberate insult, the loaded phrase and the broad innuendo." To conduct a campaign without so much as a loaded phrase or an innuendo of broad or narrow dimension is to be a modern moderate, a middle of the roader suitable for the Columbia Broadcast System, a perfectly controlled functionary. From Demosthenes through Pitt and Burke all the way down to Harry Truman, the language of democratic debate has been passionate, insulting and inspiring. With Sevareid we must have a politics without passion, without forensics, without the possibility of expressing a fair hope or freshening vision.

At the same time the Sevareid (cq) types of this world complain the debates are dull.

Stand pat, stay clear and act pragmatic, and when the voters form circles and dance in the dust, calling for issues like Indians praying for rain, let all leaders evacuate their brains and assume the position of moderation.

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sidewise

young group, came to power in the Cultural Revolution because of their backing for Mao's attacks on entrenched power-holders in the party and their support for reforms in education, the economy and the party. Among other things, the reforms barred bonuses and wage raises for workers, required party officials to spend more time at manual labor and made millions of city youth resettle in the countryside after finishing school."

At the same time, many other news dispatches refer to the government or the people that Chiang Ching is apparently fighting as "moderates," "middle of the roaders," or "pragmatists." Undoubtedly, the American news writers using these terms think of them as descriptive, and they are descriptive; they describe the unconscious political maps inside of our journalists heads.

The people writing these dispatches aren't in China; they know so little about the country they couldn't even name the leading candidates for Mao's job when the Chairman packed it in a few weeks ago.

Therefore the adjectives they use in describing various Chinese political factions are but a projection of their view of our own domestic politics.

Thus the moderates are the ones who occupy official positions—credentialed persons, persons whose opinions are sanctioned by prestigious people and institutions.

Moderates, you'll notice, also carries the suggestion of people who are non-dynamic, who are quiet, stationary and not given to change.

People in the *Times*' dispatch who are labeled radicals