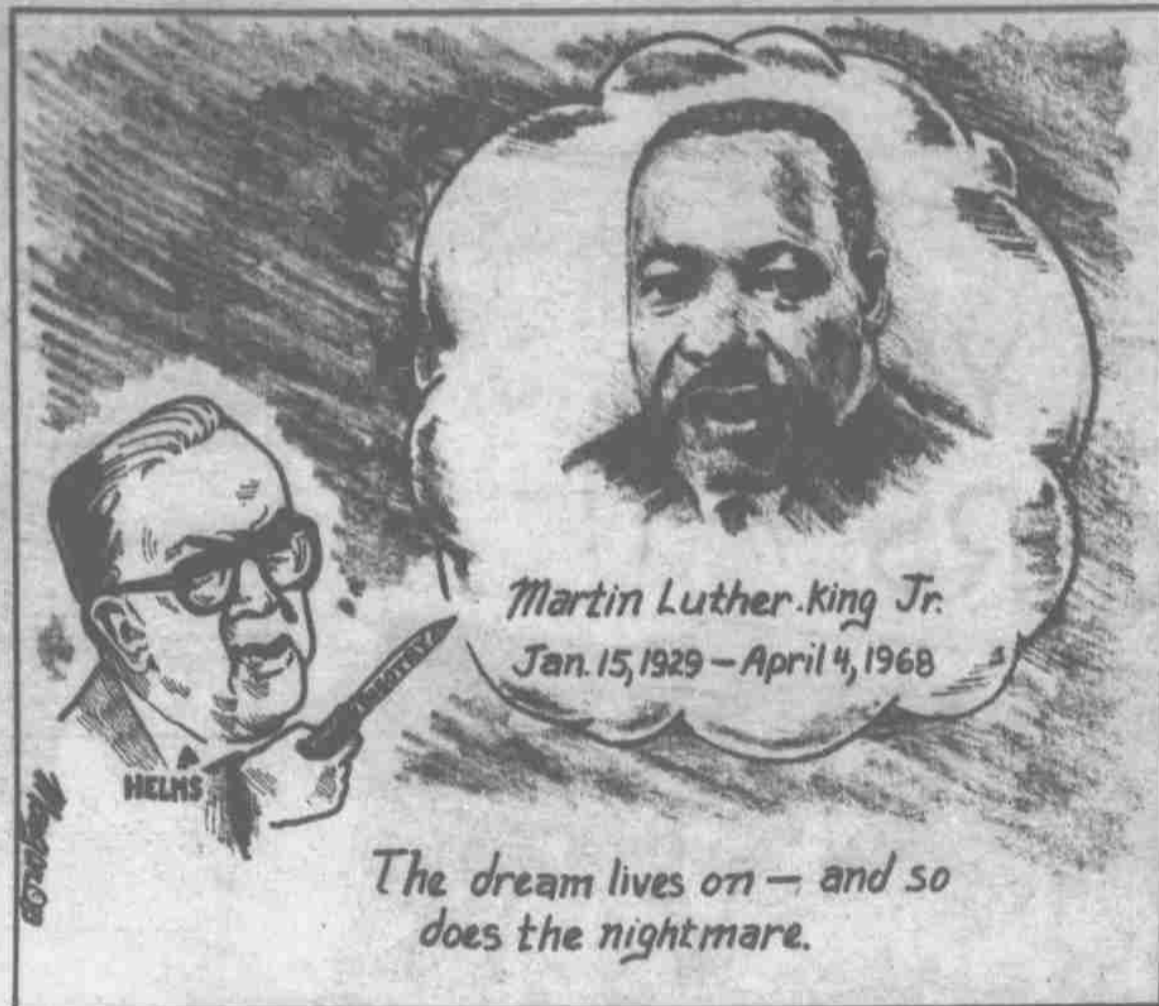


Editorial



Delay in candidacy wise move by Reagan

You can bet on it. Ronald Reagan will be a candidate for president in 1984.

In fact, in the eyes of the law, he already is a candidate. Monday, he gave his approval to the formation of a Reagan-Bush re-election committee. Although the authorization does not commit him to the 1984 campaign, everything Reagan says indicates he intends to be a candidate.

Because of this, many are wondering why Reagan continues to delay his formal announcement.

For one thing, it may be politically advantageous for Reagan to let Democrats fight it out as long as possible before he enters the ring. Any split that develops among the Democratic candidates can only help him when the general election rolls around.

More importantly, once Reagan formally announces his candidacy, the majority of his time will be spent on the campaign trail, not in the White House, and every decision he makes will be questioned as election-year politics.

In short, Reagan's effectiveness as president will be diminished severely

once he makes the announcement. For that reason, it is in the best interests of the entire country to delay the announcement for as long as possible.

In fact, Americans probably would be relieved if all candidates delayed their decisions as long as Reagan has. The presidential campaign in this country is too long and may be part of the reason for pathetic election turn-outs.

Americans are so bombarded with election propaganda that when it actually becomes time to cast a ballot, many of them have lost interest.

So, while other candidates are busy with their campaigns, it is refreshing to see the incumbent putting off his re-election bid as long as possible.

Despite the persistence of some journalists to get an announcement from Reagan, he seems to be doing the best thing. Even if he waits until February to formally enter the race, he still will have plenty of time to present his views and respond to his critics.

But in the meantime, he can run the executive branch without being involved in the politics of a campaign.

Happiness found in objects, not relationships

Alienated West loses sight of real feelings

One of the most severe problems facing people in the West today is alienation. The future of the entire world depends on how well Westerners are able to identify the sources of their alienation and deal with them.

In order to describe alienation, one has to begin by identifying some of the basic human needs apart from the satisfaction of basic physiological urges. Psychologists, sociologists and anthropologists have identified one such need as the desire for meaningful, social and interpersonal interaction. Another is the need to be creative.



**Krishna
Madan**

These two are related, and modern Western society is generally incapable of satisfying them. The result is that the individual Westerner feels a profound sense of alienation and frustration in her attempts to be creative and to form meaningful, interpersonal and social relationships.

The most basic form of alienation occurs in the workplace. Human beings are naturally creative and they like to feel a connection to the fruits of their labor. However, the product created by the worker in the factory belongs not to her but to the owner.

Alienation is still a problem for the non-factory workers, whether she be a bureaucrat or a businesswoman. Here, she is alienated from engaging in meaningful cooperative activity with fellow humans.

The businesswoman is not concerned about the welfare of her customer; on the contrary, she is interested only in squeezing the last penny out of her. The bureaucrat does not engage in meaningful, collective decision-making but merely takes and gives orders in a semi-militaristic organization.

Alienation exists in social relationships because the family is disintegrating and no alternative social form is taking its place as the bedrock of society. Instead of groups of friends living together and sharing their experiences, we have a steady increase in the number of single households. In many cases, the only companionship for these individuals are various domesticated, dumb animals.

As a result of these various alienations, Western society has become thing-oriented rather than people-oriented. Westerners now gain their main satisfaction from ownership and use of things rather than from meaningful relationships with people.

This tendency is self-reinforcing because things can never provide the satisfaction that relationships can. Feeling unsatisfied, the Westerner goes out and buys more things in order to become happy... and so the process continues.

This fetish with things is found not only with phys-

ical objects but also with positions of prestige. In the pursuit of better pay or career advancement, Westerners (especially Americans) uproot themselves and their families and effectively end their present relationships with friends. They also tend to substitute the satisfaction derived from work or hobbies for that which comes from relationships.

All of the above contribute to the difficulty of forming meaningful, enduring, romantic relationships. Things, careers, hobbies and general social alienation get in the way.

In addition, the individual — especially the man — is taught to be strong and self-sufficient. This makes it harder to express and to understand feelings and to deeply care for others.

Alienation was one of the reasons for the rise of the Nazis, who gave the German nation a sense of belonging and identity. The Nazis exploited alienation by molding it into nationalistic, aggressive impulses directed against minorities and foreign countries.

In the West today, alienation is responsible for militaristic, Star Wars-type entertainment and gunboat diplomacy directed against Central Americans and people in the Middle East.

This sort of intimidation will not prevent Third World people from dealing with the sources of their alienation. If Westerners would examine progressive Third World movements, they could learn how to deal with their own alienation rather than letting it ignite worldwide conflagrations.



Letters

The faces of bigotry

I feel compelled to respond to the letter by Audrey Christopherson (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 17) which so thoroughly chastised Nels Forde and myself for our archaic views. I will not respond to her attack on Professor Forde; I'll leave that to him. But I would like to say a few things about her attack on my views.

First of all, Christopherson says "(James Watt's) joke about the differences (among people on the board) shows clearly a mentality that would prefer not to make room for Americans who are not able-bodied white males." She does not expand any further upon this thought. My first question is: What joke? Watt merely pointed out the various minorities that made up the board in question. Is this a joke? Did it seem funny to you? I don't believe he even laughed when he said it.

Why does saying that the board is made up of what it is made up of show bigotry? It is my contention that Watt was attacked for his statement simply because he is James Watt instead of a liberal democrat. I suspect that if Sen. Kennedy (or better yet, the Rev. Jesse Jackson) had made the same statement, people would have perceived it as "praise for a step in the direction of equal rights." Why is it that saying the words "black", "woman", "jew" and "cripple" shows bigotry if one is a conservative Republican?

Philip L. Holtzman
freshman
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DeCamp in '84

In reference to the column (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 18) on the Republican Party's problem of finding a senatorial candidate for 1984, I believe there is a positive outlook and answer for the people of Nebraska.

Being from the district which elected both Virginia Smith and John DeCamp, I can readily say that the two have many of the same ideas and views. Smith is not going to run, so it's time for the Republican Party to get behind and support John DeCamp's candidacy for U.S. senator. For six years Nebraska has been plagued with a Democratic senator who has contributed little to the expansion of agri-

culture and industrial interests in our state.

What we need is a change, and the Republican Party, along with the entire state of Nebraska has three options: one, support no one and let Exon slide through six more years of doing nothing; two, vote for Mike Frost or three, support a man who won't be afraid to support Nebraska and the views of its people. That man is John DeCamp in '84.

Gerard J. Keating
sophomore
agribusiness

No deposit, no return

Having recently arrived at UNL from a small college with a total enrollment less than the course I'm presently teaching, I've had to make a few adjustments. I didn't mind too much paying \$35 for a parking permit that permits me to park in a lot that is usually filled to capacity with people that did not pay the \$35 for such a permit (the old place gave me a permit free, but there weren't too many cars either). I minded a little more not getting an opportunity to see the No. 1 college football team in the country in action because one has to purchase the tickets in advance, before I arrived at my new job (the old place also gave out football tickets to the faculty because they welcomed their support), but what really crushed me were the key deposits!

Now if you think about it, a person of greater importance than me (which includes practically everyone I've met so far) would have to have quite a few more keys than I have (some measure of a person's importance can be gained by knowing the number of keys that person possesses), and that would represent conservatively a deposit of say \$50. If that person stayed on for 25 years before retiring, that sum of money would earn interest in the amount of around \$600. During the same time, of course, the principle (your deposit) would have depreciated to a value of some five bucks based on today's inflation rate. The solution? Perhaps they could make keys out of plastic and then you'd cut them in half like expired credit cards.

Rick Gillis
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