Mondale, Hart-Jewish for a day

A strange thing happened during the just completed New York primary. Somehow, Walter Mondale and Gary Hart, two WASPs from the great Midwest became New York Jews.

It was a sudden metamorphosis. There was Mondale, claiming that the Camp David peace accords was his idea all along. And there was Gary Hart, claiming that ever since he was a little boy he supported relocating the capital of Israel to Jerusalem.



This metamorphosis has intrigued one famous writer. The following is the rough draft of Metamorphosis '84, by the same man responsible for The Trial and The Preppy's Handbook to Cats. Metamorphosis '84

By Franz Kafka

One morning, Gregary looked out his window at the bright New York sun. "A fine day," he said to himself, "a fine day for campaigning." He stretched and walked toward the mirror. He looked in the mirror and to his surprise, he was Jewish.

"Look at me. I've got on a yarmulke. I care about Israel's destiny. Tlike Mayor Koch."

Gregary looked again into the mirror. "Nope," he said, "It's not enough." So he went back to sleep.

When he awoke, he looked out of his window at the bright afternoon New York sun. "A fine day," he said to himself, "a fine day for campaigning." He looked in the mirror.

"Wow, I'm getting more Jewish by the second! I don't favor recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization. I've always supported moving the captal from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. I'd like to see a sandwich named after Yitzhak Shamir."

Gregary looked again into the mirror, "Nope," he said, "it's still not enough." He went back to sleep.

When he awoke, Gregary looked out of his window at the bright New York moon. It was eve. Election eve. "A fine evening," he said, "a fine evening to win an election." He looked in the mirror.

"At last," he exclaimed, "I'm Jewish enough! I have total empathy with the Jewish people! I support the historical struggle of the Jew! I And I know Yiddish words like oy and goyem. Quick get me to a bagel joint!"

Gregary ran out into the streets. As he ran, he saw a television in a store window. On the screen was Dan Rather.

"And with 1 percent of the vote tallied, CBS has projected Walter Mondale the victor of the New York primary by a margin at 42 to 15 percent. Exit polling reveals that voters favored Mondale over his nearest competitor because he, Mondale, seemed 'more Jewish.'

Gregary was stunned. "More Jewish," he mumbled as he stumbled in the street. "I couldn't have been more Jewish if I tried. What's the matter with these voters? Couldn't they tell I was sincere? I wasn't just playing Jewish - I was Jew-

A man, overhearing Gregary's diatribe, patted him on the shoulder. "Don't be bitter," the man said. "There are still the Midwestern caucuses and primaries."

Gregary pondered the man's wisdom as he stumbled toward the airport.

The next morning, Gregary looked out of his

window at the bright Nebraska sun. "A fine day," he said, "a fine day for campaigning." He stretched and walked toward the mirror. He looked in the mirror and to his surprise, he was a farmer.

"Look at me," he exclaimed. "I've got overalls, a rural twang and I'm as mad as beans about the government trying to cut farm supports."

Gregary picked an ear of corn which was growing beside his bed. "A fine day for campaigning indeed."

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday in the fall and spring semesters and Tuesdays and Fridays in the summer sessions, except during vacations.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-2588 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, call Carla Johnson, 477-5703.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebras-kan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1984 DAILY NEBRASKAN

Letters

'Appropriate' design offered

I seems a shame that the Nebraska Legislature couldn't find something better than nothing to put on its state's license plates.

I realize it is not an easy task to find an appropriate slogan or a colorful design worthy of gracing our highways. I was in a quandary trying to decide on a worthy design, then the answer came to me from a most unlikely source - the television.

Years ago, Nebraska proudly labeled itself the Beef State. The state still has plenty of cattle, but somehow, the phrase "The Beef State" isn't quite right now.

With the current Wendy's commercial craze comes the answer. I propose that the Legislature promptly move to eliminate the present unsightly plates from our highways and replace them with plates imprinted with a phrase more colorful, appropriate and in tune with the times. The slogan should read: "Nebraska: The Where's the Beef?' state."

Tom Shelton senior economics

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