

# Editorial

## Morality gone from U.S. foreign policy

Next week will mark the 40th anniversary of D-Day. To many Americans it could just as easily be 400 years as 40 years. But to those who were there and for those who remember, it still remains a special event.

It was, truly, one of the most unselfish moments in history — one nation taking back a continent that had been stolen by another nation. And the motives were not those of greed or corporate conquest but rather morality. It was done because it was the right thing to do.

Sadly, the element of morality seems

to have faded from American foreign policy since then. America chooses her allies now not on the basis of right and wrong, but on the basis of "What's in it for us?"

Thus we see the ugly spectacle of America suckling up to nations run by little despots whose only redeeming feature is their "anti-communism." These are the kind of people that D-Day was supposed to rid us of.

President Reagan likes to wave the flag and harken back to those glorious days of yesteryear to justify his foreign policy adventures.

Reagan is unable, or unwilling, to accept the fact that life is not a Western movie. He sees the Soviet Union as an "evil empire." That kind of namecalling doesn't lead to anything constructive. It only makes the President of the United States look like a buffoon in the court of world opinion.

Of course, this administration has shown that international opinion — or international law, for that matter — is something that can't be trifled with.

With Memorial Day just gone by, we should be all the more aware of the

potential cost in lives that Reagan's foreign policy represents. It has already cost this nation almost 300 lives in Lebanon and Grenada. That's not a big number in the stat books of history, but that doesn't diminish its importance.

So, the next time you hear the president raving about our American heroes, remember this: Most heroes are dead. This country has enough dead heroes. Let's try to ensure that no more get added to the rolls in the next few years.

Jeff Goodwin

## Front-runner now not necessarily nomination winner

Imagine what vials of venom would be uncorked if Democrats, convened in San Francisco, attempt to nominate someone other than Gary Hart or Walter Mondale. That merriment probably will not be, if only because Mondale, that enemy of fun, may win something — New Jersey would suffice — on June 5. However, because a deliberative convention this year is still a faintly glimmering possibility, it is useful to say why such a convention would not necessarily involve the overthrow of political fairness.

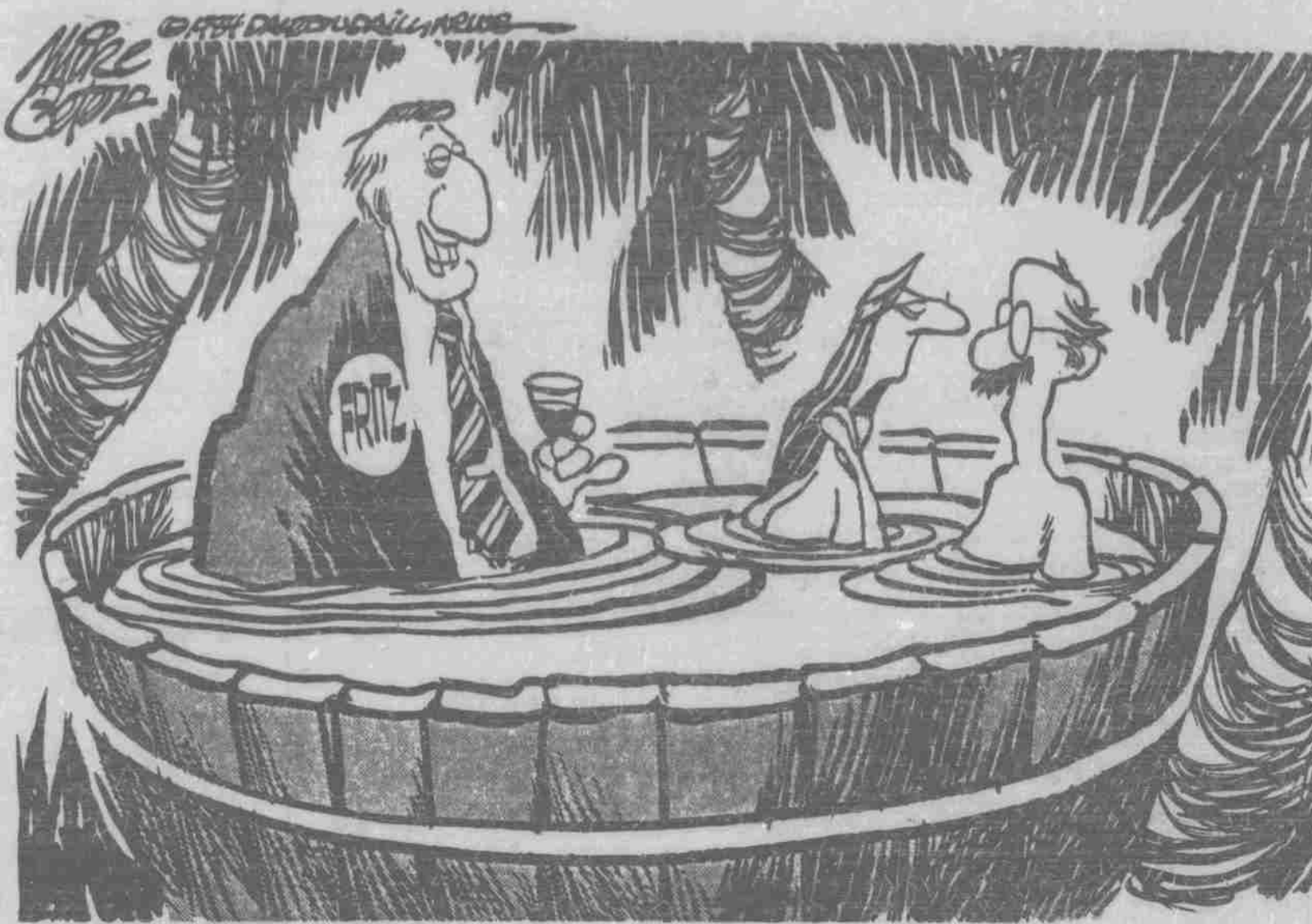
### George Will

The point is this: The pre-convention process should be considered market research. It should not be considered a process that must — morally must — confer the nomination on one participant.

Since 1968, reforms of the nomination process have been designed to make it virtually certain that conventions will not be deliberative bodies. Rather, they will be ratifying bodies, ratifying decisions made elsewhere. But in 1980 the Democratic Party said that in 1984 delegates would be free to vote their "consciences," even on the first ballot. Furthermore, the convention will be leavened by more than 500 delegates who are party or elected officials and who, presumably, will help concentrate the convention's mind on nominating someone electable.

Some persons who say the convention must not improvise beyond the choice of Hart or Mondale are saying, effectively, this: Democrats regulate themselves by principles too lofty to allow them to exercise a right they acquired in 1980 in the name of lofty principle — conscience.

They may have such principles, but the Democratic Party's considerable entertainment value derives in part from the fact that in the span of a few years it can embrace opposite principles with equal



## I'LL BE GLAD WHEN THIS CALIFORNIA PRIMARY IS OVER..

ardor. Consider, for example, Vietnam, or defense spending, or government action that takes notice of race. Democrats believe everything at full throttle: Every conviction is natural law, graven by the finger of God on the conscience of humanity — but changeable by the vote of any platform committee.

In 1980 the party decided that hereafter (meaning until the ideological winds shift) delegates can harken to their consciences (meaning their eye for the main chance). And in 1984, with the two finalists staggering toward San Francisco in a terminal clinch, some Democrats think that both Hart and Mondale have been market-tested and found wanting.

The pre-convention contest is a protracted test of some eligible candidates. The operative word is "some." If the winnowing process leaves a choice that the convention considers unnecessarily unsatisfactory, why should there not be a brief, intense second act, a mid-course correction — call it what you will?

No outcome on June 5 will alter this fact: The Democratic contest that began five months ago began with the party feeling uneasy about the candidates in the field, and it is ending with the party feeling even more so. Now, suppose that on June 5 Mondale loses California and New Jersey but limps toward the convention with a plurality of delegates.

Many Democrats say: We must not pick someone who has not run the gauntlet since Iowa, because other persons have not "paid their dues." Dues? What are we running, a country club or a country?

The ethical judgment packed into the "dues" argument collapses on inspection.

The cluster of candidates that goes to the starting blocks two years before a convention is entirely self-selected. It is unreasonable to believe that thereafter the party has no choice other than to pick from the few who, two years earlier, picked themselves.

One worthwhile element of recent reforms of the delegate-selection process requires that delegates be selected in a reasonably short period before the convention. Previously some were selected well back in the year before. Why, then, is it wrong for a convention to enlarge a field of candidates that has never been large and has been effectively closed for more than a year?

Of course no candidate who has survived until the convention will yield quietly, or be advised to yield by the hot-eyed young operators who surround him and who already have selected their White House offices. They can always say, with reason: Remember 1948. Then the Democratic Party splintered on the left (Henry Wallace's Progressives) and right (Strom Thurmond's Dixiecrats) and won anyway.

But should the occasion arise this year, Democrats should have a good conscience about voting what they smilingly call their consciences. Because Mondale has done best, a deliberative convention probably should pick one of his supporters, but there are lots of them, and if Democrats cannot spot the obvious one — Mario Cuomo, the governor of New York — they can not spot a rose among rutabaga.

©1984, Washington Post Writers Group

## Daily Nebraskan

EDITOR	Lauri Hopple, 472-1766
GENERAL MANAGER	Daniel Shattil
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Kitty Policky
ADVERTISING MANAGER	Tom Byrns
ASSISTANT	
ADVERTISING MANAGER	Kelly Mangan
CIRCULATION MANAGER	Steve Meyer
NEWS EDITOR	Jim Fussell
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR	Jann Nyffeler
SPORTS/	
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR	Christopher Burbach
COPY DESK SUPERVISOR/	
WIRE EDITOR	Michela Thuman
NIGHT NEWS EDITOR	Jeff Goodwin
ASSISTANT	
NIGHT NEWS EDITOR	Julie Jordan
PHOTOGRAPHERS	Craig Andresen
	Dave Trouba
	Lou Anne Zacek
ARTIST	
PUBLICATIONS BOARD	
CHAIRPERSON	Carla Johnson, 475-0375
PROFESSIONAL ADVISER	Don Walton, 473-301

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, 475-0375.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1984 DAILY NEBRASKAN

## Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the summer 1984 Daily Nebraskan. They are written by this summer's editor in chief, Lauri Hopple.

Other staff members will write editorials throughout the summer. They will carry the author's name after the final sentence.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of

the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the newspaper.

According to the policy set by the regents, responsibility for the content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.