

Solution search

Parking services need improvement

When two outside consultants presented a report on campus parking Wednesday, they said they really didn't know how to resolve UNL's parking woes, because the university has no long-term plan. "It's hard to make recommendations without a clear policy standard," one of the consultants said.

Instead of showing UNL how to solve its parking dilemma, the consultants simply recommended the development of some kind of parking strategy, some form of guidance.

Apparently, several UNL students have become the newest victims of that lack of direction.

Susan Oxley, a member of the Parking Appeals Committee, said more than 100 students had appealed tickets this month alone.

The problem, she said, is lack of communication between the parking office and students.

For those who haven't heard, UNL has stepped up its ticketing of students who park in campus lots at night without permits.

Many students have parked in these lots all school year without knowing it was against the rules. That's because ticketing them wasn't a priority until recently, which leaves one wondering exactly where UNL gets its parking priorities.

Ray Coffey, UNL's business manager, said the recent barrage of tickets was aimed at making spaces available for those who do have night permits. About three-fourths of those ticketed had no permit at all, he said.

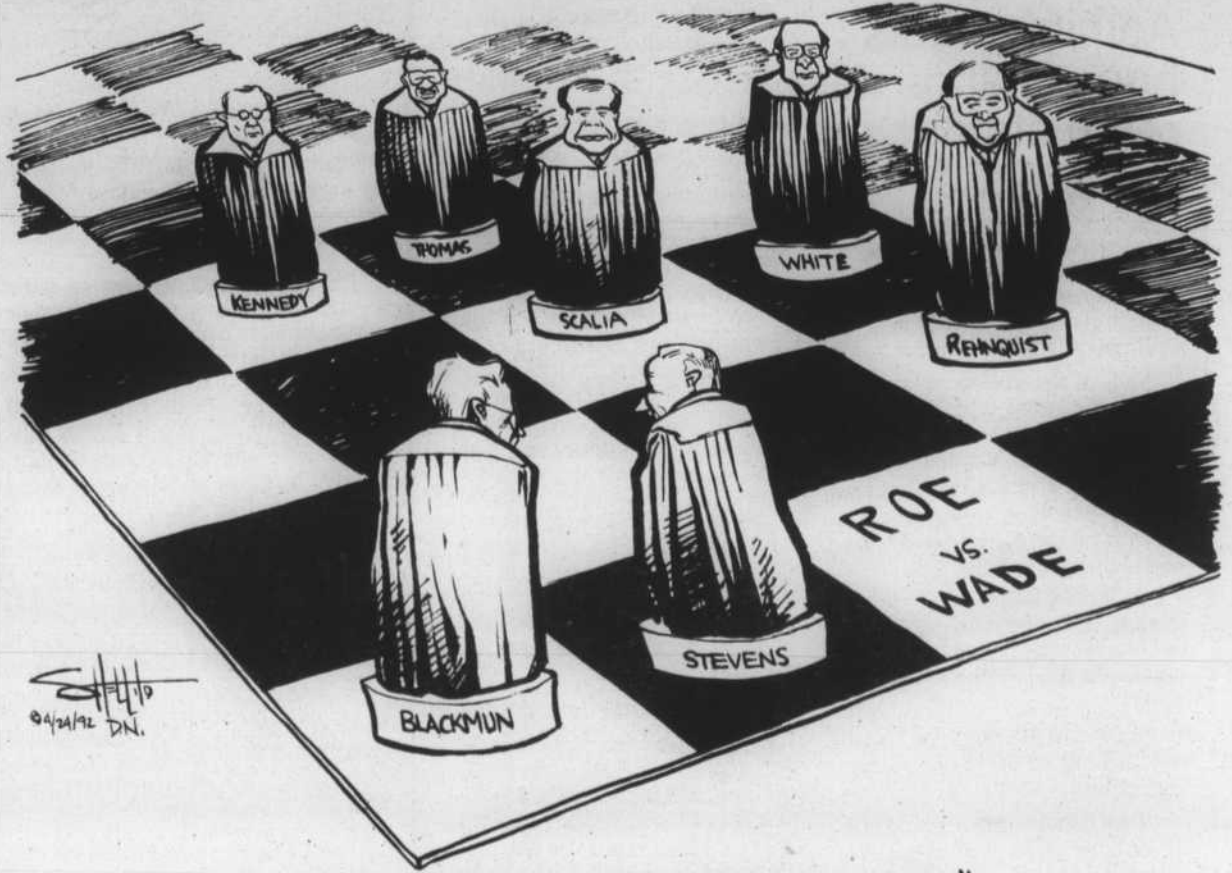
While it is unfair to charge only the students who purchased permits for night-parking privileges, it also is an overstatement to imply that anyone would have problems finding close-at-hand parking spots at night. Most red lots are barren after 6 p.m.

Ignorance is no excuse for disobeying the law — even if it's just parking law — but to start enforcing the policy and expect students to buy them at such a late stage in the school year is ridiculous.

Parking officials should have learned their lesson after trying to raise the price of permits earlier this semester: Students — and outside parking consultants — no longer will stand for haphazard parking services.



Robert Borzekowski/DN



"WELL, LOOKS LIKE THE STALEMATE IS OVER"

ALAN PHELPS

State debate open, shut case

Kolokansahoma? Elementary school kids may have to learn a new state capital if some southwest Kansans have their way.

Upset with a proposed plan that would take tax revenues from oil-rich southwest Kansas and distribute them more evenly across the state, some Kansans are talking secession.

Nearby counties in adjoining Colorado, the Oklahoma panhandle and perhaps even Texas are looking into joining them. It seems residents of the sparsely populated, agricultural multi-state area believe they have much more in common with each other than fellow citizens in their respective states.

Representatives from southwest Kansas, the Oklahoma panhandle and eastern Colorado planned to meet today to discuss the mechanics of secession and the formation of a new state.

Proponents of the secession even have a catchy slogan they've plastered all over T-shirts — "Toto, we're not in Kansas anymore." Chortle.

It isn't likely that anything will become of all this hot air. To form a new state requires a vote of the people, the state legislatures involved and Congress. I doubt Kansans would vote away a portion of their state, especially a portion they could raise money from.

Plus, it's kind of an unwritten law that to make a state, you have to have SOMETHING. Anyone who has ever been to eastern Colorado or western Kansas will agree that nothing exists there. Really. A few state patrol cars cruise around, but that's about it.

Eastern Colorado is just something you have to drive through to get to the mountains. Western Kansas is something you thankfully don't have to drive through to get anywhere.

Meanwhile, down in Texas, one state legislator recently proposed dividing the state into New Texas and Old Texas in an effort to bring attention to how much people in the western part of that state believe they are dwarfed by the political clout of their eastern brethren.

Texans actually could divide their state into as many as five new states, according to the readmission treaty they signed with the Union after the Civil War. They wouldn't need congressional approval.

Still, Texans are too proud of that huge spot they have on the map. So don't look for New Texas anytime soon, either.

Every once in a while we hear



The last time I drove through Iowa with some friends, we decided everyone would be a lot happier if we just squished Nebraska and Illinois together.

Western Nebraskans whine about wanting to join Wyoming. Cheyenne is much closer to the Panhandle than Lincoln, and Wyoming has Jellystone Park.

The Panhandle is more like Wyoming than Nebraska. They're in the wrong time zone, the terrain is different, they go to rodeos, they punch cattle and drive cattle and whatever else you do with cattle.

But all the talk never goes anywhere. Why that is, I'm not sure.

I remember once when I was a kid I became tired of Nebraska and declared my bedroom a separate country. It was kind of an odd country, because my room was on the second floor of my house, which meant it kind of floated in midair.

My room was a lot like the United States, although I was president, and the family cat was vice president.

I half-expected the United States to wage war against me, but nothing ever happened. I never actually declared my room to be part of America again; I suppose it is still a different country.

People always are coming up with ways to muddle around with the map of the United States. I've read articles in the past advocating a total redesign of all state borders so big cities wouldn't overlap into different states, like metro Chicago does.

Well, if that's the way it's going to be, I have a few suggestions of my own:

●Why Iowa? Do we really need

Iowa? What's up with that?

Interstate 80 is boring enough as it is. The last time I drove through Iowa with some friends, we decided everyone would be a lot happier if we just squished Nebraska and Illinois together.

The drive to Chicago would be quicker. The Missouri and Mississippi rivers would flow side-by-side. We wouldn't have to pronounce Dez Moncz.

Iowa is the hardest state to get across that I've ever traveled through. Besides I-80, I've also been up through Sioux City and the northwestern corner, and it's not much better.

●Let's just get it over with and annex Canada. I'm tired of all this hem-haw and rigamarole. Whenever you go to Canada it's like, do you have any live animals or any fruits or soil, blah blah blah. And then when you do get across the border, everything is in the metric system.

Once, in Ontario, I paid \$20 for some "liters" of gas and a Reese's peanut butter cup package with three peanut butter cups. Who ever heard of getting more than two peanut butter cups? Does that have something to do with the metric system?

I don't know how much that stuff really cost because the cashier gave me a horrible exchange rate for my American money.

We'll just see who messes up which candy bars when Old Glory flies above those gas pumps.

●There are too many squarish states out west. In the East, states all have very distinctive shapes. But in the West, you get shapes like Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah, etc. There's just no reason for it.

Why, Colorado and Wyoming are EXACTLY the same. What if you had to tell which was which in the dark? You couldn't, that's what.

That problem would be solved if a new state was created between Colorado and Kansas.

But none of this is really worth it. All the maps would have to be redrawn, and Rand McNally is already in a fit over Europe.

When it comes right down to it, most people would agree the states are fine the way they are.

Every once in a while, though, it's nice to go to my old room, where, by Presidential Decree, my birthday is a national holiday.

Phelps is a sophomore news-editorial major, the Daily Nebraskan opinion page editor and a columnist.

'Jerusalem' ad unfair to Arabs

I am writing in response to the advertisement placed in the Daily Nebraskan on April 17, 1992, titled "Next Year In Jerusalem."

When the author titles the ad "Next Year In Jerusalem," he is triggering emotions among the three religious groups that regard Jerusalem holy to them. I am wondering if the author meant Jerusalem as Israeli Jews know it, as Arab Jews know it, as Arab Christians know it or as Arab Moslems know it! I believe that Jerusalem is Jerusalem for all.

Further in the ad, the author referred to Arabs, saying that "... our Arab brethren will abandon lies, murder and terror." For someone to describe all Arabs as murderers, liars and terrorists reflects nothing but hatred and ignorance. I think, rather than calling each other names, it is about time for us (Arabs and Jews) to put our differences behind and start thinking seriously about giving peace a real chance.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1992 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are: Jana Pedersen, editor; Alan Phelps, opinion page editor; Kara Wells, managing editor; Roger Price, wire editor; Wendy Navratil, copy desk chief; Brian Shellito, cartoonist; Jeremy Fitzpatrick, senior reporter.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its

employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author.

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

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

LETTER POLICY

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.