

YM-YWCA seminar

Cronin talks on presidency

by Robert Petersen Staff Writer

"To make the presidency safe for democracy" is the duty presently facing the American people, said Dr. Thomas Cronin, political scientist, writer, lecturer and presidential affairs expert.

Speaking at the first of three scheduled seminars on "The Future of the Presidency," sponsored by the YM-YWCA, Cronin suggested that "we expect too much of our presidents. We give them too much credit and too much blame."

The people's attitude tempts presidents to subordinate substance to style in their actions and leads to their reliance on "experts"—the "priesthood of American

politics," he continued.

"That the ordinary person could grow up to become president is the old American theory," Cronin explained, "but the belief that 'a sense of history' and 'the strength of the institution' enables him to become presidential material is no longer the case. In fact, the reverse is true."

Cronin said that, in the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon administrations, the executive tended to "act out his role" and depended on "experts" who are "little more than PR men" and "should be treated with skepticism" rather than blind acceptance. He points to recent failures of domestic programs as evidence of the experts' inadequacies.

The problem rests, Cronin said, in the contradiction that a presidential candidate is

a politician, while the president is expected to be a statesman.

"We expect our presidents to take a firm international stance, and to be a national unifier; yet we ask him to be the national divider, to be the one who sets priorities, makes decisions and automatically occasions the disadvantaging or advantaging of various factions."

The political man wants "to please all the people all the time," while the executive man must make the decisions. Caught in this conflict, the president is reduced to an "ad hococracy of mediocrity."

"What we need," Cronin stressed, "is a better sense of politics, not a removal of politics from the presidency. We should

want our president to be political, and understand and expect him to be partisan."

Two things, Cronin said, are needed to make the presidency safe for democracy: a re-alignment and improvement of the "two-and-a-half" party system, and a purging of the cynicism of the people for the political system.

"Candidates are beginning to run on their own 'names' rather than on their parties. They need to be shown that while this is not in their short-term interests, it is in their long-term interests. The administrations of Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon have systematically been dismantling the two-party system. It needs to be strengthened."

By running increasingly closed personal campaigns, the last three presidents have deteriorated the worth of their political parties, he said.

"Nixon, the apostate Republican, ran in the last election a fascist campaign which was treason against the two-party system," he said.

Cronin said that "we have too long been under the misconception that what is good for the president is good for the country."

He concluded that a reevaluation is necessary to dam the rising cynicism toward political processes and to reassert the democratic principle of the two-party system.



After a seeming two-year absence, the socialist movement has returned to the Chapel Hill campus. The party newspaper of the Young Socialist Alliance has been peddled in the Pit recently as some students have shown a renewed interest in politics. (Staff photo by Tom Randolph)

Aldermen discuss noise

by Ken Allen Staff Writer

Chapel Hill's controversial noise ordinance was clarified slightly at the Board of Aldermen meeting Monday night.

Alderman Ross Scroggs pointed out that the object of the ordinance was not to make the town perfectly silent at night.

All bands must still get a permit from the Police Department, but no one will be denied a permit. Bands will have to be inside after 8 p.m., but there is no curfew on playing.

In a public hearing before the regular meeting, Terry Lathrop, consultant for Kimley-Horn and Associates of Raleigh,

explained the proposed Chapel Hill transit system.

According to Lathrop, the system will utilize 13 small buses (19 to 25 passengers each), four larger buses (45 to 50 passengers each) and one bus for elderly and handicapped running on seven routes in Chapel Hill.

He said that the system will cost an estimated \$1,075,602 and is expected to be completed by August, 1974. Federal funds will pay \$860,481 (80 per cent of the cost), with local funds paying the remainder.

A transcript of the hearing will be sent to the Urban Mass Transportation Administration so that the Chapel Hill project will be eligible for funds.

Lathrop explained that the system may lose as much as \$100,000 in the first year of operation. A property tax was authorized

during last spring's referendum to pay any deficit the system may accrue.

H.D. Bennett, a citizen at the hearing, felt that the system would lose more than the estimated \$100,000 and expressed opposition to the system.

Gerry Cohen, a UNC law student pointed out that the buses in use would be smaller, less noisy and less polluting than buses in larger cities and expressed support for the system.

Leonard Mayo, a member of the Mayor's Council on the Aging, expressed pleasure over the provision for the aged and handicapped.

The leash law remains in a fog after the Board postponed action on the matter until Gus Shoffner, dog warden, can work out wording problems with Town Attorney Emory Denny.

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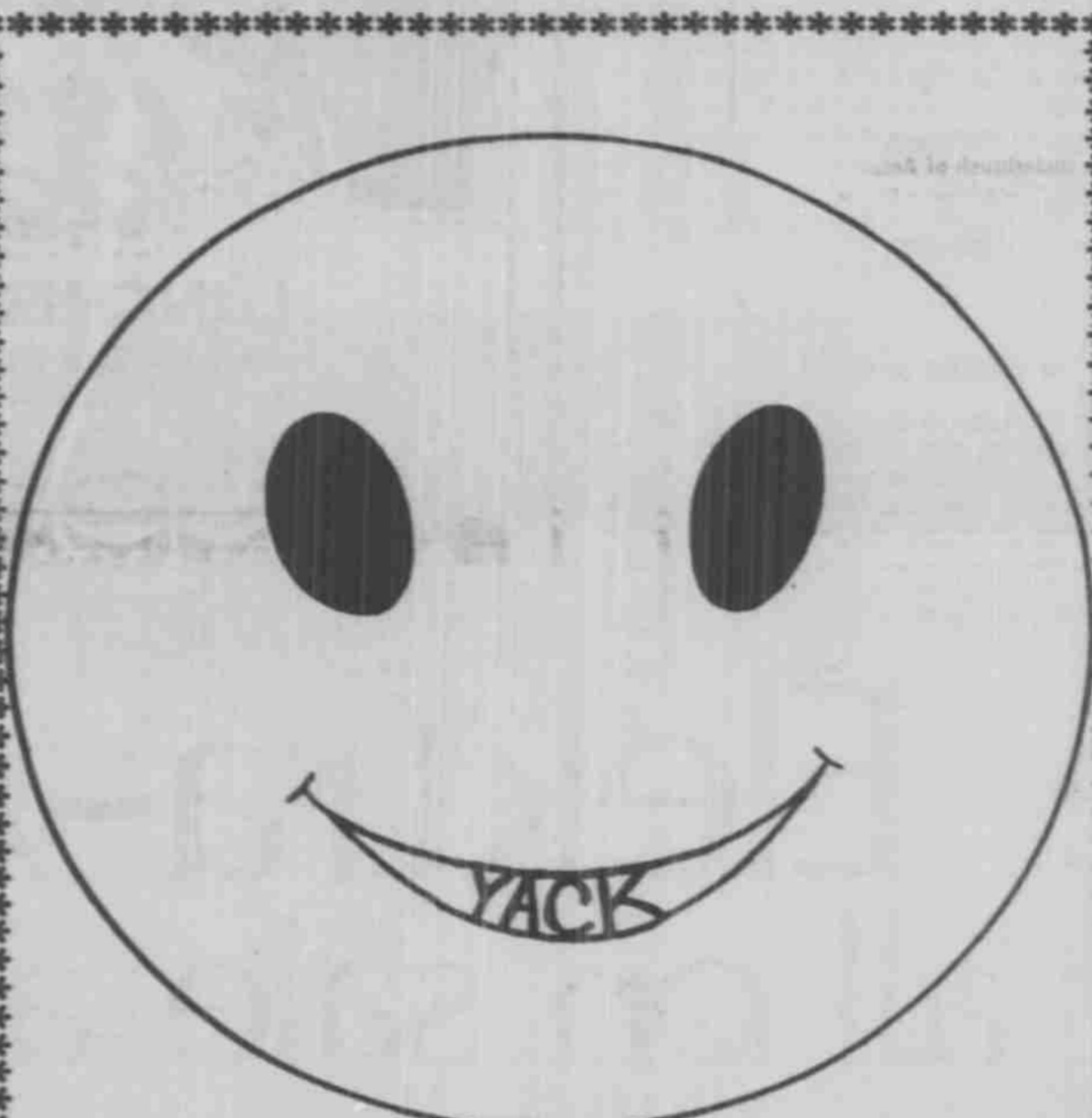


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October 15-26 MWF 9 AM-5 PM TTH 9 AM-9 PM

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abc CAROLINA "Senor, let me blow my own nose, please!" They Call Me Trinity 2:40 4:45 6:50 8:55

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