

editorial/opinion

to the editor



Dear editor,

I see from the Monday's Cynic's Corner that Bruce Nelson's personal vendetta against both organized and disorganized religion has not ceased. However, in this instance he has been bold enough to admit his motivations. It seems that his ill will results from a curse laid on him in childhood and from two years of religious education.

Although I'm aware only indirectly of the mind numbing qualities of Bible colleges and other such institutions, I can say from my own experience that being a minister's son is somewhat less than a "curse."

It's disagreeable most of the time, but it does give you valuable insights into the character of church-oriented belief and how diligently people will work to deceive both themselves and others about their spiritual condition.

I took particular notice of this column not only because of this biographical information, but also because of the article's exceptional extravagance and its concessions to showmanship.

Without much regard for coherence, Nelson grabs assumptions and then puts them aside for others. His rule seems to be to use whatever is convenient at the time, and this for the sake of shocking some wide eyed true believer or scoring tags on some phantom opponent.

Implying that God is unimaginative and terming Christ's death a "brutal murder" demonstrate nothing except Nelson's greed to be provocative, which he can't seem to do by any method other than talking in extremes, even in a column protesting the necessity for extremes of choice.

Nelson does show some sign of character in his analogy between God and Stalin. Most people groping for a totalitarian symbol would have come up with Hitler. Yet I submit that your columnist is incapable of honestly facing the connotations, both for humanity and for himself, of such a similarity. I am accustomed to cheap shots on Nelson's part, but this is the biggest and the cheapest I've yet seen.

One last remark. In paragraph seven, Nelson makes reference to "man's freedom." Curious words, coming from

an authentic cynic. I thought they'd put that out of the way years ago.

Nathan H. Briggs

Two cheers for "Ralph"

Dear editor,

After reading the editorial page in Friday's Daily Nebraskan, we feel compelled to write and voice our complaints.

As anyone who read the Friday edition can confirm, quite a few letters were received voicing outrage for the stereotyping of minority groups. Our question is how many of these people were upset by the stereotyped "Farm Boy" portrayed in the previous comic?

If any objection was raised at all, it sure didn't receive a full-page spread and formal apology from the editor. We know of quite a few farm boys who got quite a chuckle out of the comic.

Ron Wheeler, in our opinion, pokes fun not only at blacks, but at whites, the Campus Police, the football team, the entire university system and Big Red Rooters.

We can understand a few people being upset over what they read into the comic, but then hardly a day goes by that someone couldn't find something in "Ralph" to be upset about if they wanted to. What was worst was the editor's inability to back up both her "quick decision" and her staff.

Ron Wheeler has an excellent comic strip which brings out the stereotypes each of us possess but are afraid to admit, so that we can laugh at ourselves and with others. We would hate to see Ron's comic be further censored just because some people are too close-minded to laugh at themselves. Two cheers for "Ralph" and get an editor that will stand up for freedom of the press.

- Russ Moreland
- Joe Friedman
- David Vanier
- Steve Mckarsky
- Jim Jensen
- Allen Meyer
- Rich Healy
- Jerry Zaster
- Trish Friedman
- Ross Stoffer
- Corinne Moreland

Campus trouble increasing daily

As a guest speaker told Daily Nebraskan staff members at the start of this semester, UNL is a troubled university.

Many of the problems are financial. Faculty salaries are low, classroom materials are in short supply, residence hall rates have risen, food service prices are up, intercampus transportation costs more... the list grows daily.

Other issues are harder to pin down. Who governs UNL—the regents or the Legislature? Why are faculty members and administrators leaving?

Is reaction to one of this paper's cartoons an isolated phenomenon, or does it reflect general discontent among UNL minority students?

Should faculty members have a greater voice in university operation? If they seek that voice through organizing, can they go on strike? What would that mean to this school?

Has student government, like the ASUN poster stamp, outlived its purpose? Or is it a viable and effective institutions?

Where is student power on bodies such as Fees Allocation Board and the Council on Student Life, whose members are supposed to represent faculty and administration? Is there too much? Is it there at all?

How well does the University Health Center service its clientele? How useful are the UNL placement offices? How much, and through what channels, can any of these things be changed?

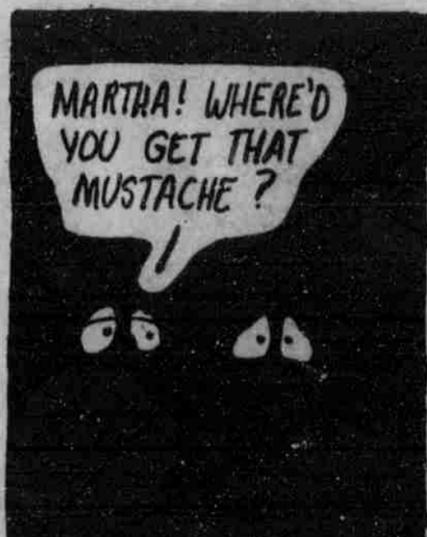
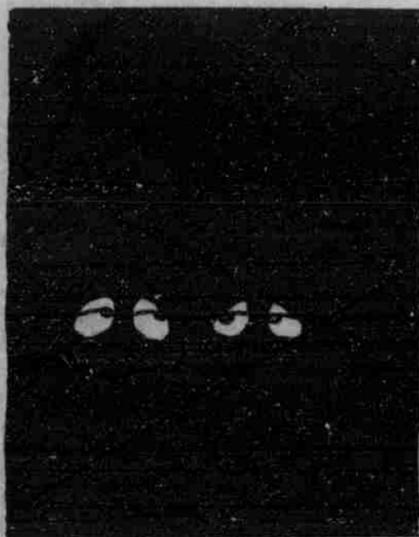
The Daily Nebraskan must know how its readers feel about these and other issues if we are to give them effective coverage.

Reader access to the paper through letters to the editor, guest opinions and Short Stuff may be limited by newsprint space, but access to our office through personal visits or the telephone is open.

Visit us, or give us a call. Your input and feedback are vital to us.

Rebecca Britte

RALPH by Ron Wheeler



Feminism means equality, not dominance

long hard climb



Feminism is a philosophy of equality. Equality is harder to attain than dominance.

When two siblings attempt to divide a candy bar exactly in half, each will claim they received the smaller portion.

The inherent equality of the sexes is basic to the feminist philosophy—not that they are the same, but that abilities and intelligence are given in proportionate amounts to each.

Some people do not believe the sexes are equal. Either they believe men are stronger, smarter and better than women, despite opposing evidence, or they want to play games.

The game is the competition between all men and women that exists in the minds of some people. Men win the game by asserting their "male superiority." Women win the game by deviousness, craft and deception.

Men live up to the model "man" by giving the constant impression of strength, virility, handsomeness, imperturbability. Model "women" have to be beautiful, sexy, complacent, compliant people who carry out their natural duties (cooking, sewing and taking care of children) with

ease.

However, women who are caught up in this game do not necessarily believe in the basic inferiority of women.

Their sneaky natures compel them to lie about their doubts when they tell other women—"Men are such children. Isn't that just like a man, all thumbs!" and "Yes, I have John, the nerd, wrapped around my little finger and he doesn't even know it!"

People receive their indoctrination into the game from various places. "I Love Lucy" is the game recorded for posterity on film. Can Lucy keep her extravagant purchase a secret from Ricky? Will Lucy kiss and make up or will she hit Ricky in the face with a pie? (sneakily and deviously of course).

The game players could be left to play their game in peace if they didn't assume everyone should see things their way. Feminists have caught on to the game and decided each individual should be allowed to develop individual talents without artificial barriers made because of sex.

As a proponent of feminism, I don't believe in making people look, sound and smell the same.

I am sensitive to bumper stickers that say "Help stamp out rape, say yes" and magazine ads refer to mother's little girl growing up to cook, sew and take care of babies.

Avid game players see feminism as a threat to their lifestyle. In a way they are right. Feminists want people to have more freedom. They point out the absurdity of our male and female stereotypes.

They want people to quit the game and become free agents. People who are satisfied with their assigned roles do not have to change.

Granting equal rights and status to women doesn't mean all women will dig ditches or go to war. Nor does it mean men must stop opening doors for women.

Women have been seen as salable commodities, creatures to be worshipped from afar, baby machines, sex objects. I would rather be seen as an interesting variation of a basic person.