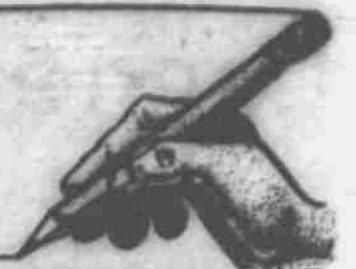


opinion



Law's second part should be vetoed

Nebraska voters should be aware that proposed amendment six is really two proposals and that one can be added to the constitution without the other. It is important that voters make this distinction because, while part one should be passed, part two should be turned down.

Part two of amendment six would allow the Legislature to provide loans or grants to students attending non-public postsecondary schools with the stipulation that the money be spent for non-sectarian purposes only.

The difference between this proposal and part one of the amendment is that the latter provides reimbursement for a specific use (special training for the handicapped) which the state has determined is every handicapped person's right. Part two would provide an unspecified amount to be used for anything but religious education.

It would not be difficult to monitor the use of reimbursement funds for special education programs for the handicapped but it would be almost impossible to assure that money given to a student in the form of a loan or grant is spent only for non-religious pursuits. Optimists need only look at the abuse of federally insured loans and other aid programs for college students.

The recipient attending a private college could not be prevented from using the money to buy his theology textbook anymore than the grant recipient at UNL can be prevented from spending the grant money on a winter wardrobe.

Absolute nonsectarian use of the funds would be improbable because, as anyone who has attended a parochial school knows, religious training does not end in theology class.

Any effective monitoring system would of necessity be so stringent it could cause some schools to compromise their religious policy or curtail some requirements in order to be eligible for the money.



Precautions writers could take to avoid nonsensical sentences

By Theodore M. Bernstein

Always read it over. Silly things sometimes turn up in print simply because the writer has not taken the trouble to read over what he has written. Take a look at this sentence: "Dr. Lawrence M. Lichtenstein . . . views the new test as the first step in providing proper treatment for those people who experience severe hives, asthma, shock and even death from the bites of such insects as bees . . ."

Spelling. Orthography means spelling as a subject for study and heaven knows it is a subject that needs attention these days. Grant O. Gale of Grinnell, Iowa, in a letter on this topic says, "In the 8th grade in a rural one-room school in Michigan I had a course in orthography. There were 54 kids and one teacher and we had a lot of fun with words. Kids today are missing a lot; the sad part is that they don't realize it." Not only are today's kids missing the fun, but in addition they are missing the education. It might be a good idea to give them a course in grammar in the 7th grade, then a course in orthography in the 8th grade. That would give them the schooling that is lacking in so many places.

bernstein on words

Wendy L. Patterson of Wilmington, Del., who sent in the clipping, asks, "what is the proper treatment for a person who has experienced death?"

Here is another example sent in by Bill M. of Wayne, Pa.: "In addition Sue has prepared and frozen a stew and Tony's wife, Nancy, manager of CBS Radio Spot Sales, a noodle casserole called mother's mess." Poor Nancy, first frozen and then called a casserole. Of course editors are supposed to catch ridiculous wordings, but writers should not count on them, capable as most of them are.

Perfectly good. Paul Wenograd of Philadelphia writes to BoW-wow to ask . . . wait a minute, I (or we) had better explain what BoW-wow means. We (or I) never know what pronoun or noun to use when this rectangle wants to refer to itself, so your host decided to make it, for today at least, BoW-wow. The official title of the column is Bernstein on Words and that title produces the acronym BoW. Adding wow! to it is too obvious to require explanation. Therefore today you are reading BoW-wow.

Getting back to "perfectly good." Paul Wenograd sent BoW-wow a clipping containing this sentence: "Although perfectly healthy, he was given a battery of tests and told to return for visits with specialists." The question raised is whether perfectly is correctly used in that context. Presumably what the questioner has in mind is that a person is either partly healthy or is healthy and that perfectly healthy contains a superfluous word. It is true that perfectly means completely or fully so that in the strictest sense the word is extraneous. But in the quoted sentence it is being used as an intensive, akin to very or completely or fully, in order to add emphasis to the word it modifies and in this case it is helpful.

Word oddities. Talking about BoW-wow, you may be interested to know that one dictionary says that wow is an exclamation of pleasure or pain among other things. Take your choice.

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Special Features

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes letters to the editor and guest opinions. Choices of material published will be based on timeliness and originality. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, but may be published under a pen name if requested.

Guest opinions should be typed, triple-spaced, on nonerasable paper. They should be accompanied by the author's name, class standing and major, or occupation. All material submitted to these pages is subject to editing and condensation, and cannot be returned to the writer.

Generation doesn't give 'hoot in hell' about election

By L. Kent Wolgamott

"Who is going to explain in 1976 that all the people who felt they got burned in '72 should try again for another bogus challenger? Four years from now there will be two entire generations—between the ages of 22 and 40—who will not give a hoot in hell about any election, and their apathy will be rooted in a personal experience. Four years from now it will be very difficult to convince anybody who has gone from Johnson/Goldwater to Humphrey/Nixon to Nixon/McGovern that there is any possible reason for getting involved in another bullshit election." Hunter S. Thompson summed up Campaign '76 four long years ago.

Apathy is running wild during this campaign, projected voter turnout is the least in history, for good reason. The least productive age group, without a doubt, will be those 18-25. But we are disillusioned. The U.S. was involved in an immoral, unjust war in Southeast Asia for the most part of our lives, and our early political memories are bleak—assassination of our great leaders, urban riots and decay, unrest on the campus. . . This generation has yet to see and live through any of the "greatness" of this country's history, we have been given nothing to be proud of, no great national accomplishment, nothing.

In the 1960s the young people called for a change in this country, but they were denied.

Instead of anything positive we were given Richard Nixon.

Nixon proceeded to vilify the office of the Presidency and destroy the faith of the American public in their government. His downfall was not the end of the Nixon legacy. It continues in the form of cabinet officers, and in

the greatest abortion of justice in American history—the Pardon. The damage done by the Nixon Administration in the area of enemies' civil rights and to the moral spirit of the country as a whole cannot be accessed today—that is for history to decide—but the record is starting to come in.

This election can provide a change. It can turn the path of a country which is still divided by the unrest of the 60s and the political turmoil of the early 70s. Gerald Ford has said he is running on the record of his administration.

If I was forced to have that record I would run, too, and fast. Mr. Ford is hard-pressed to explain his cruel vetoes—of a school lunch bill, a strip mining bill and his lack of handling foreign policy. Mr. Ford has not shown dynamic leadership, evidenced by the GAO report on the Mayaguez affair and his indecision on the Earl Butz debacle. He has shown us no vision of the path of the future of the nation, managing the government by responding to a crisis and not setting a policy. Four more years of this do-nothing, government-by-veto leadership will prove disastrous for the nation. We need a vision of this country and a government which will be responsive to the needs of the majority of the people and not a government which exists to assist the elite of our society. We need a government which will help the people who need help—the elderly, the unemployed and the ill. We need government which will operate on a foreign policy based on the values of this nation and not on expediency. We need a government which will restore the faith of the American public in itself and in its government. If we cannot have this type of government this nation will not survive easily. Our cities are rapidly becoming rotted and decayed to the point of no return, our government under Nixon and Ford has managed to veto most of the "people" legislation as inflationary, yet the inflation rate of this administration is one of the greatest in history. We have more people unemployed

now than at any time since the Great Depression. And the Ford administration is running on its record.

I don't see any quick and easy solutions to these problems. People are not getting involved in politics today and their results could be fatal. Both Carter and McCarthy



offer a positive alternative to the record of the past. However, as a minority candidate McCarthy may do more harm than good. If he receives a substantial percentage of the vote he could take enough votes from Carter to cost him the election and give us four more years—which is a very frightening thought.

Jimmy Carter is somewhat of an unknown quantity on the American political scene and perhaps that is what this country needs some one to come in and change the things which need to be changed in order to make this country proud again. Gerald Ford is using this as his campaign slogan but I am not proud of our country and its action in the last few years, I am not proud of the unemployment, the lack of health care, and the general lack of compassion of our government. I am not proud of a foreign policy run in secrecy and by intelligence agencies. I don't see how anyone else could be proud. We need change in this country, we need leaders with vision, because without them the apathy and degradation of this nation will continue.