

letters to the editor

Social wrongs...

I have found in my life that the struggle within myself to find the meaning of life is dull and very boring. I searched to find my purpose in life for years, always hitting dead ends. There were always more questions and there never seemed to be any answers. Someone shared with me that I didn't need to fight and struggle to find answers. I just had to believe in Jesus Christ and what He did for me.

This man claims to be God, who came down to earth to save the lost. Now, the story is told, in the Bible, that God made Himself into a human, Jesus Christ. He told the world about God and his love for years, and then, the people who He loved so much, crucified Him. He died a horrible death so that we may live forever. Christ died to wash away our sins. I don't think Jesus Christ can be sold like corn flakes. He is real and alive today. When I received Jesus Christ into my life it was no cheap thrill. He is very real. He can change lives.

The message that Josh told the students is real and meaningful. Josh has answers for the questions that people are asking. He has solutions to problems. Before anyone cuts down Josh and his message, go hear him. Judge for yourself if he is just selling corn flakes or the real thing. No one has all the answers. Only Jesus Christ does.

Emily Allen  
Sophomore/Journalism  
Political Science

'Maybe Jesus right'

Last Friday night I asked Josh McDowell a question about a confusing passage of New Testament scripture. He thought for a moment and then gave his brief answer. I suppose that he is capable of better answers, but the point that I wish to make is not that his answer was good or bad, but that his method of arriving at his answer was dubious (because we discussed the quote out of context) as it is in his book *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*.

Some students have been defending Josh in the name of his scholarship and intellectualism in Christianity on the popular level. Josh McDowell is intellectual to a certain degree.

There is, no doubt, merit in studying 100 hours for each minute of lecture, but that alone does not constitute being scholarly; few seniors at this university who have been put in several thousand hours of study and investigation, can be considered scholars in their own major area of study.

The reason most of us are not yet scholars is because it is one thing to learn facts and quite another to discover their true meaning. Scholarship does not mean being a "poached egg." It means considering all the data and all the alternative theories in hopes of discovering, by a consistent method, the most probable meaning of some facts.

It is apparent to anyone familiar with the field of Biblical study that Josh McDowell has fewer hours of study per minute of public lecture time than most our competent lecturers on the subject, and that his "arguments" in his books do not consider data that don't fit into his scheme. This is clear if you go to the library and study a book that does treat this data as an integrated whole.

So it is unfortunate if people take Josh's challenge and then stop where he stands, satisfied that they have the right answers in the light of incomplete arguments. It would be better for those who stop there to never have started.

Paul Klopper  
Senior/Life Sciences

The first page article in Friday's Daily Nebraskan, describing the suit planned against Josh McDowell and the four campus groups who sponsored him, is interesting news considering the content of Josh's Wednesday night talk at the Nebraska Union.

His talk definitely did not feature religious worship. In honestly and intellectually looking at the historical evidence pointing to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Mr. McDowell explained that his initial efforts (and the efforts of others) to disprove the resurrection led to the conclusion that this is a historical event and not a myth. To say that this lecture on Roman history at the time of Jesus would be a religious testimony—look folks, the mere mention of the name of Jesus Christ should not be grounds for removal of the right to discuss the subject from an objective historical perspective. The revocation of the charters of the Baptist Student Union, Campus Crusade for Christ, Inter-varsity Christian Fellowship and the Navigators-UNL would be a flagrant violation of the right to freedom of religion guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and its amendments.

Christian lecturer (not activist) Josh McDowell did not try to force Christianity down anybody's throat. Each individual has the right to accept or reject what Mr. McDowell said. But to deny him the right to speak on this campus is forcing a non-Christian attitude on the students of this university. Or is it that certain people on this campus are afraid to hear what Josh has to say because perhaps, just maybe, Jesus is right?

Sincerely,  
Richard Heim  
Graduate College

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Now we are turning over baleful attention to the military.

There are young Americans whose families cannot afford their college educations? Let the military send them to college. Joblessness continues to plague our minorities? Let them enlist and get off the street corners and unemployment rolls.

Too many young people are lacking in basic discipline? Let the Army make men of them.

Men? Haven't we decided that it's sexist to make such distinctions? Then let's see to it that our armed forces—including the service academies and combat units—are open to women as well as men.

It won't surprise me if someday soon, having decided that discrimination against the handicapped is bad public policy, we demand that the armed forces stop giving physical examinations—except, perhaps, as a basis for instituting a program of universal rehabilitation.

I would no more argue that the military should resume its pointless discrimination than demand that the schools assign black pupils only to black schools.

I am only suggesting that our zeal to correct a host of social wrongs should not obscure our first priorities. In the case of schools, it is educating our children; in the case of the military, it is to see to the national defense.

In those instances where it is possible to achieve secondary purposes without sacrificing primary ones, then let us do both.

On that basis, allowing women to enlist in the armed forces—or drafting them if the draft is resumed—might be a reasonable thing to do. I spent my two years of conscription doing things for which my maleness was no particular advantage. The fact that my unit was all-male served no useful purpose.

But if I had been assigned to a rifle unit, or a tank brigade, it would have made no sense for assignment officers to pretend there was no difference between men and women.

Similarly, like many other ex-servicemen, I recall a number of young recruits who did a lot of growing up, thanks to military discipline. There are times when I think that mandatory military service might help a lot of immature young people to grow up.

But to say that a lot of people could benefit from military discipline is not to say that the military should draft people in excess of its own needs. If it enhances the national defense, or at any rate doesn't detract from it, then fine. Otherwise, we have to look for other ways to deal with the problem of discipline.

Should women be required to register, now that the President has decided to reinstitute registration? Of course. Should women as well as men be subject to a reinstated draft? Probably.

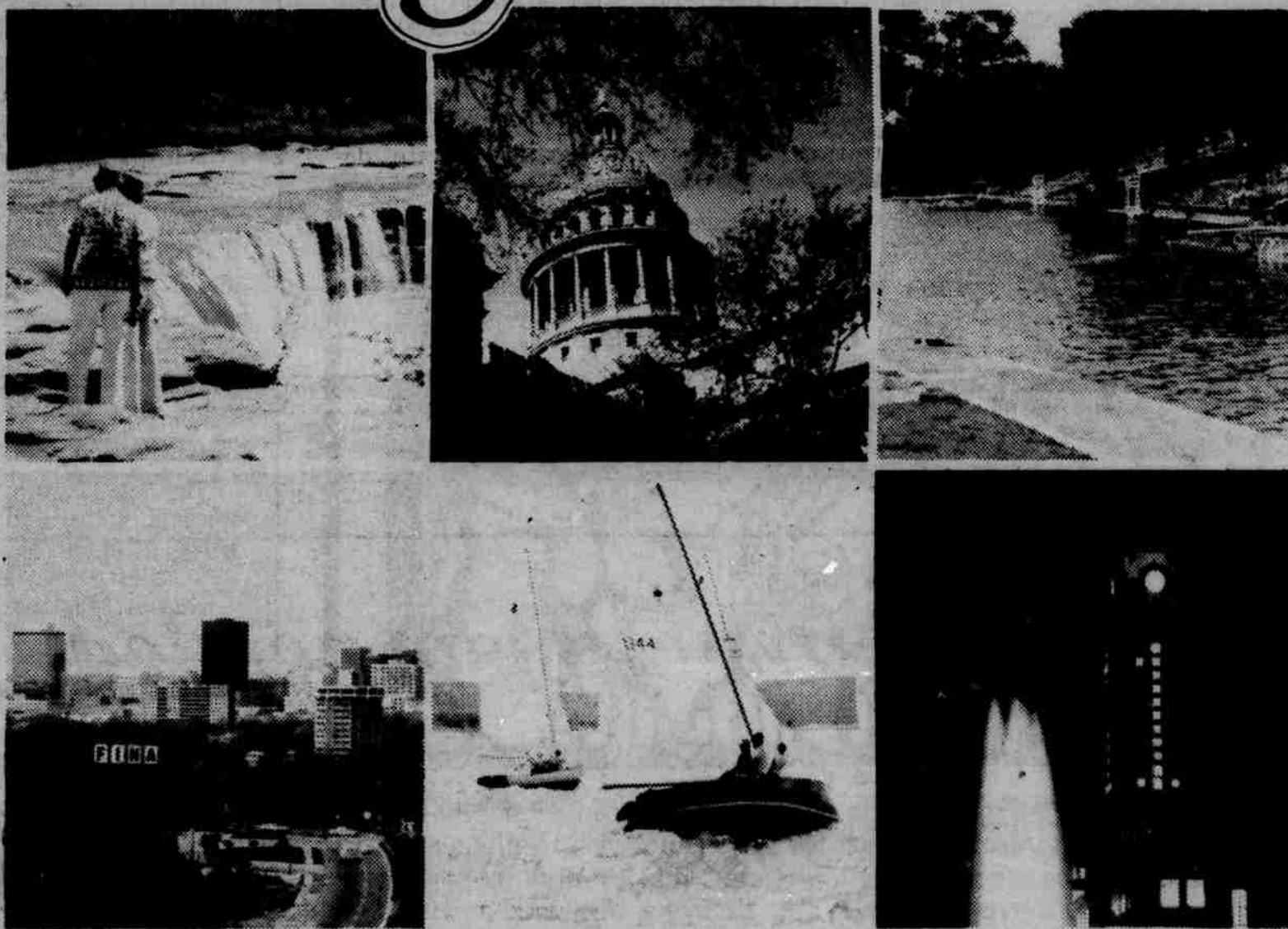
Should the military disregard distinctions between men and women when it comes to specific assignments? Don't be silly.

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Correction

In Tuesday's article on the University Program Council the budget request was incorrectly reported, due to an editor's error. The request is .45 percent larger than last year's request.

Yes you Can



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