



## letters to the editor

The Feb. 1 Nebraskan reported that a suit may be filed attempting to shut down the student groups who brought Josh McDowell to campus. Perhaps a suit which brings the UNL religious policy under scrutiny is overdue. The policy prohibits UNL student groups from holding meetings which include testimony or worship. The reasons given revolve around the concept of separation of church and state. UNL buildings are owned by the state, therefore use of the buildings for religious events violates separation of church and state.

Unfortunately, the university is not just any clump of state-owned buildings. It is an institution set up by the state to promote learning, research, and investigation: to educate. But surely this requires a free exchange of ideas. Under current policy, student groups on campus can organize a program which discusses or advocates any sort of idea, except religious ideas. They could tell about any sort of experience (testimony), except religious experience. They could bring in a speaker to challenge students to take any sort of action or make any sort of commitment—to Marxism, humanism, the Good Life, laziness, drunkenness, to hard work or free love—to anything as long as they did not give a religious challenge. Why is it that religion is singled out as the taboo subject?

Separation of church and state is certainly an important constitutional consideration, but surely it is not more important than freedom of speech. Indeed, one purpose in preventing the establishment of a state religion is to ensure that people may believe and express their beliefs without hindrance. Surely the idea was not to have a state where no religious idea could be presented, but rather where every religious idea could be presented.

Yet we have a letter to the editor saying that the writer was tired of having "Christianity shoved down his throat" at UNL. But who forced him to hear the Christian doctrine taught or discussed? No one. Who forced him to go to Josh McDowell or any other religious speaker or any speaker at all? No one. Why then does he wish to prevent others from hearing whom they choose? Is he interested in freedom of thought or restriction of thought?

I hope the day will never come when religious expression is more restricted at UNL than it is today. Students who are involved in religious groups should have the same rights as other students. A pro-choice group can sponsor a pro-abortion speaker. An Iranian group can sponsor a pro-Iranian speaker. A Christian group ought to be able to sponsor a pro-Jesus speaker. No one is asking that ASUN of the university fund religious speakers. But religious students also pay tuition and fees, and they should have the right to use the facilities like any other group would for a speaker of their choice.

Students who care little about religion should still be concerned about this issue. If pressures can be placed on those in authority to restrict the flow of ideas in

one area (religion), then do not doubt that it could be done in other areas under other circumstances. We must hope that the UNL regents and administrators will take the shackles off the free discussion of religious belief at UNL.

Terry J. Christlieb  
Editor of Celebration

### Boycott questions

Shelley Smith's "Boycott" editorial (Feb. 1) raised a few questions in my mind.

Because this country made a mistake (implied by Smith, accepted by me) in not boycotting the 1936 Berlin Olympics—does this mean we should take similar action in 1980 to avoid being labeled as "hypocrites?"

Does Smith consider the actions taken by President Carter and Congress in relation to the boycott on the same level as the "terrorist murders of 11 Israeli athletes?" I doubt it. Yet Smith lumps the two actions together as similar political tinkering with the Olympics. It makes for a persuasive argument if you're an individual who dislikes differentiating between apples and oranges.

I understand that Smith is the sports editor and a writer for the Daily Nebraskan. Covering the domestic "Big Red" can be extremely enlightening. I question, however, if it gives one the expertise to make blanket claims on what effects an Olympic boycott will or will not have in Afghanistan or any other part of the world. Smith assumes that a hypothetical world boycott of an American Olympics would have had no effect on our Vietnam intervention. I seriously question that assumption since domestic and world opinion heavily influenced that conflict.

Smith states that games will go on in Moscow with or without a boycott. At the present the United States and at least 29 other countries are likely to boycott Moscow. Additional nations might join later. Pravda and Smith might consider that the Olympics as usual but I would not.

One thing that I find particularly confusing: Smith's main point (besides America's hypocrisy) is that we are hurting athletes and, in essence, the Olympic ideal that revolves around them. However, Smith early on bases her arguments on the premise that the Olympics have always had political undertones. Smith, if we are to take her seriously, believes the Olympics, as they were initially conceptualized, have never existed. Yet she uses this non-existent "ideal" to criticize an American boycott.

I will not try to completely refute Shelley Smith's claim that America is a hypocrite. I will say, however, that if it is, it is no more guilty of that "crime" than Shelley Smith or the Olympic Games themselves.

Don Tremain  
Nebraska ETV staff

## Oil nationalization 'mistake'

Americans will continue to feel the pinch on their pocketbooks as they fill up with gas during the coming year. At least that's the message the chairman of the Phillips Petroleum Co. brought to Lincoln.

William F. Martin, the company's chief executive officer, told Lincoln newsmen Wednesday that "the general prospect is that prices will continue to rise, but at a more moderate rate than they have been increasing at in the past couple of years."

Martin was in town to address the Town and Gown Breakfast Forum on the future energy situation.

"We're really at the mercy of the foreign oil exporting countries," Martin said.

As long as the price of raw materials, especially petroleum, continues to rise, the price at neighborhood gas pumps will climb as well, he said.

In the last few days, for example, the price of oil coming out of Nigeria and Iran has increased by \$2 to \$3 a barrel, he said.

"I think the government is too involved in the oil business," Martin said. "Most of the regulatory measures, while some are justified, are counter-productive to maintaining a supply of petroleum."

Martin projected that the government would collect more than \$227 billion from the oil companies with the windfall profit tax during the next years and probably would "not know how to use this."

This Valentine's Day send your heart and our flowers!



Danielson Floral

127 S. 13th  
432-7602



Hearts & Flowers™ Bouquet



Plain 'n' Fancy

Our styles are available in both yellow and white gold and in plain or designs with diamonds.

Sartor Hamann

REGISTERED JEWELERS AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY

Downtown	Gateway	Conestoga
1150 "O" St.	Enclosed Mall	Enclosed Mall
Lincoln	Lincoln	Grand Island

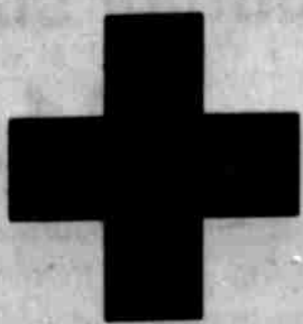


hair: Devon, The Factory photography: P. O'Connor

She's a  
**10**

And so is the Daisy.

Give your valentine a perfect gift from the Daisy and we'll give you a record of Ravel's "Bolero"; that you heard in the movie "10" ... free with a \$35 purchase.



Keep Red Cross ready.

the DAISY

Gateway and the Atrium