

opinion/editorial

Student's concerns surprise editor

This semester, for the Daily Nebraskan editor, has been interesting, to say the least. With only three opportunities to provide what one letter writer called a "daily sermon," this slightly self-indulgent editorial is about the editor's perceptions of the UNL City Campus after three-and-a-half years.

The editor discovered this semester what seems to be the things students here care about most. Abortion and God, and in that order. For a while it seemed to be football, but judging from the letters this semester, that initial impression was wrong.

There is a wish here that students would become more involved in their own governing bodies and in lobbying the state for the money this institution needs; but at least the student body cares about something, which is far superior to apathy.

Before this semester, the editor underestimated the degree of conservatism on campus. There is good reason to believe that many student were caught up in the country's rapid swing to the right during the last year, and that the campus has become substantially more conservative in that time.

Even though the author of this editorial has and does strongly disagree with the principles of conservatism, for reasons stated throughout the semester, it is hoped that whether a person is liberal, or conservative or moderate, that they take the time to figure out why.

A distressing fact on this campus is that many students' politics on both ends of the political spectrum are guided by dogma rather than reason, and that critical thought is all too precious and refreshing a commodity among students in regard to politics.

The faculty during the last three years has been very impressive in its dedication to academics even in political situations and in its concern for the student body. Besides the friends a student makes during a college career, the UNL faculty is a shining light that is not easily forgotten.

If only the regents would realize that the faculty and students are their most valuable asset in formulating policy for this university.

There are some very good, sincere administrators on this campus and across the NU system. It is hoped the regents can make conditions (other than financial) nice enough for them to stay and keep helping students.

On a purely personal level, the editor admits he has a great deal of good feeling about this university, despite the sour grapes and final barbs found above. Maybe he took college life and college journalism too seriously, but that seemed better than remaining ignorant of the things going on around all students.

letters to the editor

I'm writing in regard to Kirk Cameron's guest opinion in the Dec. 3 Daily Nebraskan. Cameron makes the startling conclusion (at least to me) that the United States' best answer to the Soviet Union's powerful nuclear threat is through total disarmament; the Soviets, according to Cameron, would be unlikely to dare to attack the United States if it disarmed itself.

April 14, 1865. Abraham Lincoln is watching the play "Our American Cousin" at The Ford Theater. Suddenly, John Wilkes Booth, an actor, makes a decidedly off-cue appearance to Lincoln's private box and aims a pistol at the President's face. Lincoln whispers, "Be reasonable, John, I'm unarmed."

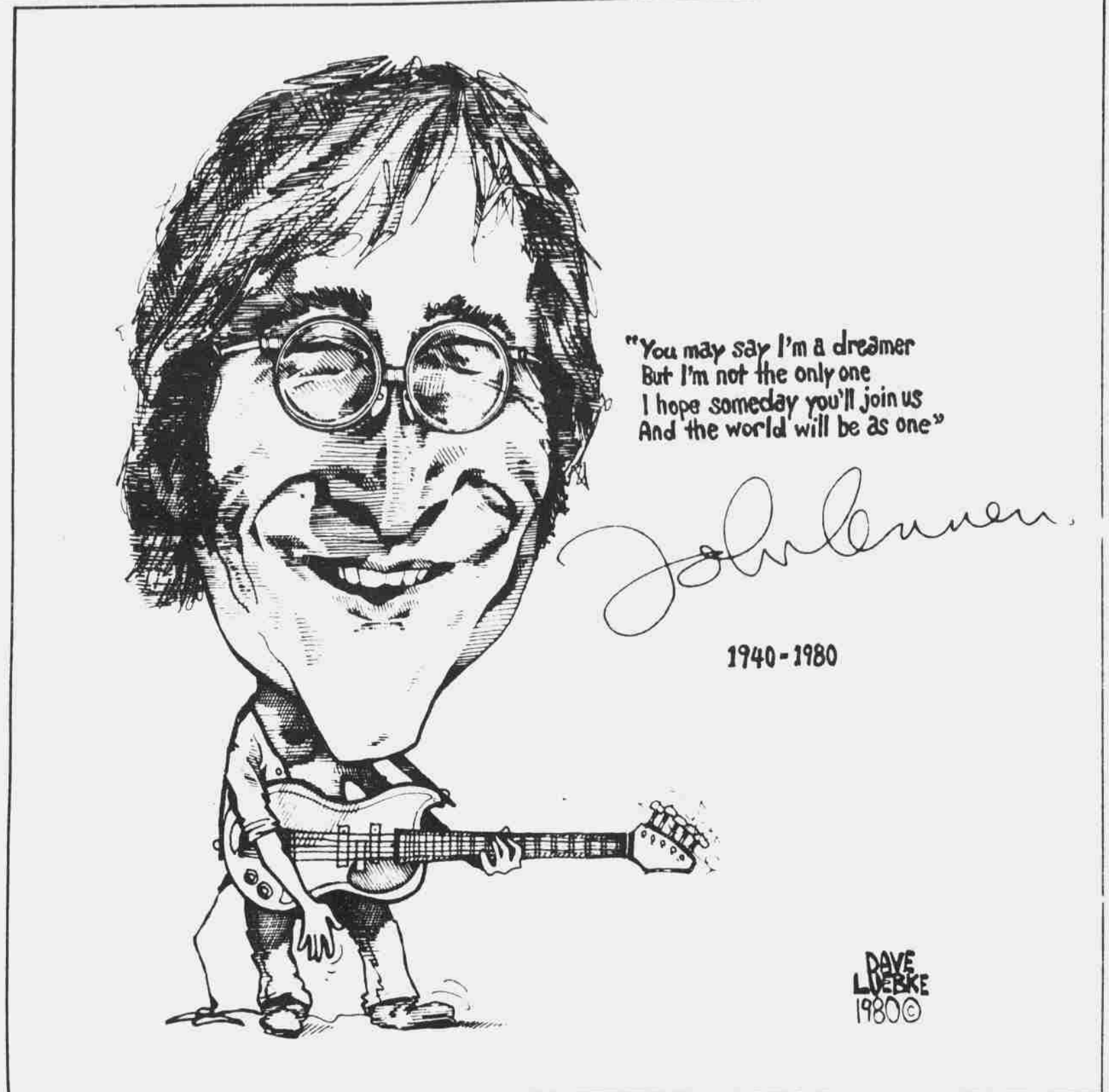
"By golly, so you are," said Booth, who proceeded to jump off the stage and break his leg as the President settled back to enjoy the remainder of the play.

August 6, 1945. The B-29 "Enola Gay" flies over Hiroshima, Japan, carrying the first atomic bomb to be used in warfare. Just before the bomb is released, the pilot of the Enola Gay is altered that the Japanese are hopelessly unarmed. In response, he flies back home, disgruntled and bewildered at the Japanese strategy.

It's always best to disarm when confronted, isn't it?

Tom Shelton
Freshman, Journalism

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Pro-choice gives new direction

"After the Christian majority takes control, pluralism will be seen as immoral and evil and The State will not permit anybody the right to practice evil."

So who wants evil? The trick is defining it. According to those words by Gary Potter, president of the Catholics for Christian Political Action, and other Moral Majority leaders, "evil" includes not practicing prayer in public schools, not discriminating against homosexuality, premarital sex, communal living, sex education and the ERA because it "ridicules the historical role of the woman as a faithful housewife and mother."

headrick

These ideas and more are from Jerry Falwell's *America: Five Theses For the 1980s*, which begins: "I. That the concept of government itself, like that of marriage, is an institution divinely ordained by God."

Who can argue with that kind of logic? Falwell, a Moral Majority organizer and spokesman, believes he has a "divine mandate to go right into the halls of Congress and fight for laws that will save America."

Fine, we all want to save America, but somewhere along the line I thought the Bill of Rights and concepts like civil liberties, vague notions about a free marketplace of ideas and freedom of expression were part of what the United States is supposed to be all about.

Falwell is, if nothing else, a smart salesman, who is aware of this type of criticism leveled against the Moral Majority. He denies that his followers want a Christian republic and, he insists they're only exercising their rights to speak and act on what they believe under the laws of this land.

The far right tried to organize behind Barry Goldwater in 1964 and failed. Bill Brock, Republican party chairman, began organizing various right-wing groups in 1976 to get politicians elected on both state and national levels.

The *Christian Voice* published "The Congressional Report Card—How Your Congressman Voted on 14 Key Moral Issues," and Falwell published the "Christian Bill of Rights."

In aligning the new right religious groups with new right politicians, the concepts of freedom and liberty have become somehow confused with godlessness and sin. By using words like pro-Christian, pro-life, pro-family, etc., the Moral Majority has set anyone up who's pro-pluralism to be Public Enemy No. 1.

In a recent *Playboy* article, a historic meeting is described. The meeting took place Dec. 19, 1978, and marked the organization of key new right leaders to draft a bill into Congress. The result was Sen. Paul Laxalt's (R-Nev.) and a Reagan campaign advisor) Family Protection Act.

The act, introduced to the Senate in June 1979 and to the House in May of 1980 by Rep. Robert Bauman of Maryland, calls for the denial of federal funds to schools, labor groups and others who disagree with the Moral Majority and funding those who agree. In short, it's a way of restricting alternative opinions through law.

This is not an "Us-or-Them" proposition, it's definitely not a Liberal vs. Conservative one—it goes much deeper. The far right's slur campaigns and successful political targeting threatens the freedom of a vast majority of Americans.

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