

## letters to the editor

### People often close mind, ears to opposition

I knew it. I wouldn't have to wait long before anti-Moral Majority, anti-Jerry Falwell editorials came out in the Daily Nebraskan. I feel I am somewhat called to respond to the matter.

I find it very sad that people become so extremely opinionated and self-assured as

to where they stand on issues or at least where they think they stand, that they become oblivious to anything the side they disagree with says. A case in point is last Thursday's rally. I was over on the opposition parties' side (partially my blunder) and there were a few boos when Jerry

Falwell said: "I think both sides should be heard." A few boos?! They should be applauding that statement. Why didn't they? They weren't listening.

I am admittedly as bad at it—that is, closing off my mind whenever issues I disagree with come up—as anyone else, maybe worse.

What has this got to do with last Thursday's rally? I think maybe Falwell has fallen into this fault as we all have at times, but he also had some good things to say, many good things. The only problem is some weren't listening. I don't agree with everything the Moral Majority says either. But there are many things I do agree with

the Moral Majority on. Primarily the right for anyone, regardless of his position to make his views known on whatever issue it might be. In this case, pastors speaking out on their concern over who is to be elected. The freedom of speech has never been nor should ever be restricted by position. A strong defense—that too is needed, not to start war, but to stop it.

Our founding fathers realized the necessity of God as our country's core. Whenever we abandon God, our country will die.

Lynn J. Wilson, Sr.  
History

### Senate . . .

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Had anyone doubted it? Even the most ardent pro-choice advocate will willingly confess that he or she was once a zygote.

Sen. East, however, maintained the charade that he was conducting a serious medical inquiry into the origin of life, instead of an end run around the abortion issue. In his best schoolboy manner, he earnestly asked the witnesses whether they were absolutely sure of their testimony. Finally, in exasperation, Mayo Clinic's Dr. Hymie Gordon said prickly, "This is the first time I've ever been called on to argue the unarguable."

The Senate hearings were clearly set up to ask the wrong questions. They answered them in utterly predictable ways.

The Human Life Bill raises a host of sticky constitutional issues about the relationship between Congress and the courts. The Congress is trying to dictate law to the courts. For this reason the Conference of Catholic Bishops has opposed HLB and even Sen. Orrin Hatch, (R-Utah), has come down with a case of the qualms. He dropped out of co-sponsoring the hearings.

East has promised to call witnesses about these issues later, but the prospects for meaningful testimony are slim.

The deck is stacked by the language of the proposed legislation. The fierce, unabating abortion controversy in this country is not over the moment one biological life commences. It's over the tragic moment when two rights conflict.

It's not about whether a fetus has a claim to protection. It's about whether the fetus' claim is greater than the woman's. Does the Constitution protect the zygote over the woman? At what point in gestation does the state have a compelling interest in the unborn?

There are those who define "person" in strict biological terms and those who define "person" in more complex legal and philosophical ways.

There are those who believe that a woman forced to maintain a pregnancy against her will is nothing more than a vessel and those who believe that woman who has an abortion is a murderer.

But in the Senate chamber, all these deep political, legal and philosophical concerns were ignored. Finally, even one of the witnesses sighed, "I don't know why I'm here." He wasn't the only one.

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### U.S. tactics need to be closely reexamined

In light of recent developments in such "Third World" countries as El Salvador, Nicaragua, Saudi Arabia and Iran, and considering the historical perspectives and implications of U.S. involvement in Cuba, Chile, Panama, Vietnam, Cambodia and the Phillipines, (which were fortunate enough to get press coverage), where U.S. intervention either through direct military means, or economic and political subversion through covert activities, has caused the establishment of governments which are "favorable" to U.S. policies, economic needs and military activities, I would like to pose one question, to which any and all responses are welcome.


If the United States is willing to condone such tactics as the murder of government officials, denial of human rights, mass genocide, continued military build up and controlled starvation to trim uneducated masses in foreign nations, in order to preserve "favorable" governments, what chance, if any, exists for the possibility of any change within the government

condoning such measures? It seems the "government of the people, and by the people," has come a long way.


A political society which allows the continued domination of minorities, the perpetuation of war, free choice when it is the right choice, an eradication of non violent civil disobedience, needs to be closely reexamined.

Larry Weixelman  
Junior  
History

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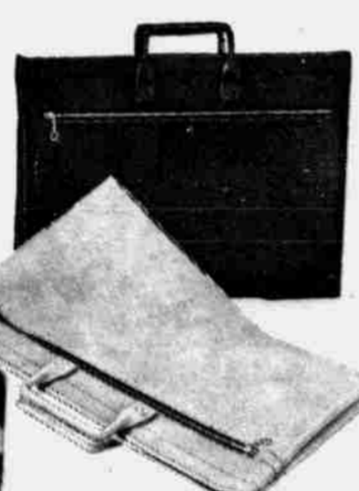


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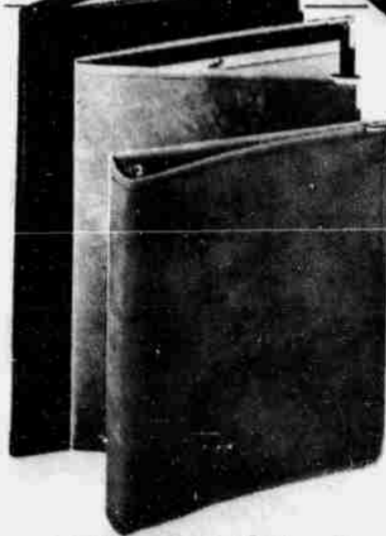
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