



Letters

State not so wise

An Open Letter to Woodrow:
Dear Woodrow,

I was so sorry to learn from reading the Oct. 20 Daily Nebraskan cartoon that you are experiencing such confusion about the Louisville Faith Christian School issue. Perhaps I can be of assistance.

Everett Sileven says that Nebraska "oppresses religious freedom" because our Wise State insists that it must decide who is fit to teach the children of people who belong to Sileven's religion. Sileven and the rest of his congregation feel that they can decide this better for themselves.

You see, Woodrow, there are other religions besides Catholicism, and some of them don't agree with the Catholics that our Wise State should have the right to regulate who teaches their children. They think that our Wise State has not shown that it knows how to educate children better than those children's parents.

Sileven feels that he could understand our Wise State putting him in jail better if some harm had been done to the children who have gone to his school. But this has never been shown to have happened or to even be a probability. In addition, Sileven and his group know that one of the chief ways that the government of the U.S.S.R. and other countries oppress religious groups is by bureaucratic harassment.

Frankly, Woodrow, I'm surprised that your friends at the Daily Nebraskan could not explain this to you! They very often print articles that accuse various levels of government in the United States of lots and lots of oppressive actions. I don't know why they can't believe that a religious group might be oppressed, whether by design or more probably just through insensitivity.

But maybe your friends were blinded in this case by the fact that Sileven's group is small. Or maybe they think that Sileven probably would not endorse their enlightened political views and that he thus deserves a little persecution. Or maybe it's something else.

Well, Woodrow, I hope that this helps out a little bit. I can see how such an issue might be confusing to someone who's only about 8 years old. What I can't understand is why the nature of Sileven's protest is so hard for college-level adults to understand.

Terry J. Christlieb
graduate, philosophy

Kerrey under attack

For the last few days, I have been hearing vague rumors that, in the desperate last days of the gubernatorial campaign, the Thone camp was about to begin a smear campaign against candidate Bob Kerrey because of his support of the Gay Rights Ordinance.

Not having seen any evidence of such a campaign, I assumed that the rumors were surely unfounded. Imagine my surprise and disappointment when I read in the Monday Daily Nebraskan that Professor Nels W. Forde of the UNL history department just happened to decide to have a press conference Friday to denounce Kerrey's stand on the Gay Rights Ordinance.

In the first place, Kerrey has stated clearly that, while he supports the civil rights of all citizens, he is opposed to giving special rights to the gay - or any other - minority. In the second place, the timing of Forde's press conference strikes me as depressingly significant.

Why did he wait until this last weekend to raise this particular issue, when he says that he has been concerned about it for a month? Did he act on his own - or as part of a carefully planned campaign of smear tactics by the Thone camp? Interested voters should watch their newspapers and television sets to see whether Forde's voice is one of independent concern - or of partisan political mud slinging. If comments similar to this just happen to begin appearing in the media, we will be safe in assuming the latter.

Donald Gregory
associate professor, English

Mormons defended

Kris Christlieb's letter to the editor (Oct. 19) was appalling in its misinformation concerning the Mormon faith. It is absolutely incorrect that Mormons are not Christians. They most certainly are Christians, and all of their beliefs are founded in the teachings of Jesus Christ, whom they recognize as the Son of God and Savior of humanity.

What Mormons are not, however, are Protestants, because their church is not a derivation or reformation of the Roman Catholic Church from which all Protestant religions originate.

Christlieb's comment that Mormons advocated polygamy is partially correct. Large numbers of Mormons did have plural marriages, but it was not because of "Christian" effort alone that the prac-

tice was declared illegal. U.S. citizens, including Jews, atheists and many Mormons, worked along with "Christians" to prohibit polygamy.

Sonia Johnson was not excommunicated simply because she was pro-ERA. The Mormon Church encourages political activism by all its members, and there are ERA supporters within the Mormon church today.

Nor should Johnson's excommunication be seen as an attempt at "silencing women." Within the Mormon Church, women have important roles as speakers,

teachers and leaders. Johnson was excommunicated because she made disrespectful, irreverent remarks about church leaders. Such comments violate basic Mormon beliefs.

I am not a Mormon, but I could not stand by and see this kind of misinformation go uncorrected. Mormons are not some weird pagan sect, nor are they misogynists. They are Christians whose particular doctrine has no room for irreverent remarks toward church leaders.

Denise Disney
junior, economics and political science

Campaign . . .

Continued from Page 4
braska's citizenry. It is the governor who must defend against the extremism of bipolar politics. Even with a non-partisan Unicameral, it is the governor whose duty it is to fairly represent the values of the public via a system of management capable of overcoming the often short-sighted and narrow interests of the urban/rural, labor/business oriented legislator.

When Thone entered the governor's office he came totally unprepared for existence in a moderate, basically non-partisan environment. Thone's perception of politics rested on the partisan game-playing of the U.S. House of Representatives. The result was that politics, not management, has played the major role in his governing of Nebraska these past four years.

Governor / candidate Thone has neglected his duty to perform as a moderate manager of Nebraska's administrative or legislative policies. He has added gross partisanship to the state's non-partisan Legislature and has wielded four years of political vindictiveness in his attempt to garner political power. The resulting mistrust by Nebraska's legislative and judicial branches has undermined the ability of both to function in the non-partisan independent

fashion in which they were designed.

Candidate Kerrey, unlike Thone, has recognized the need not only to separate politics from management, but also to place management ahead of state bureaucratic politics.

Again, unlike Charles Thone, Bob Kerrey will place Nebraskans ahead of re-election.



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