

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the fall 1983 Daily Nebraskan. They are written by this semester's editor in chief, Larry Sparks.

Other staff members will write editorials throughout the semester. They will carry the author's name after the final sentence.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees or the NU Board of Regents.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the newspaper. According to policy set by the regents, the content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.

Words...

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We must ask ourselves why we have such words, why we use them, what reason, if any is behind them and what effect their use has on ourselves and those around us.

I suggest that more often than not we create and use such words out of ignorance, a perverse desire to place someone below us and or as an alternative to expending the effort required by the pursuit of truth. Most of the time the verbal expression of derogatory ethnic terms springs from prejudice which is in turn based on isolated experiences or the bigotry of our parents, peers and society in general. Using this type of language weakens our characters and perpetuates small-scaled hatred and mistrust, as well as large scale social injustice.

Once we detect the lack of reason behind our prejudices and the maleficent ignorance which inspires us to speak in a manner unworthy of self-respecting human beings, we may use our intellect

to reshape our emotions and actions, thus discarding prejudice as just so much refuse.

Easy, huh? Not really. It takes work and courage. It involves the risks of admitting ugliness in our personalities, losing the comfort of being like everyone else, recognizing our parents' and teachers' fallibility and being vulnerable to hatred. But it's worth it.

Had I the opportunity to relive that night at Bill's Saloon, I would ask the man why he called himself a nigger. Perhaps he would tell me that I, a stupid honky, couldn't understand. Perhaps he could make me understand. Honest introspection and dialogue can go a long way toward curing the ills of prejudice and discrimination.

The first step we must take is to form a willingness to change our attitudes. For many of us, UNL's cultural diversity and stores of knowledge may present the best opportunity we'll ever have to effect that change. We would be wise to take advantage of this opportunity.

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Letters

Death penalty archaic

Reading the editorial "Enforcement of death penalty may save lives" (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 14) I was vividly reminded of reading Jonathan Swift's "A Modest Proposal" while studying English literature at Hastings College. Swift proposed to "do away" with the poor children of England while the editorial proposed to "do away" with criminals who have committed murder.

Death penalties have never been proven to act as a significant deterrent to crime. The needed items are stricter parole laws and better prison reform programs.

As a Christian and a pacifist, I am very happy that the American Civil Liberties Union is helping to reverse court decisions that are condemning convicted murderers to the electric chair, etc. Let's not return to the Middle Ages.

Jeff Burke
graduate student
School of Health, Physical Education
and Recreation

time. Equal rights, treatment and respect for women as well as for all other "groups" that have been historically denied these things must be considered one of the top priorities of the day, but I fail to see how desexualizing humans beings can hasten the attainment of these goals. Being able to appreciate, admire, or respect a beautiful body, male or female, does not preclude the possibility of appreciating the staggering potential for achievement in the humanities, sciences, and sports that our delightfully diverse species is capable of.

Rick Gillis
assistant professor
life sciences

God's law, nations' law

The responses to the column on pacifism (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 12) by James Sennett and Tom Shelton (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 17) both rejected Burbach's claim that the United States is a Christian nation and further rejected Burbach's more implicit claim that national policies ought to reflect Christian ideas of justice, thus becoming a "Christian nation." Although I do not agree with Burbach's pacifism, I do agree with Burbach that nations ought to be called to obey God's revealed law.

The concept of a Christian nation, contrary to Sennett's belief, is found in the New Testament. Indeed, the church, comprised of all true believers, is described as "a holy nation" in 1 Peter 2:9. It is this spiritual nation, which is symbolically portrayed as Mount Zion and Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22) in the Old Testament, to which peoples and nations will go to and from which God's law and word will proceed, resulting in the promise that people "will hammer their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war" (Isaiah 2:1-4, Micah 4:1-8).

This result will be accomplished as the church, which is the true Israel (Romans 2:28, 9:6-8, Galatians 6:16), makes "disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19). Preaching Christ's death and resurrection is "of first importance" (1 Corinthians 15:3) in this work, yet as we manifest God's love for us we should also seek to establish biblical justice in our nations, for the state is to be "a minister of God" and is to do good and oppose evil (Romans 13:3-4).

The Christian nation is the nation which establishes justice and all nations are required to do this. I invite interested individuals who wish to see a much more comprehensive treatment of the ideas expressed in this letter to stop by the book table which Covenant Presbyterian Ministries has on most Thursdays in the Nebraska Union.

Jim Rogers
first year
College of Law

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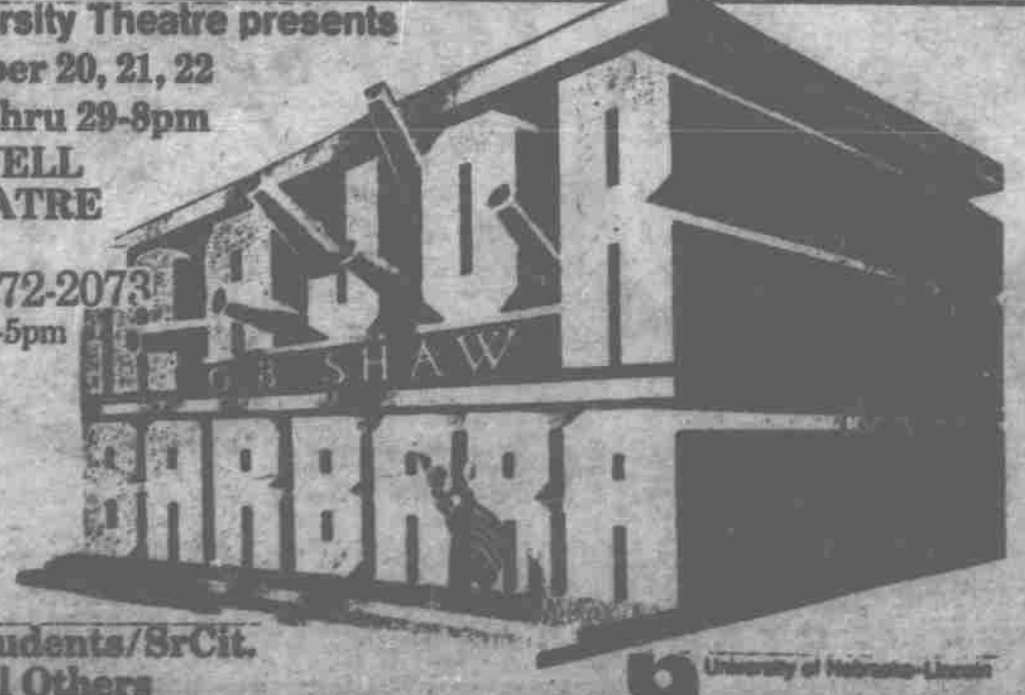
Ads not exploitative

Concerning the letter by Ann Hartley, Jeane Franz, and Diane Farrell (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 14) expressing their "outrage at degrading sexist advertising" as exemplified by the recent Coors advertisement carried by the Daily Nebraskan, I would like to echo my concern that all too often women have been demeaned by ridiculous and exploitative advertising that personally offends me. I question, however, the use of the Coors ad they cite as an example of such exploitation. I seem to recall that the previous Coors ads carried by the paper featured a handsome, blond male scantily attired in a fashion that clearly revealed a body that looked like an ad for Nautilus.

I believe the object of advertising is to capture the attention of the observer, and this can be accomplished in a variety of ways, from the annoying Mr. Whipple warning you not to "Squeeze the Charmin" (although I haven't the foggiest idea why you'd ever want to do that anyway) to a localized meteorological phenomenon (a White Tornado) sweeping through your kitchen.

I am from Colorado and believe that as large companies go, Coors has demonstrated a fairly high level of social and environmental consciousness as well as helping the state economy. The fact that they used both male and female models in this ad would suggest to me that they were exploiting no particular group but rather were capitalizing on the interest we have in the human body, an interest that I suspect predated even the first cave paintings of the subject. It is also an interest that has assured that we have been and will continue to be around a long

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