



Letters

Democrats don't deserve chance until 'facts' are realized

I find one consistent typographical error in Jeff Browne's editorial, "Mondale Budget Deserves Chance," (Daily Nebraskan, Sept. 13) very interesting. When one is dealing in the financial terms of today's federal budget, one knows that Mondale will decrease the budget by \$54 billion, not million and raise spending by \$30 billion, not million. But it was perhaps a Freudian slip?

Before pleading with the voters to give the Democrats a "chance," realize a few facts: 1) the voters aren't going to swallow any plan which hits the middle class the worst (as Mondale's plan to abolish tax indexing for the \$25,000 and up group will); 2) voters might think the Democrats were sincere if their House of Representatives balanced the budget without Reagan's initiative, and

3) the Democrats are so far out of the mainstream on defense, abortion and the like that they have no hope of winning even if their budget brings us eternal prosperity. Don't kid yourselves. We know what you meant.

Todd Van Campen
Junior
News-Editorial

Falwell's criticism...

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The Truman loyalty review boards, for instance, were created not only because there were a handful of so-called subversives in the government, but to show that Democrats, too, were anti-communists.

The same thing has happened with moral McCarthyism. Ministers like Falwell and politicians like Reagan have so escalated the debate over the proper place of religion in American politics that it has become incumbent on Mondale to first trot out his religious bona fides before taking them on.

It hurts to concede anything to Falwell, whose mail is a lot less charming than he is ("Militant homosexuals are plotting a dangerously different future for America"), but he has a point — maybe one he doesn't get. The so-called religious debate has been limited to those who can prove that they are religious. There are, though, countless millions of Americans whose parents were not ministers, who do not go to church, whose morality and Americanism are nonetheless unimpeachable — and who have a real stake in the outcome of this debate.

And there are even millions of Americans — brace yourself — who are either atheists or agnostics, but who remain both citizens and people — and whose rights ought to be inviolate. Yet, all sorts of religious dissenters — some Christian, some not; some believers, some not — have become the contemporary equivalent of those McCarthy-era liberals who either kept their mouths shut or shouted their anti-communism to the hilltops, buying their enemies' promise as the price of admission to a debate that should not have been about anti-communism at all, but civil liberties instead.

Mondale does just that when

he proclaims his own religiosity in order to battle the President. He accepts both Reagan's and Falwell's premise. That's not dissent; that's conformity — the essence of any kind of McCarthyism, moral or political. If the religious debate is about anything, it's the right to be nonconformist and still be heard — to be judged on your argument, not your proclaimed piety, and to have your politics considered separate from your religious beliefs.

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State needs to increase rehabilitation for sexual offenders

The Lincoln trials of two men charged with first degree sexual assault recently concluded. Juries found both men guilty; both await sentencing.

The defendant in the so-called Belmont Case was convicted of the first degree sexual assault of a child. This man has a prior record of sexual misconduct with children.

In the second case, an employee of the Ferguson House was brutally attacked with a knife and sexually assaulted during work-

ing hours. Her assailant also has a prior record and was previously incarcerated for other offenses.

The state of Nebraska has no comprehensive and mandatory rehabilitation program for all who commit such crimes. Currently, only those who are deemed to be mentally disordered sex offenders receive treatment at the Lincoln Regional Center where they serve part or all of their sentence.

Punitive measures within themselves are not the answer. However, until all sex offenders

receive comprehensive treatment, the burden rests on our judicial system.

The response of our elected officials toward this growing problem and the upcoming sentencing of the defendants in the Belmont and Ferguson Cases will send a message out to the community about the level of concern for our women and children.

Susan Hale
Chairwoman of Lincoln-Lancaster Commission on the Status of Women

Editorial Policy

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

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