



Letters

Actions, not remarks, create uproar

In his article, "History proves Reagan right on religious issue," (Sept. 18), Jim Rogers overlooks the real issue in the continuing debate on the proper role of religion in politics by analyzing the problem in the pure abstract.

Rogers wants to tell his readers why Reagan's brew of politics and religion is "right." To that end he marshals the characteristic ingredient of his editorials — "seminal works" by Harvard law professors — to explain that religion is the necessary and natural product of thinking. Briefly, the argument runs like this: If you breathe, you're religious; if you're a politician and also breathe, you are nonetheless religious.

I grant Rogers this philosophical argument. Inasmuch as one's overarching principles of right conduct pervade the whole person, one's religion and politics

are, theoretically at least, interwoven and inseparable. Most people would probably concede this argument. So why are so many outraged at Reagan's "religion and politics" remark? Rogers answers that the "popular American mind" is shallow in this business of philosophy. Enlighten non-"modern thinkers," he reasons, and they will "correctly understand" that Reagan's remark is "patently true."

Rogers' conclusion that philosophical ignorance precipitated the public outrage misses the point. For even if all Americans agreed that politics and religion are inherently related, it does not follow that all would also agree that therefore the government should not strive, artificially and unnaturally if necessary, to separate the two. Indeed the Constitution demands the very separa-

tion which, following Rogers' argument, is a philosophical fiction.

Reagan's remark did not cause the editorial and public flap about separation of church and state. Who cares what Reagan, the actor-turned-philosopher, says or philosophizes about the natural relationship between politics and religion? The public outrage, though focuses on his works, is in reality directed at his actions — concerted, consistent actions to breach the constitutionally mandated barrier between church and state.

In the past two years of his administration, Reagan has supported the following actions which the public perceives to breach the church-state barrier:

- Constitutional amendment allowing voluntary prayer in public schools.
- Tuition tax credits to parents of children attending private, religious and non-religious schools.
- Bob Jones University's suit against the IRS, in which the militantly fundamentalist school sought to retain its tax-exempt status in spite of its racially discriminatory policies.
- Constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion. (Reagan's primary argument for the amendment is a religious one).

It is no solace to the American people that Rogers can buttress Reagan's actions with philosophical words. This time the people are neither interested in, nor outraged by, the President's words. They are looking at the deeds of "Mr. Teflon," and by-golly, something is sticking.

John C. Anderson
First Year Law Student

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others. Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Requests to withhold names from publication will not be granted.

Continued from Page 4

Indians...

"Why?" Beane replied. "Doesn't he have an awful temper?" the woman asked. The answer is no, but I wouldn't blame him if he developed one.

Stopping Indian stereotypes begins with you, and you, and yes, you with the coffee. Be sensitive. Think before you speak. Before you call an Indian's child a papoose, think again. Just call them babies. If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

Speaking of problems, that brings me to your quizzes. Allow me to give you the real answers. 1. I give you \$20 then take it back. What am I? I'm a jerk. 2. You sit rigidly still with your legs crossed and your arms folded. What are you doing? Look in the mirror, you're sitting on the floor looking pretty silly. 3. One little, two little...? I never heard of that song. And if you want to pass this quiz, you never heard of it either. 4. Who discovered America? Who do you think? When Columbus landed, there were more than a million of them already here.

My advice? Don't accept Indian stereotypes. Maybe you could take a cue from Adam Nordwall, a California college professor from the Ojibway tribe. In 1978 he flew to Italy, got off the plane and said, "I claim this land in the name of the American Indian." Poetic justice.

CBS

Records & Cassettes

5 99

Reg. \$6.99

Through Sun., Sept. 30

In The
Record Department
At

Miller & Paine

Nebraska's Quality Department Stores

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
BORN IN THE U.S.A.
Including:
Dancing In The Dark/Cover Me
I'm On Fire/No Surrender
Bobby Jean

Also available on cassette.

JULIO IGLESIAS
1100 BEL AIR PLACE
Including:
All Of You (Duet with Diana Ross)
To All The Girls I've Loved Before
(Duet with Willie Nelson)
The Air That I Breathe/Moonlight Lady
Two Lovers
*Appears courtesy of RCA Records

Also available on cassette.

JACKSONS
VICTORY
Including:
State Of Shock/Wait/Torture
Be Not Always/The Hurt

Also available on cassette.

ROMEO VOID
INSTINCTS
Including:
A Girl In Trouble (Is A Temporary Thing)
Out On My Own/Billy's Birthday/Say No

Also available on cassette.

QUIET RIOT
CONDITION CRITICAL
Including:
Mama Weer All Crazee Now
Stomp Your Hands, Clap Your Feet
Party All Night/Sign Of The Times
Condition Critical

Also available on cassette.

SCANDAL
FEATURING PATTY SMYTH
WARRIOR
Including:
The Warrior/Hands Tied
Only The Young/Beat Of A Heart

Also available on cassette.

STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN
AND DOUBLE TROUBLE
COULDN'T STAND THE WEATHER
Including:
Cold Shot/Voodoo Chile (Slight Return)
Tin Pan Alley/Honey Bee

Also available on cassette.

Willie Nelson
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
Including:
She's Out Of My Life/Cry
Please Come To Boston
It Turns Me Inside Out
City Of New Orleans

Also available on cassette.

Sunday 12-5 and Weekdays 10-9—All Stores. Saturday 10-5:30—Lincoln Center, 10-6—Gateway & Conestoga Mall. Call us toll free in Nebraska 800-742-7741

7,145 HITS

ON TAPE AND
GOING TO
EACH DANCE
WE GUARANTEE
IT

Experienced dj's, professional
sound and lighting systems
make your event hassle free.

Playing all occasions. Over
400 paid performances during
last year.

Eastern Nebraska's fastest-
growing mobile music show
for 4 years. See us perform
Friday evenings from 8-12
at the Oak Room (9th &
South).

Very Competitive Rates!
**ALL-AMERICAN
MUSIC SHOWS**
402-333-1822
(Omaha)