

# Editorial

## Falwell too far right for morality

The funniest thing happened in Washington yesterday. A politician and a religious leader butted heads over a moral issue, with the religious leader taking the side of immorality.

The issue is South African apartheid and the current U.S. policy of constructive engagement. The debaters were Sen. Edward Kennedy and right wing fundamentalist Jerry Falwell.

Constructive engagement, in principle, requires the United States to quietly urge South Africa to end its legally and often violently enforced segregation — no public condemnations, no economic or political sanctions, no pressure at all. Just chitchat. In practice, the policy is an American stamp of approval for apartheid. It tells the white minority rulers of South Africa that we do not oppose their blatant abuse of human rights.

But the Reagan administration and other proponents of the policy have their reasons for supporting it. One springs from the popular view that the Soviet Union and its leftist lackeys are the sole source of evil in the world today. South Africa is a rightist regime; therefore, it cannot be evil.

That appears to be the logic behind statements like this: "We must not, like the moral policeman of the world, do anything that would hand this very friendly and valuable country over to the Soviet Union." So said Falwell today, according to a Reuters News Wire report on the confrontation.

Where was Falwell with that statement when the C.I.A. was mining Nicaraguan harbors?

His moral indignation was not aroused then, because it's not the morality of a given action that bothers Falwell, but the political orientation of the actor.

That philosophy is a major tenet of Falwell and his Moral Majority cronies' modus operandi in the world of political influence. On the apartheid issue, among others, he's gone so far right he's left his religion.

Kennedy, on the other hand, is one of those Democrats who President Reagan says has gone so far left he's left the country. This particular "leftist" now dares to advocate putting some teeth into an American stance against human rights abuses, namely, impose sanctions on South Africa if it fails to abolish or at least move toward abolishing apartheid. Kennedy wants America to mean what it says, and the actions he is proposing are not new; indeed, they are traditional gestures for a "moral policeman" nation who fought World War II to make the world safe for democracy, won World War I to end all Wars and imposed economic sanctions on the Soviet Union for invading Afghanistan. Furthermore, some South African experts' observations indicate that constructive engagement just may defeat its own end. South Africa is growing increasingly unstable — some say revolution is possible. If the United States continues its support of the white minority government, that revolution will certainly not be friendly to us. But it will be friendly to you-know-who.

If Falwell and other fans of constructive engagement can't be concerned about the immorality of apartheid, maybe they can be concerned about its potential danger to our national interest, which apparently comes first in Falwell's credo.



**QUICK.. FIND OUT FROM THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF IF NANCY EXCHANGED JOBS WITH SOMEONE TOO !!!**

### Letters hard to trace

## Chain letters meant to be broken

A friend of mine recently received a chain letter in the mail. The opening line of the letter read "With Love All Things Are Possible."

People who send these chain letters know little about the possibilities of love. They know much about the possibilities of fear, intimidation and false hopes.



**Bill Allen**

The particular letter my friend received and gave to me warns of the consequences of breaking the chain. One man, according to the letter, "... lost his wife six days after receiving the letter. He failed to circulate the letter."

If however, the letter said, you send 20 photocopies of the letter to people in need of good luck within 96 hours, you will receive good

fortune. It lists a few people and money they received for not breaking the chain.

It ends by telling of a man who upon receiving this chain letter didn't believe in its "power" and threw it away. Nine days later, he died.

These letters are senseless harmful past times of truly deranged people.

Recently an old woman wrote to Ann Landers explaining that her husband died just 2 days after she threw such a chain letter away. She was actually blaming herself for her husband's death because she hadn't sent the letter on.

I wonder at the conscience of these people who write these things. Is there some morbid pleasure in knowing that some woman is going through the torment of blaming herself for her husband's natural death?

There are chain letters that specifically ask for money to be sent to say, the next person on the list. For example, it might say, send \$25 and this letter to someone and put your name on the bottom of the list, with the hope that eventually many people will send you \$25.

Fortunately chain letters are against the law.

Lincoln Postmaster Jerome Wieser said anyone who receives such a letter should take it to the nearest post office. They in turn will forward it to postal inspectors, who will try to trace it back to its origins.

Wieser said tracing a chain letter to its originator is difficult but that it has been done.

If the letter does not specifically ask for money, he said, they are not investigated. However if, as in the case of the letter I have quoted, a letter contains what Wieser called "veiled threats," the postal service will investigate.

Postal Inspector Stewart Patton said a person caught sending a chain letter could face up to two years in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

Anyone who receives a chain letter and sends it on is considered a "victim operator," he said. They are asked to stop it immediately or criminal charges will be filed.

Patton knew of the letter my friend received. He said that specific one has been going around for quite awhile and such letters are difficult to trace, since it has no list of names at the bottom.



### University should hire 'masters,' attorney says

As you reported last week, the Nebraska U.S. attorney is on the faculty of the business college, teaching business law. The students of Ron Lahners are getting more than a lecture on contracts or torts — they benefit from associating with a leader in legal circles, the opportunity to view current legal issues from his perspective and contact with an influential "role model."

Why doesn't the University make more of an effort to encourage this type of "masters" instruction? Every fall a handful of "masters" are brought to campus for a weekend, the idea being that students can meet and question him or her.

But why not take full advantage of the untapped resource of community leaders, many of them UNL graduates and leading practitioners in their fields, who would be pleased to teach introduction courses. Architects, authors, biologists . . . all the way to youth directors and zoologists, would welcome the chance to return to the campus and share their experience, to see what's happening with college students we read so much about.

If it is felt that teaching three hours is too much for them, these "masters" could teach one credit hour seminars or recitations. The pay scale wouldn't need to be increased; this wouldn't dent the budget and would attest to the dedication of the masters. After all, the U.S. attorney isn't teaching for the money!

I speak from my own experience. Although I practice law for a living, the challenges of my Marketing 341 classes offer a special satisfaction.

Jan E. Dutton  
Lancaster County District Court Referee

### Other prejudices deserve attention

I was distressed and saddened to learn about the racist defacing of a poster promoting the Miss Black UNL Pageant. David A. DeCoster and LuAnn Krager made many solid points in their letter to the Daily Nebraskan on Feb. 4, 1985. Lisa Ball also had a legitimate gripe about a movie shown in an engineering class. How can these people stand such atrocities? We must combat these horrid acts at UNL. I agree that racism and sexism plague college communities throughout the nation.

It turns my stomach to read about these horrendous injustices perpetrated upon my fellow students and faculty. Recently I was denied even the opportunity to apply for an internship because of my sex and my race. It affected my life, my future and my professional career. Racism and sexism are much more vivid when confronted directly by an individual. I firmly stand behind the belief that we should all be treated as equals without bias to race, sex, age or religion.

Some idiot scribbled something foolish on a poster. A movie produced twenty years ago was unprofessional. Yes, these things are offensive. However, I feel my grievance is of a much greater magnitude. I am not my race and I'm not my sex. Why should I be singled out because of these qualities which have nothing to do with my professional attributes?

This sexism and racism should be challenged. It should be eliminated. I deserve dignity and respect. What I don't understand is why the corporation or our placement office didn't just come right out and say, "White Boys Need Not Apply."

Robert L. Schmatz  
junior  
Industrial engineering

## Daily Nebraskan

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## Letters