

Opinions expressed on 'the oppressed'

Letters

Reader cites Bible's condemning verses

I am writing in response to the letter by Judi Unger (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 22). She had an excellent letter up until the last sentence, "I feel that sexuality of any type is a God-given instinct, neither to be despised nor loathed." If Unger is speaking about homosexuals, I can't agree. This is what God says about some sexual practices in the Bible (Leviticus 20:10-16, New International Version).

10 — "If a man commits adultery with another man's wife — with the wife of his neighbor — both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death."

11 — "If a man sleeps with his father's wife, he has dishonored his father. Both the man and the woman must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads."

12 — "If a man sleeps with his daughter-in-law, both of them must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads."

13 — "If a man lies with a man as one who lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads."

14 — "If a man marries both a woman and her mother it is wicked. Both he and they must be burned in the fire; so that no wickedness will be among you."

15 — "If a man has sexual relationships with an animal, he must be put to death, and you must kill the animal."

16 — "If a woman approaches an animal to have a sexual relationship with it, kill both the woman and the animal. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads."

Also, in I Corinthians 6:9-10, it is said:

9 — "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom

of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders."

10 — "Nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."

I am not saying that we should kill these people; that mode of punishment is outdated. What I am trying to get across is that if God gave us homosexuality, incest and bestiality, why would He turn around and condemn it?

Somebody may say, "What do bestiality and incest have to do with homosexuality?" Very little, except this is where God ranks the acts of homosexuals in the preceding passages from the Bible.

I am not in a place to judge people's actions. That is God's work, and I'm not going to try. Just don't tell me God approves of something, or gives it, before you check it out.

Lynn Baxter
freshman
broadcasting/English

Reader: Forefathers raped mother Africa

I would like to respond to Scott Wilhite's letter (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 23) stating that others (minorities) should leave this society and know "our place." I, as a black female, would like to inform you that my forefathers as well as the forefathers of other blacks in this country did not ask to come into the United States. History reminds us that people like your forefathers literally raped the continent of Africa and brought blacks to the Western Hemisphere in chains and shackles to be slaves.

You stated that we should leave, but let me ask you where we would go. Let me inform you that it would take all the armies and navies of the entire world to deport us, and besides, what country in the world is ready for such a mass immigration of more than 40 million people?

History also reminds us that blacks are entitled to a free America just as much as anyone else. Blacks have played a significant role in every era and conflict that America has been involved in since its beginning. As a matter of fact, the first bloodshed in the War of Independence was that of a black man named Crispus Attucks.

Wilhite, I think you need to wise up and learn your place because without a female you would not be in existence. Females as well as blacks have made significant contributions to American society. Blacks as well as other minorities have played a significant role in the building and development of this country, and it is definitely our home by law. The Constitution guarantees us that much. Besides, who gave you the authority to judge who is fit to live in America? Whether the majority of white people will or will not tolerate blacks in this country, the fact is that we are here to stay and it's people like you who will have to forever pay for the sins of your forefathers who raped "mother Africa."

Angela Lewis
graduate
arts and sciences

Reader finds fallacies in economic editorial

I was hardly able to find space to reply to all of the fallacies and vague generalizations found in the editorial "It's Time to Change," (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 18). I was interested in the statement that "just like people, the economy grows and changes. But if the government intervenes, the free market system becomes barred." I'm surprised that "economy" wasn't capitalized, given that the author

seems to feel it is an entity unto itself.

People create the economy, just as they create government, and both are subject to change and control. It is when the economy begins to control the people, instead of vice versa, that problems occur. And if the "free market becomes barred" by a program such as Initiative 300, which was designed to protect family farms, why then is it not being barred when tax breaks are given to corporations?

As for the claim that "large businesses also use resources more efficiently and bring technology to agriculture, improving food production" — at what price efficiency? At the price of five bushels of Iowa topsoil for every one bushel of corn produced? Or at the cost of 60,000 farms in 1986 alone? According to conservative USDA data, that's 165 farms per day. I suppose those who worship the sacred cow of efficiency would count the suffering and displacement of farmers and their families as necessary consequences of "adjusting to the changing agricultural economy."

The author states that many traditional family farms are outdated and inefficient. Does this mean that a true love for the land, a sense of family and community togetherness, and conservation of the water and soil are also outdated and inefficient? I don't believe that a hired farm laborer working for a large corporate-owned farm will have the same love for and knowledge of the land as a farmer whose farm has been in his or her family for generations.

It is stated that "pain and frustration associated with the farm crisis will be long and drawn-out." Maybe it will, and maybe the effects could be more far-reaching and devastating than we now realize. But would the author prefer that the death of the

family farm be quick and painless instead? According to this editorial, farm programs such as Initiative 300 are delaying changes in agriculture. In this statement, at least, it is correct. If Initiative 300 has saved even one farm from a corporate takeover, then it has succeeded.

Leah Fintel
junior
human development

Constitutional rights meant for all citizens

I wonder what you mean by "gay rights" when, in your editorial (DN, Feb. 16) you chide Pat Robertson for having "questioned" them. Earlier, you report that he says homosexuals should be treated like other citizens, without giving their sexual practice a specially protected status under our law. To me, this position seems refreshingly sensible.

Constitutional rights for all citizens I understand. A basic framework of permanent law that protects people in general is essential to a free and equitable society. But when we demand "rights" for this group, and "rights" for that one, we are failing to consider the extent of the "rights" demanded, or whether such "rights" are even mutually consistent. The result is a hopelessly politicized legal system, chronic hostility between people of different classifications and a society in which genuine rights do not exist for anyone.

If we want fair rules, we should not encourage survival of the shrillest. Justice is not written on blank checks.

Rory Larson
graduate student
computer science

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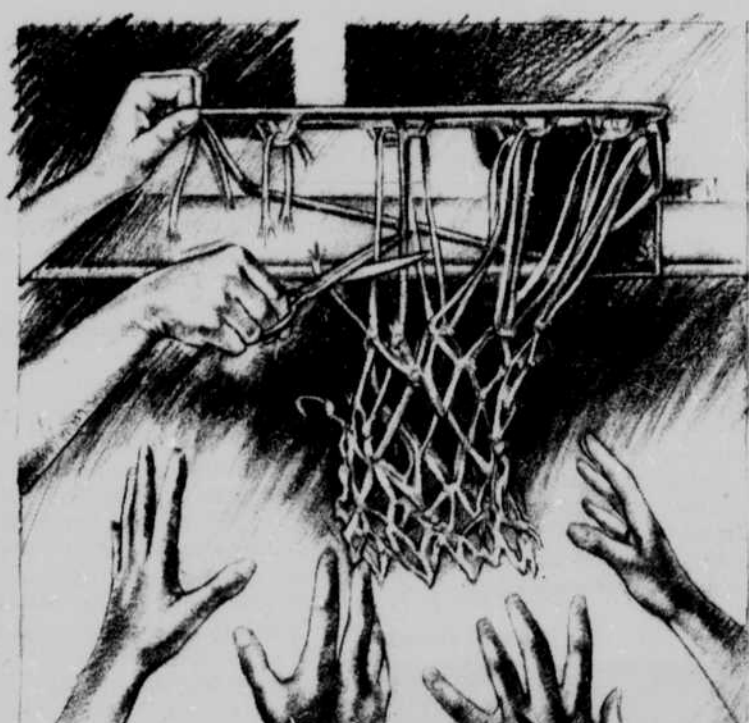
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