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## Fair impeachment

Arizona Senate ousts 'guilty' governor

In most cases, it's possible that the opinion of the people should rightly determine the fate of any lawmaker who has repeatedly offended or misled that public.

But in the case of former Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham, the state's senate was right on target with its 21-9 decision to oust Mecham from office.

"Let the people decide," said defense attorney Jerris Leonard in an Associated Press story. Leonard urged senators to acquit the man who has offended Jews, blacks, women and other constituents during his reign. He suggested that the fate of the governor could be decided in a recall election.

A recall election isn't necessary in this situation. The people of Arizona would just as soon burn Mecham at the stake as did the witch hunters of Salem. Mecham barely escaped a ban from ever holding office in the state in a vote that fell three votes short of a two-thirds majority.

Hundreds of people protested his very existence in the governor's mansion as he refused to recognize Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, allegedly misused \$80,000 from an inaugural fund that could have gone

to promote the state and concealed \$350,000 in campaign funds. These are only the highlights of a gubernatorial career that dances with suspicious use of funds and lack of respect for other mankind.

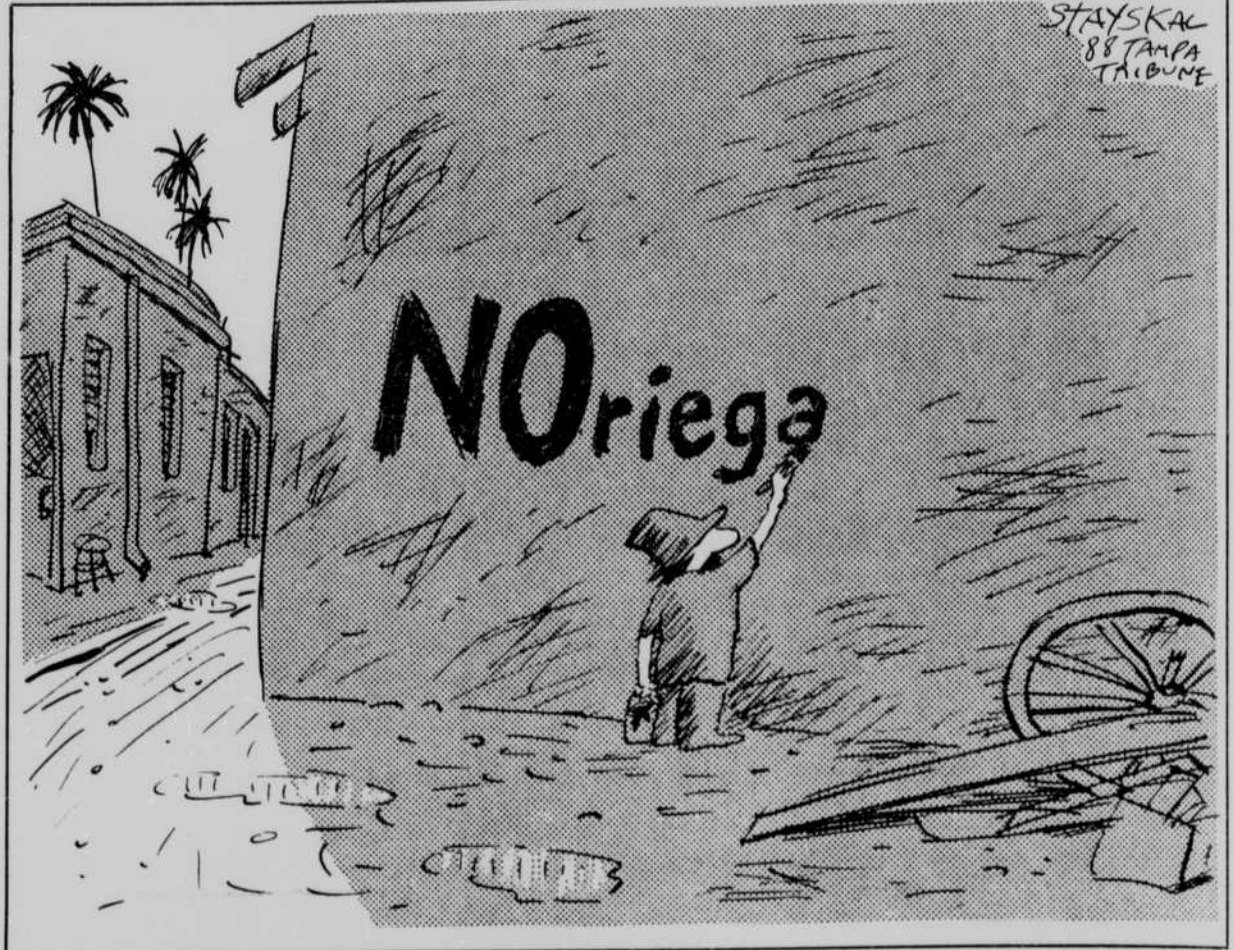
"I'm very happy and relieved. I think he's a menace," said Barry Gabriel, who carried a sign reading "Guilty. Guilty. Guilty," and was among a number of protesters and supporters outside the proceedings.

But Mecham should be congratulated for making his place in history. The last governor to be impeached was Henry Johnston of Oklahoma in 1929.

Acting Gov. Rose Mofford, a democrat, declared "the end of some difficult times in Arizona" and urged residents to purge "our hearts of suspicion and hate."

"Today, none of us are Republicans, none of us are Democrats," Mofford said. "We are all Arizonans. Let us go forward together as Arizonans."

Mecham is one individual who got caught, one man who managed to manipulate the voters in his favor during his initial election. His history of deceit probably began long before the gubernatorial campaign. It is disgusting that he got as far as he did.



## Focus on issues, not on color

Tired, racist platitudes on Jackson's aspirations must cease

The political arena has heard the cry ever since Jesse Jackson entered the presidential race: "America won't elect a black man at this point in time."

Discussion about Jackson and racism has become common, if not trite. But people still insist that Jackson is a guaranteed loser.

Even Mike Royko, with his liberal leanings, displayed such sentiment when he posed the following question in a recent column: "What's that, you say? Jackson will be a cinch to lose? That's probably true..."

Syndicated columnist Martin Gottlieb recently wrote: "There are three explanations for Jackson's early success, such as it was: black support was solid; black turnout was higher than expected; and the field was crowded."

And, finally, Gail Sheehy's controversial profile in the January issue of Vanity Fair concluded that Jackson's candidacy is more of an attempt to establish personal legitimacy than a quest for the presidency. She added that any socially unacceptable rumors about Jackson won't hurt his "natural constituency."

Meaning blacks, Gail? Why do we continue to inculcate the idea that Jackson, as a black man or an unqualified upstart, has no chance in November? Maybe he doesn't deserve the presidency — and I am in no way endorsing him in this column — but Jackson at least deserves the chance to run without being bombarded by tired platitudes aimed at the political futility of his color.

"White Southerners will never elect a black man — and Jackson needs the Southern vote to win,"

people say.

Perhaps those who express that sentiment say so because they would feel uncomfortable with a black man in the White House.

Others insist that Jackson's ultra-left views and platform will not woo conservative America. Jackson believes in raising taxes for the wealthy and granting anti-discriminatory rights to homosexuals — two definite strikes against him, critics say. But what puzzles me about such claims is this: Can any liberal Democrat, black or white, win over people who voted for Reagan?

Scott Harrah



Jackson's campaign volunteers also seem incredulous about him getting the Democratic nomination.

"We thought it might be close, but we never expected this kind of blow-out," Gerald Austin, Jackson's campaign manager, told the Los Angeles Times after the Michigan primary.

If Jackson continues to do well, why will we discount his chances?

Because, deep in the country's subconscious, Americans think they know Jackson can't win. We thought the same of arch-conservative Pat Robertson, citing his unpopular televangelist underpinnings.

It is in no way racist to be skeptical about Jackson's credentials. We also do not have to be enthusiastic about

his platform.

But questioning Jackson's veracity on the basis of his race is as pointless as disdaining Robertson because he was once a televangelist or Gary Hart because he was unfaithful to his wife.

There should be no special rules or hidden agendas set for Jackson. We do not have to feel like antebellum plantation owners when we take an inventory of what he can and can't offer.

If Jackson wants to run, we should examine his views and track record — not how bigots will react to him on election day.

Perhaps that is a cliché conviction, but it is one bromide that seems to elude Americans.

"The pundits did not overestimate Jesse Jackson," Gottlieb wrote. "They overestimated his opponents. They assumed that somebody would emerge from dwarfdom with a popular, identifiable message. Nobody has."

So why do critics find fault in Jackson's message? Doesn't George Bush also have a message? Is Jackson's message unpopular because his views are outlandish? And would we feel the same about a white candidate with Jackson's message?

Jackson, like any other candidate, may be a political wimp. If Democrats decide he is, then he will not make the ticket. So it is time for people to stop pointing their fingers at potential racist decisions in November and evaluate their own biases and fears.

Harrah is a senior news-editorial and English major.

### Letters

#### Adam and Eve blamed for homosexuality

I wish to address my concern to the gay epidemic in the country.

I view it as the "sign of the times" in the prelude to the pre-Antichrist period. One can argue theology and psychology on the pro and con of homosexuality. But to no one's edification, because everyone has an opinion, however predicated on emotional biases.

Homophobia is rampant today with the AIDS affliction or the so-called "gay plague." The world, no doubt, is full of its Paul Camerons and Jerry Falwells. The modern-day Scribes and Pharisees as history bears out the truth of this. Gays are the people who are persecuted by the dominant social order and their self-righteous demagogues.

The gay is merely the reflection of human nature be it ugly and evil, beautiful or reverent. Gays, like everyone else born into the human race, inherited their nature from Adam and Eve — first man and woman. And the contrary. If the religious/secular Pharisees today want to point fingers they should point at the first man and woman.

Clearly, the Camerons and Falwells overlook the biblical reality that sin came into the world as the willful and deliberate disobedience of Adam and Eve. The selfish act of the hetero-

sexual deed has since plagued mankind to no end. Scripture concludes, therefore, that the first man and woman brought sin into the Creation.

To amplify my point a step further: Gays did not invent sin. On the contrary, gays have never claimed to have originated sin.

The Ten Commandments are divine, no one can deny. Many gays acknowledge the presence of God. God commands, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," but heterosexuals will fully violate this golden rule daily.

Divorce among straights is astronomical by Victorian standards. The gay issue is not your immediate problem. It is nuclear war, world overpopulation, disease, civil strife, and world famine. Gays do not have a monopoly on righteousness but in my opinion, neither does the straight world since Adam and Eve. I will not even begin to comment on the Swagart and Jimmy Bakker sex scandals, but it remains an example of spiritual wickedness in high places.

Harrel Marmelstein  
Harvard graduate

Alexis Wolf  
UNL undergraduate

#### Reader says 25-cent stamp not outrageous

As a 1981 University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate and an employee of the Lincoln post office, I wish to comment on the cartoon about the 25-cent stamp (Daily Nebraskan, March 28) I wonder how many people are aware of the fact that we are fortunate to have the cheapest postage in the industrialized world. In Australia a stamp costs 26.1 cents (when converted to U.S. money), 32.6 cents in

Britain, 39.1 cents in France, 45.1 cents in Japan and 48.4 cents in West Germany. North of the border it costs 36 Canadian cents to send letters that are delivered only five days a week.

Furthermore, it takes less than 24 hours to deliver more than 90 percent of the first-class mail we handle.

Ron Feyerherm  
Lincoln

### Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1988 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Mike Reilly, editor; Diana Johnson, editorial page editor; Joan Rezac, copy desk editor; Jen Deselms, managing editor; Curt Wag-

ner, associate news editor; Scott Harrah, night news editor and Joel Carlson, columnist.

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According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.

### Letter Policy

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.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letter should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.