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Decent burial deserved

Pawnee should be allowed to bury dead

The battle over the Nebraska State Historical Society's collection of Pawnee Indian remains has gone on long enough.

For about two years now, Nebraska and Oklahoma Indians have been fighting for the return of about 20 percent of the historical society's collection of burial remains and burial goods.

The Pawnee remains were dug up in Nebraska. The tribe, now in Oklahoma, wants them returned for reburial in accordance with their religious beliefs.

Members of the historical society's board of directors, however, have said the collection is extremely valuable for its educational and scientific value -- a point well taken.

But the society has had some of the remains for more than 50 years. Any research the society intended to do should've have been by now.

Some of the bones, society members have said, are not theirs to give away -- that they belong to the federal government. The Indians insist that no one owns their ancestors.

A bill sponsored by state Sen. Ernie Chambers would resolve the problem once and for all.

LB340, introduced Wednesday to the Nebraska Legislature's Government, Military and Veteran's Affairs Committee, provides for the return of the Pawnee remains by Sept 10, 1989.

The bill also regulates all unmarked Nebraska burial sites and mandates notification of the Nebraska Indian Commission or people associated with any American Indian remains discovered in the future.

"In all other cases," the remains would be reburied following a one-year scientific study period -- if a study is necessary.

The bill is fair.

It gives time for the remains to be studied -- a sacrifice the Indians have not been willing to consent to until now and provides that reburial is somewhat timely.

If push comes to shove, the Indians will most likely win anyway.

Nebraska Attorney General Robert Spire said at the committee hearing, "When all the dust settles, the courts will determine that the Indians' First Amendment rights will prevail over the rights of the scientific community," provided that the scientific community had a reasonable amount of time for research.

Bob Peregoy, a Colorado lawyer representing the Pawnee Indians of Oklahoma, said that the Pawnee don't want to go to court, but are prepared to do so. This is a warning the historical society should listen to, especially after Spire testified that the court "... looks at things with a moral eye."

If state senators do not resolve the issue, the litigation could take forever.

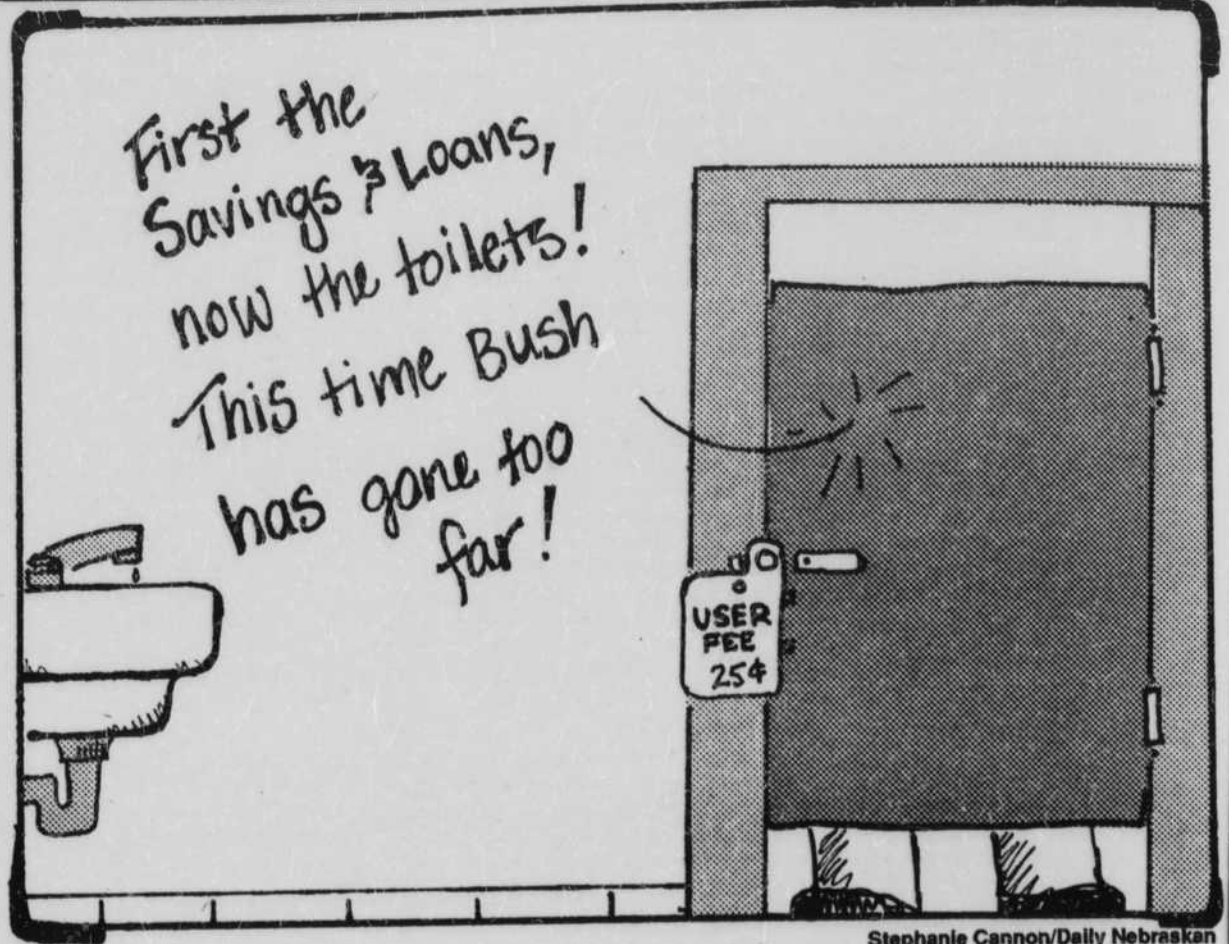
The society and the Indians have not been able to resolve the matter on their own. Further controversy would only cause additional heartache to those who believe the remains and goods should be reburied, and additional impatience of those worried for the future of the collection.

More is at stake here than just a museum's collection of old bones and artifacts.

The controversy has caused anger, frustration and public humiliation to two important and respected groups in the community.

More importantly, human dignity is at stake. The right of a person to be put to rest, in peace, should be a given. People should not have to fight to take their relatives out of glass cases to lay them to rest. And it's time for the Legislature to allow them to do so.

Lessons of history, science and others' beliefs mean nothing unless they are remembered and respected.



Stephanie Cannon/Daily Nebraskan

Longsine discusses the Bible

Columnist says The Good News gives Christianity a bad name

I've always wondered if God really talks in all capital letters. I'd ask Him but surely He is too busy to bother with me.

YOU DON'T THINK THAT I ONLY TALK TO MOSES AND ART BUCHWALD? WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT TO ASK? NOT THAT I DON'T KNOW ALREADY, BUT YOUR READERS -- WHO SOMETIMES DO CONSIST OF MORE PERSONS THAN YOUR EDITOR AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND -- MAY WISH TO KNOW.

Inspiration. I want inspiration. WELL, YOU WON'T GET IT, NOT FROM ME. I'VE SEEN THE PRISONER TOO, GRAND ENTERTAINMENT. HAVE YOU TRIED READING THE UNL GOOD NEWS?

Honestly? I haven't touched it for a couple months. I've been meaning to, but I always have assigned reading that I should do instead. I read Mark before I went to see "The Last Temptation of Christ," but other than that, I really haven't had time. I'll read the whole thing over spring break, I promise, or in the summer if I have to write papers...

YOU NEED NOT GROVEL, HEATHEN. ANYWAY, THAT WASN'T WHAT I MEANT. I KNOW YOU READ THE GOOD NEWS, THE MONTHLY CAMPUS PAPER. YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN?

Oh, the one published by that professor? Do you chat with him?

YOU READ THE GOOD NEWS. WHAT DO YOU THINK? I'M GOING DOWNTOWN. FIND THE CURRENT ISSUE. I'M RATHER EXTENSIVELY QUOTED THEREIN. IT SHOULD PROVIDE SOME INSPIRATION. KEEP IN TOUCH.

Wait! I just found my list of things to ask about. What's the meaning of life? How do I know if I really love someone? Is there life on other planets? Where is Jimmy Hoffa? How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie-Roll Tootsie-Pop?

PATIENCE, MY SON. YOU HAVE WORK TO DO. WE'LL MEET AGAIN.

Thanks, God. YOU'RE WELCOME. And the Lord said, Go forth and

read *The Good News and Thou shall find inspiration in heaps and bushels. And behold, the columnist went forth and did read *The Good News and did find inspiration in heaps and bushels.**

After reading every story, save one, I declared excitedly to my lemon trees, "Perhaps they are growing, at least there is no gay-bashing article in the latest issue!"

But I was wrong. "The Company You Keep" upholds the tradition of having at least one anti-gay story in every issue since its first big gay-bashing issue in 1985 or 1986. This is the latest in a series of testimonials and editorials that offer advice on how to quit being attracted to members of your own gender.



The thesis of this truly pious article is that, as a recovering homosexual, one should go to great lengths to avoid other homosexuals who have nothing better to do than to plot and execute plans which culminate in rejection of Jesus Christ and reversion to the former life of gay love.

This, as all Good News readers know, is a heavy-duty sin for which one can be sentenced to cons, if not eternity, in hell.

Sometimes, this advice seems to be general and apply to all sinners. "Paul is adamant about not wanting us to have fellowship with... sinners."

Is that so? Jesus was always adamant about things like not judging others and casting the first stone only if you are without sin and things like that. I wonder if HE knows what Paul is up to?

I know some of The Good News staff and I hereby declare that I am significantly more adept at sinning than possibly the whole staff put together. However, none of them has ever once suggested that I was unworthy of sharing fellowship with them. Do they read this garbage before they print it?

A glance at two other major features assures me that indeed no one reads *The Good News* before publication.

The first of these is a rather interesting, and lengthy piece on how various groups conspired to keep the undeniable fact of the Bible's mathematical perfection from the general population. Groups like Catholics, Jews and Fundamentalist Christians are determined to prevent you from knowing that the original Greek text of all the Bible's books are based on the holy number seven.

This fact, someone claims (I always get lost in their touched-up reprints because parenthetical editorial comments are seldom clearly separated from the original work) can be used to prove that portions of the Bible were not added later or tampered with.

Unfortunately, not all of the Bible's earliest texts are in Greek, and probably none are the original texts.

The crown jewel in the eclecticism of *The Good News* is the "prophetic message given this last year on Mt. Carmel through a sincere Christian who received it from God" -- presumably in American, the language of HIS chosen people.

God is going to use Israel to crush the Kremlin and the Islamic revolution. And out of the ashes of the nuclear inferno will rise a fountain of heart-bursting joy.

I can hardly wait. Interestingly, I could find no significant correlation between this prophetic text and the number seven. Presumably, it would appear if it were translated into ancient Greek.

Psychopathic paranoid delusions like those in *The Good News* that purport to be the true Christianity cast a gloomy shadow on what's left of a religion that for centuries dominated the world. Sadly, as a people we may reject the ideas offered by Christianity in total -- and discard the tangled mess without looking for the few golden threads that may have survived the corrosive effects of self-proclaimed guardians of God's Word.

Longsine is a senior political science major and a Daily Nebraskan editorial page columnist.

letter

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ness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

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