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## Locker room sexism

*Women reporters pay the price*

Locker room behavior ought to be punted. But if you talked to some of the New England Patriots' players and the team owner, Victor Kiam, you might get the impression that women reporters, not sexist behavior, should be punted right out of the locker room.

Boston Herald reporter Lisa Olson has alleged that she was sexually harassed in the Patriots locker room by five players during a post-game interview last month.

In a later interview with the Herald, Kiam said, "I can't disagree with the players' actions. Your paper is asking for trouble by sending a female reporter to cover the team."

Critics of Olson and the Herald agree with this mentality, contending she should have expected harassment in a male locker room.

But Olson was just doing her job. She shouldn't expect to be treated like she was in some triple-X peep show on New York City's 42nd and Broadway streets.

Walking around naked in a dressing room is quite natural. Apparently, so are lewd comments and gestures from naked team members.

But that doesn't make them right.

The "boys will be boys" attitude that Kiam and some of his players subscribe to allows the locker room to be a breeding ground for the perpetuation of sexist attitudes.

Kiam reportedly said Olson's attitude was that of "a classic bitch."

While denying this statement, he said the incident was a "flyspeck in the ocean."

He later apologized for making the statement and thus tried to shrug off the incident.

But not before women's organizations could call for a boycott of Kiam-owned Remington products.

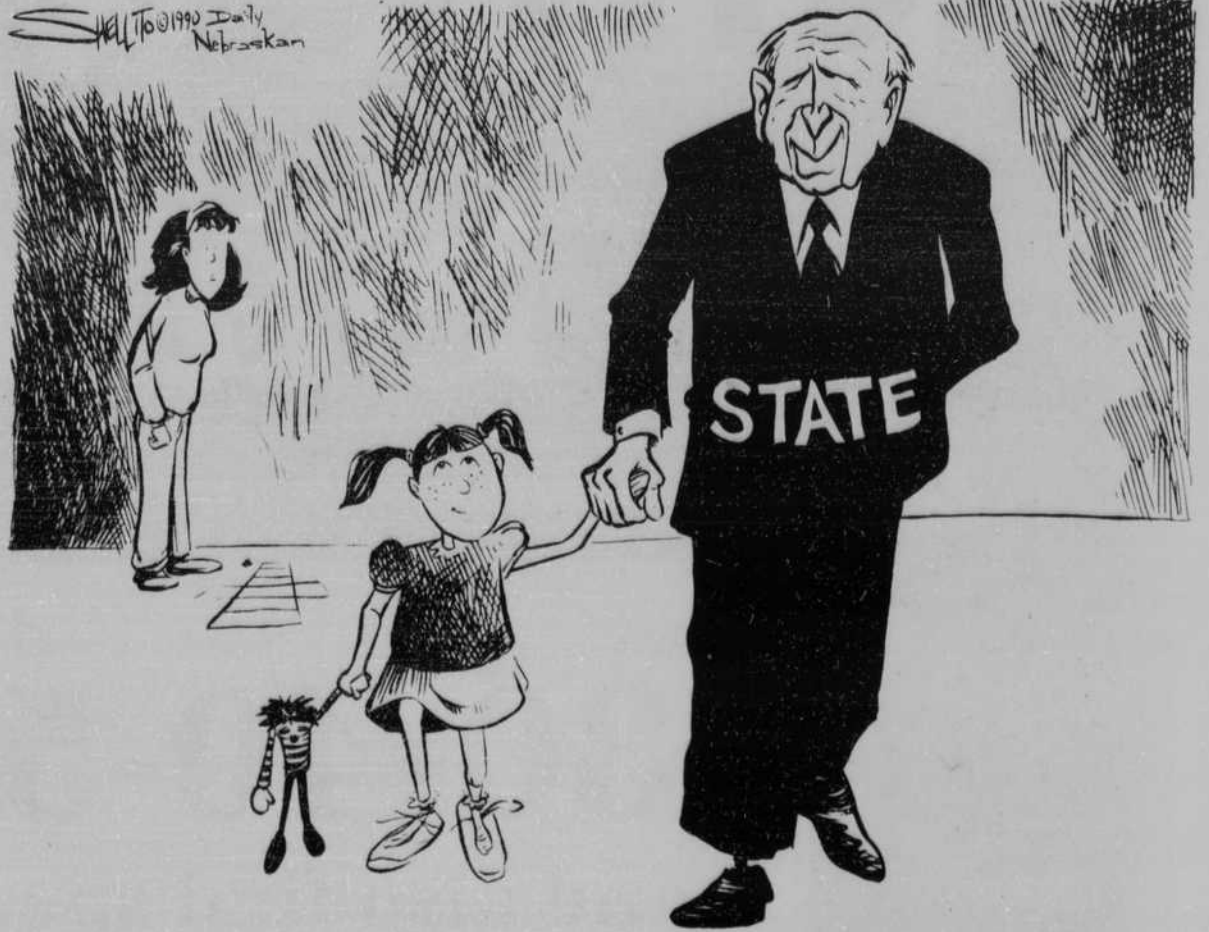
With Christmas quickly approaching, this certainly wouldn't be a flyspeck in Kiam's wallet.

He attempted to save face and image by publishing full-page apologies in some of the major East Coast newspapers. That won't repair the damage.

Neither will player Zeke Mowatt's reported \$2,000 fine for his alleged involvement in the incident.

Unless attitudes and behavior change, the only ones paying the price will continue to be women sports reporters.

--Lisa Donovan  
for the Daily Nebraskan



## Christianity doesn't equal bigotry

*Asking people to give up their beliefs is unfair and oppressive*

A few weeks ago I was in The Coffee House with my parents and a friend discussing religion. We were not being morose or somber. It was a humorous conversation. After overhearing bits and pieces of the conversation a woman came over to us and said, "I often find that those who talk of belief the most believe the least."

That made me think about religion some more. It is one of the largest influences on the world's events. Everything we see on the news is influenced by religion, but very few people recognize it.

The director of the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati is on trial for displaying the so-called pornographic photograph of Robert Mapplethorpe. Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina is unfortunately the only Christian speaker on the issue. He claims that Mapplethorpe's photography is obscene. But he doesn't speak for all Christians, who have diverse opinions on such issues.

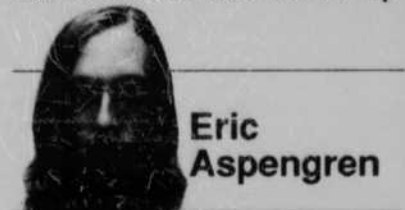
The biggest domestic issue today, abortion, can be looked at in the same way.

The two sides of the issue are portrayed as being the "liberal community" and the "religious right-wing." But there is no such division. There are non-Christians, such as Nat Hentoff of the Village Voice, who are not pro-choice. Many Christians are pro-choice.

Throughout my life I have been attacked and ridiculed because of my brand of belief. Along with the attacks from Christians telling me that I am not "Christian enough," I have had to deal with attacks from non-Christians telling me that I am too Christian. I have been told that Christianity is a faith of hate, exclusion and anger. Many assume that because I am a Christian I do not stand up for civil rights. To them I am automatically sexist, heterosexist and racist. I have been called a bigot. I am told that I am not open-minded, not thought-

ful, not loving, because of my faith. I, according to many, am the embodiment of oppression.

This is bigoted in itself. Many people in the "liberal community" -- supporters of civil rights, supporters of abortion rights, supporters of peace -- assume that Christians cannot sup-



Eric  
Aspengren

port the same things.

Just as it is unfair to demand that Jews give up their faith or that homosexuals give up their loves, it is unfair and oppressive to ask me to reject my faith, my beliefs and in the end, my own father. My faith is a part of me. I draw strength from Christianity for the fight of liberation. I pray for the liberation of all people. I do not pray for the conversion of others. I do not pray for the condemnation of others. This certainly is not Christian.

Being a Christian does not mean being a Jimmy Swaggart or a Jesse Helms. It means being a Christian, a believer in Christ. It means believing in humanity's capabilities to love. It means believing in humanity's abilities to achieve itself.

In certain "liberal" communities the word Christian has taken on similar connotations that the words Jew, black or gay have in certain "conservative" communities. Some people even seem to be proud of their anti-Christian sentiments.

That frightens me because it is a reaction to stereotypes, not to people.

It reminds me of Steppin Fetchit, a black actor in the early days of movies who played stereotyped roles. Certainly Fetchit was not an oppressive figure in himself. He did, however, perpetuate the myths of black people that pervade this culture.

There is a stronger parallel between the perceived societal roles of men and Christians.

Men are taught that they must be sexist, heterosexist, violent and essentially unfeeling. That is not what it means to be a man. Men are not inherently oppressive people. It is a mistake to think the same of Christians.

Certainly some men do take advantage of their positions in this society, as do certain Christians. Christians like Jesse Helms, in relation to such things as abortion, take advantage of their position as Christians to oppress people, just as Hitler took advantage of his own warped version of Christianity, his whiteness and his heterosexuality in Nazi Germany. Not all Christians are like this.

For those of you who are devoted to the cause of liberation, remember your history. Remember those great people devoted to the cause who were Christian. Martin Luther King Jr., an important figure in the Civil Rights Movement, was a Baptist preacher. The writer James Baldwin, a black homosexual man, spoke for many oppressed peoples and was a Christian. The most outspoken for the poor and disenfranchised in Central and South America are priests and nuns. And remember the many lesser-known but important Christians who have fought the fight throughout history. Christians have not always been in the position of power they hold in contemporary U.S. society. Christians were once an oppressed people -- hated, crucified and thrown to the lions for their beliefs. Christians must never make the same mistake. Never forget your past.

This brings home the incident in The Coffee House. The woman fell into the same trap that many do, assuming Christianity means bigotry.

Aspengren is a freshman philosophy and aesthetics major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

## opinion READER

### Small group with big money wants campus playground

There's no room left at the inn (at the Taco Inn).

Here are some thoughts about the demise of Taco Inn, daVinci's, The Hole Works, Kinko's and the Lied Park that will replace them.

It appears that a small number of people with a large amount of money and influence would like to turn the campus into their own personal playground. These non-students are successfully annihilating most convenient and necessary student services in exchange for a mere two to four hours of leisure each week.

A few observations:

- Park? What about the park already on the side of the Lied Center for Performing Arts or Sheldon's or the library greens. How about using the lobby or the balcony. How many places do they need?

- How often will people use this park? People in formal attire won't be strolling around in the scorching summers or the bitter winters. That doesn't leave many months of use. (But, it will sure look great! Indeedydo!)

- Why not turn one of the parking lots into a park. Let the patrons look for parking like everyone else?

- Will there be an admission fee to the park or will there just be a fence around it?

- What's the next project? Turn the dorms into hotels for patrons who

drank too much?

- \$250,000 initial cost of park -- somebody's paying themselves a big check for inventing this project.

- Students who work at the Lied Center get paid less than non-students. Shouldn't this be the other way around?

- Why is the Lied Center even on campus? Very few University of Nebraska-Lincoln groups or individuals actually perform there. As contrasted to Memorial Stadium where student athletes, cheerleaders and marching band members all participate and use the facility. Kimball Hall was sufficient in my opinion to house our cultural events. (Plus it doesn't lose money.)

- Taco Inn is a tradition. Many a great thought was inspired over a bean burrito. Along with The Hole Works, these places offer a sense of campus community and a place to gather.

In retrospect, I see this as one more nail in the coffin of a floundering downtown. As I was walking by the Lied Center, I saw a woman who looked disturbingly like Marie Antoinette standing on the balcony. "Let them eat Huevos Rancheros" was all she said.

John Carlini  
senior  
music

## editorial

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