

DN criticized, lauded

Joke issue, Bible column receive mixed reactions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Daily Half-Asskin beyond boundaries of student paper

Congratulations! It is wonderful to see by your insert, the Daily Half-Asskin, what a shining example of journalistic ethics, integrity and style the Daily Nebraskan is. It is very obvious that you have joined the "elite and privileged" ranks of real journalists. It gives me great pride to know that my student fees help support such a fine newspaper. APRIL FOOL!!!

I'll admit that a student newspaper can go beyond the boundaries of a normal newspaper at times, but the Half-Asskin went a little further than that this time. I don't think it as bad when students read this trash (after all, we have to put up with this newspaper every day) but the Daily Nebraskan does not stop at the boundaries of the UNL campus.

Did you stop to think about the copies that end up at Lincoln businesses or the state capitol? How do you propose to sell to advertisers when this is the image they have of your product? Worse yet, think of your state senators and regents reading this; would they get the impression that UNL is an academic institution where students care about the quality of their education? How will they be able to lobby and vote for increased funding for UNL when they have the image of the Half-Asskin in the backs of their minds? How can we as students expect them to take us seriously and be treated like adults when this is what we show them?

I'll admit I found a few parts of the Half-Asskin funny. The rest, however, would have been more appropriate had it been passed around the DN office for laughs, and kept out of the public eye where it could only cause one thing, bad P.R. Simply put, think before you act!!!!

Pat Jilek
junior
broadcasting

Joke issue DN's most valid, credible of year

I picked up your Daily Half-Asskin today and just had to laugh at the irony of it all. Even though most of the students found it extremely funny, which I did, I also found many of those articles some of your most valid and credible of the year.

Thanks!

Chris Halligan
junior
arts and science

DN protected fraternity names in protest assault

This letter is in response to the article covering the march protesting violence against women (DN, April 29). I was appalled to find the reporter omitted the names of the fraternities housing the imbeciles who harassed the women marchers. These people should be held accountable for their rudeness, insensitivity and ignorance. The Lincoln Journal-Star, covering the same story, listed the names of the fraternities involved. I

see no reason why the DN should protect the cowardice of those who verbally assaulted the women.

One must wonder why the young "men" responded in the manner they did. Perhaps the topic of the march hit a little too close to home?

Mary Schuster
junior
social sciences

Nelson suffering lump-in-the-cheek, needs holy water

Bob Nelson, that was a great article ("Brevity the soul of wit, religion") in the April 24 Daily Nebraskan. The only way to have improved it would be to have written it in German, where one has available a wealth of abstruse grammatical constructions!

It appears to me that you are suffering from a case of lumpus malaris (lump-in-the-cheek). So I consulted telepathically with my second cousin once removed, who is a faith healer in MacGillicuddy's Reeks, Ireland. She says you should consume a cubic cubit of fluoridated holy water, before the next moon.

Edgar Pearlstein
professor
physics

Columnist's claim of Bible ambiguity not well founded

Bob Nelson, after reading your column about the Bible (DN, April 24), I thought it would be good for me to point out some important facts that pertain to the issue.

There is a certain amount of ambiguity in any language and in any writing. Even an infinite God faces this limitation when he attempts to communicate with finite human beings in their finite human languages. The fact that the Bible claims to be inspired by an omnipotent God does not require that it also have omniscience. The limitation is because of the language, not God.

If people want to understand the Bible, they can study the words, the grammar, the context and the historical setting of a statement and usually get a pretty good idea of what the author intended and what the original readers understood. Then they must decide how the meaning of that statement applies today. The divergent views of how Leviticus 18:22 applies today result more from the presuppositions of the interpreters than from any ambiguity of the language.

Your views regarding the reliability of the Biblical text are commonly held, but not well founded. During the last 500 years, each new translation of the Bible has been made from the most ancient Hebrew and Greek manuscripts that are available, thus avoiding the influence of the "many cultures, many languages and many editings" that you mentioned. As the years go by and more ancient manuscripts are discovered and added to the thousands that we already have, the Hebrew and Greek texts the translators use are actually increasing in accuracy with time, not becoming

more ambiguous.

The lexical and grammatical questions you raised are not reasonable. The confusion that you perceived is due more to your method of study than to the language itself. You took the King James Bible, translated in 1611, ignored the context, and then played dictionary roulette with the word meanings! I will grant you a hyperbole here or perhaps just some humor, but I can't let such a poor example of interpretation slide by.

All of the questions you raised are easily answered by honestly looking into the words, the grammar and the context. Reading the whole chapter would shed much light, as would using a modern English translation like the RSV or NIV (or better yet, studying the Hebrew itself). English has changed a lot in the last 380 years, but that is not God's fault. The reason new translations are made is to keep putting God's ancient, unchanging words into the constantly changing languages of modern humanity so that they might know of his love and forgiveness of sins through Jesus.

If the Old Testament view of homosexuality was one of the many "less than desirable prejudices that were later nullified in the big scheme by the Gospels," I must say I am not aware of any portion of the Gospels that even mentions it, let alone teaches that it is OK. I am aware of the other New Testament books that do teach that homosexual activity is a sin. The New Testament also makes it very clear that God loves all people and that all are equally guilty of sin and equally in need of his forgiveness. God's answer for sin is Jesus. He died to pay the penalty for all who will give their lives to him and obey him.

If you do not like what the Bible says, that is fine, no one is forcing you to agree with it. But everyone owes it to themselves to explore the New Testament and honestly consider what it says with an open mind. Then draw your own conclusions, agree or disagree, but don't use the excuse that it cannot be understood... most of it can. As Mark Twain once said, "It's not what I don't know about the Bible that bothers me. It's what I do know."

Scott Pixler
campus minister
College-Career Christian Fellowship

'Sarcastic spoof' promoted sexism, backwardness

The Daily Half-Asskin had to have been one of the most blatant and asinine examples of sexism that has ever been printed in a modern-day university newspaper! I'm personally embarrassed for the DN and for the university.

It's outrageously indignant to see article pseudonyms such as "Rosey Snatch," "Mickey Cock" and "Dick Munch" allowed — come on, folks, that sort of thinking is juvenile — something I would expect from confused 12-year-olds. Writing like that reinforces "backwardness" in a society that hasn't made much progress with regard to social issues since the Civil and Women's Rights movements in the mid-1960s and -70s. It's fright-

ening to think that these people in the journalism arena seem to be blind to their contribution to the already sexist ideals with which our society seems vested.

The editor of the DN told me that the Daily Half-Asskin was a sarcastic spoof on sexism; it wasn't written to condone it. I'm sorry, I will never find anything funny as long as it oppresses a particular group of people. Many of the remarks made in the supplement had sexual overtones that were disrespectful to both men and women (especially toward women). No one has the right to qualify the oppression of people by saying that it was just a joke, a sarcastic spoof. No matter what angle one looks, the journalism written in that supplement was insensitive toward women! There are many instances where women, people

of color and homosexuals, etc., are the butt of people's jokes, yet intellectuals (or at least educated people) wouldn't consider them just. The writings in the Daily Half-Asskin were no different.

An editor who allows such dirt to be published is one who supports the oppression of women — there is just no way of seeing otherwise. It's like having a white individual wearing a KKK hood, burning crosses on the lawns of African Americans and saying, "Hey, I don't support the oppression of black people — it's just a joke!" I've always felt satisfied with the position the DN held in regard to issues pertaining to sexism and racism; however, after reading the "Daily Half-Asskin," the DN erased all my previous positive conceptions.

Steve R. Sandoval
graduate student
psychological and cultural studies

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