

SEAN GREEN

Even clowns losing humor

The clowns are mad as hell and they aren't going to take it any more.

According to The Associated Press, clowns all over the country are tearing out their orange hair over an outbreak of clown-bashing...

"They give clowns a bad name," Joe Barney, a clown for 20 years, said. "This is something we feel very strongly about..."

Goldthwait retaliated with even more clown-bashing.

"I don't think clowns are funny," he said. "No kids think they're funny. That's why clowns are always playing hospitals..."

He also said, "It's pretty easy to step on somebody's toes when they're sporting size 32 longs."

The main group protesting the clown-bashing is Clowns of America International, a conglomeration of 5,000 clowns.

My first reaction to this news was "Damn! Still another group of disadvantaged, downtrodden individuals I can't make fun of anymore..."

Well, probably not, but that's beside the point.

The point is, the clowns have done us a favor. They have shown us how close America is to becoming a nation made up entirely of crybabies...

That greasepaint they're wearing must be sending vapors into their brains, or maybe their noses are on too tight.

The Clowns of America International point to other examples of clown-bashing.

Honey the Clown, a character on the Fox Network's program "In Living Color," is famous for hitting children on the head and saying, "Honey don't play that."

Pennywise the Clown, from Stephen King's novel "It," is the most evil of the pranksters. He not only hits children on the head, he eats them for dinner.

And Krusty the Clown, a character from "The Simpsons," smokes, drinks, gambles and hates children.

It isn't hard to imagine what this year's convention of the Clowns of America International will be like.

After the clowns climb out of their

The point is, the clowns have done us a favor. They have shown us how close America is to becoming a nation made up entirely of crybabies, squeaky wheels and attorneys.

Volkswagens and exchange a few punches with giant rubber hammers, they'll probably paint on frowny faces and talk about Krusty, Pennywise, Homey and Shakes until the stripper shows up.

I always thought if anyone could take a joke, it would be a clown.

Consider these statements:

- A) Clowns make fun of others. B) Clowns don't like having fun poked at them.

Now imagine your second-grade teacher saying, "Homey can dish it out, but Homey can't dish it in. You dissin' me, Homey?"

Alcoholic, womanizing guys with red noses are not the problem. The problem is that clowns, and everybody else, can't take a joke. They think characters such as Krusty the Clown give them a bad image.

Right. Thanks to all this clown-bashing, my image of clowns is ruined. Rest assured I'll never vote for a clown again, or ask one to do my taxes.

Maura Nelson, public relations director for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, also spoke out against clown-bashing.

"Naturally, we wish clowns were portrayed in a better light," she said.

Of course, it won't be long before Bearded Women of America International and The League of Sword Swallowers jump on the bandwagon.

All of this complaining by clowns will result in yet another revision of our vocabularies and lifestyles.

Before long, the boss who flip-pantly tells his or her co-workers to "quit clowning around" will be given stares of disapproval and be labeled politically incorrect.

We will have words such as clownism and the humorously disadvantaged.

All of the doors in public buildings will have to be widened so clowns can walk through without tripping over their feet.

It will become mandatory that bathroom stalls have squirting-flower dispensers and makeup mirrors, with extra greasepaint available in the lounge.

Clowns will ask for (and receive) federal dollars for campaigns to improve their image. Congress will pass laws making it mandatory to have a clown perform for at least one office party a year.

And, in an effort to better understand the plight of clowns, Phil Donahue will have himself shot out of a cannon.

Yes, the clowns have proven we are a nation of crybabies who can't take a joke and who take ourselves too seriously.

They have also proven, as I've suspected all along, that cramming yourself into a small automobile with 50 other clowns probably results in a shortage of oxygen to the brain and eventually permanent damage.

Maybe clowns are saying it's time we stopped poking fun at each other and started working together to build a world of diversified individuals who love each other for their differences and live together in harmony and peace.

If that's what clowns are saying, they're starting to sound a lot like Democrats, and it's no secret how boring they are.

I'm not saying a world of peace and harmony wouldn't be nice (or boring), but it will never exist. And if we can't have perfection, we should at least be allowed to laugh at our imperfections.

It's not surprising to see clowns join the millions who have decided they don't like being made fun of anymore, or portrayed in a bad light. Clowns love attention.

It's OK to want some measure of respect and professional dignity and it's no surprise the clowns are upset by Homey and Krusty and Shakes.

But when the clowns stop laughing, and start whining, it's time take away their toys and send them to bed — with the rest of the crybabies.

Green is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and columnist.



Gay genetics are theory only

This letter is in response to the latest pseudo-column that Chris Halligan has written for the DN ("Genetic finding to rock society," DN, March 4). Most of Mr. Halligan's sophomoric ramblings have been harmless and just mildly irritating.

area in the brain that is believed to control sexual activity was "less than half the size in the gay men than in the heterosexuals." This is basically the first evidence of what some people have thought for a long time.

Mark Orr senior economics

Advertisement for American Cancer Society: Don't Smoke Yourself To Death. Includes image of a person smoking.

Advertisement for N Express Lube: 17th & 'N' St. No Appointments Necessary. 476-9466. \$6.00 Off Full Service Oil Change. Now For \$18.95 Only.

Ad not enough to cause moral problem

I am writing in response to Michael Lilly's letter of March 5 ("Playboy ad 'weakens the will,'" DN). Mr. Lilly, your personal vote for censorship holds no water.

In a physical sense, we share this world. Although we are free to choose our course, others can and do intrude, often several times a day. But in a mental (or spiritual, if you prefer) sense, we do each have our own worlds, unburdened by others.

underwear circulars will not "...impede the will so much that every time it comes in contact with such barriers it must choose the inclination."

In fact, as the cover model in this ad was doubly shielded by a costume and a further ad insert, the only test to your "God-given free will" I can find is the periodical title "Playboy."

Finally, Mr. Lilly, I have never

seen a "newsworthy" advertisement in my life. The jewelry, liquor, tanning and spring break ads that constantly grace the pages of our campus daily are what allow the editors to communicate to us without charging us.

If your will is so weak that a "sexually explicit advertisement" (ha!) of this nature is too great a "barrier" for you to "choose correctly," you have two choices: continue your "aversion..." to viewing pornographic material... by turning the page, or buy up all the DN's ad space until you graduate.

Eric C. Odgaard junior criminal justice

High school section not representative

I would like to express my reactions to the Diversions section of last Thursday's paper. What's the big deal about Lincoln High? We are college students from all over the United States and from other countries.

Simpsons" or even "The Ren and Stimpy Show"?

After reading it I felt the message the section was trying to convey was "If you didn't go to Lincoln High, you went to a backwoods, one-room schoolhouse and nobody ever did anything important in it."

Sure, they may be human interest stories, but do they really interest the students of UNL (besides the alumni of Lincoln High)? If they do, then I am in the wrong, but this is just my opinion.

Scott Childers freshman computer science

LETTER POLICY

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