SEAN GREEN Even clowns losing humor

he clowns are mad as hell and they aren't going to take it any

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

Shakes the Clown" is an upcoming film starring comedian Bob Goldthwait as a "boozing bozo with a cokesnorting pal named Binky." The AP reported.

They give clowns a bad name," Joe Barney, a clown for 20 years, said. "This is something we feel very strongly about. When we're in makeup, we don't drink or smoke or swear. . . . Once we put on the makeup, we're in character.

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 — the kids can't get up and run away."

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. Oh, alas. Shall I ever be politically correct?"
Well, probably not, but that's be-

side 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, squeaky wheels and attorneys.

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-

Homey the Clown, a character on the Fox Network's program "In Living Color," is famous for hitting children on the head and saying, "Homey 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 cats 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 our vocabularies and lifestyles.



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 attor-

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

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 clownbashing, my image of clowns is ruined. Rest assured I'll never vote for a clown again, or ask one to do my

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

Before long, the boss who flippantly 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 disad-

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

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

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 aworld 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

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 s no surprise the clowns are upset by Homey and Krusty and Shakes.

But the 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.

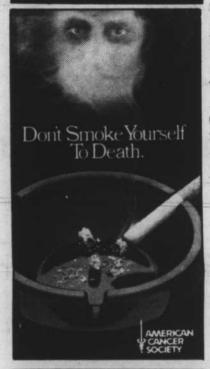
Green is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and

Gay genetics are theory only

This letter is in response to the latest pseudo-column that Chris Halto control sexual activity was "less." ligan 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. His latest article dealing with the theory that homosexuality may be genetic was ridiculous and showed how little he researches each of his columns. He begins by quoting the title of the article that was in the Feb: 24 issue of Newsweek ("Is this child gay?"). That seems to be the extent of his research into this topic. If Mr. Halligan had bothered to read the article he would have found out that this is just a theory. There are many people, homosexual and heterosexual, who have contended for years that being gay is not a choice but something that people are born with. Mr. Halligan apparently decided to write his article based on the title of the Newsweek article rather than do the smallest bit of research. This theory is largely based on the work of Simon LeVay, a neuroscientist at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, Calif., who examined the brains of 41 cadavers, including 19 homosexual men. He found that the small

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. It is accepted as fact by only a small number of the specialists in this area. Mr. Halligan has been caught before writing columns without looking into the topic. The article he wrote about AIDS being the "popular" disease and no money was being spent by the government to research cancer, heart disease, or diabetes had so little factual information in it that it was not even worth reading. Other issues he has tackled, such as racism, being physically handicapped and numerous others only bring to my mind one word: ignorance. The definition of the word is: the state of being unaware or uninformed. Please, Mr. Halligan, if you are going to continue writing, which I do not think you should, do just a little bit of homework before you get yourself in

> Mark Orr senior economics





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Ad not enough to cause moral problem underwear circulars will not"...impede seen a "newsworthy" advertisement

I am writing in response to Mi-chael Lilly's letter of March 5 ("Playboy ad 'weakens the will," DN). Mr. Lilly, your personal vote for censor- must choose the inclination. ship holds no water.

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. The mind is the realm of the will, Mr. Lilly, and each of us decides what and how much we let in. If our wills are as strong in practice (not "submitting" to pomography) as-in concept (the "moral" concept that pornography is "wrong"), then newspaper ads that show less flesh than most swimsuit or

the will so much that every time it in my life. The jewelry, liquor, tancomes in contact with such barriers it

In a physical sense, we share this ad was doubly shielded by a costume communicate to us without charging and a further ad insert, the only test to us. your "God-given free will" I can find is the periodical title "Playboy." If this is a "... sexually inclined barrier that impedes its (the will's) original decision," how do you survive in our society? Playboy car fresheners, pornographic magazines in every convenience store and the dreaded Sports Illustrated swimsuit videos on cable television must make your life a veritable hell in which your "will is in fact not free anymore.

Finally, Mr. Lilly, I have never

ning and spring break ads that constantly grace the pages of our campus In fact, as the cover model in this daily are what allow the editors to

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

> Eric C. Odgaard junior criminal justice

High school section not representative

I would like to express my reac-tions 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. What do those of us from other places really care about Lincoln High? Sure, it's a neat concept playing off "Beverly Hills 90210," but why not do one based on "Roseanne" r "The

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." The Diversions sounded like it should belong in a high school yearbook and not a college newspaper.

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. By the way, when do we get to see Loomis High 68958?

> Scott Childers freshman computer science

LETTER POLICY

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Readers also are welcome to sub

mit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion is left to the

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