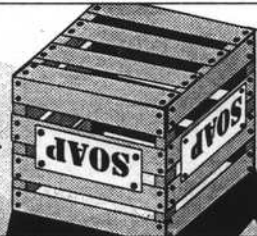


Daily Nebraskan readers say:



Send your brief letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588. Or fax to: (402) 472-1761. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification.

Rationality

It took more than half a page to exhibit Thomas Eads' repertoire of racist points of view (June 22, 1995). And it takes considerable effort to understand why this person (future political scientist!) was granted such a valuable space.

Five policemen are involved in the arrest of a gun-free, drug-free, alcohol-free man. In this scenario, the man dies.

Basic math and logic tempt us to speculate about why it would take five policemen to subdue a man in his conditions. But let's wait for Justice to do its job.

According to Eads, however, there is nothing to wait for; this tragic event happened because Mr. Renteria lacked what the Eads calls "a rational mind."

In other words, let's blame Mr. Renteria for his unforgivable lack of rationalism during the very common situation of five armed policemen trying to tell you something in a language you do not understand.

Eads also blames the director of the Hispanic Center for what he perceives as "irresponsible" comments. Should we interpret that Eads' comments are the "responsible" ones?

Finally, Eads blames the whole Hispanic community for fanning "the flames of racial injustice." Suspiciously enough, he neglected to mention that similar voices have been heard from non-hispanic sources.

Of course, there is not racial injustice (or injustice of any kind) if you are committed to systematically ignore it.

I would like to think Eads does not understand the nature of cultural mixing and doing so, he is unable to write a decent, respectable, intellectually honest column.

In his messiahism, Eads wants to show us how civilized societies work. In my ignorance, I am more interested in understanding how societies compensate the costs of tolerating the attitudes derived from reactionary minds.

Gustavo Delhon
Graduate Student
Veterinary and Biomedical Sc.

Gone too far

Well, it looks like the Lincoln Police Department has gone facist. No wonder they blew up the federal building in Oklahoma City.

Government control of everything has gone way too far. LPD has become Ben Nelson's SS.

Freddy Bailey

Bike etiquette

UNL students are not too swift in safety on bikes. About six of us walk down the city streets and bikers come up to one's elbow before honking or saying excuse me.

Even hurrying to work, bikers seldom use proper signals to cross the highways. Helmets should be mandatory as they are for motorcycles.

Please take this as constructive criticism. College students are not exempt from courtesy.

Let's all try to use signals so the drivers can know which way we are going. And beep or say "Excuse me" more than three yards behind a person walking.

Thank you
Patience Kellogg

Interpretation

In support of his position that a fetus is equivalent to a child, Richard O'Hearn (June 28, 1995) used a Biblical citation: "He has blessed your children within you." (Psalms 147:13)

His interpretation is out of context, as is seen by reading one verse before and after the above. The word "you" clearly refers to the city of Jerusalem, not pregnant women.

Actually, the Bible doesn't specifically mention abortion, so we have to see what it says about some of the arguments used. Opponents of abortion say that: (a) human life, for moral purposes, begins at conception and (b) human life is sacred.

The idea that human life begins at conception just isn't supported in the Bible, and the idea that human life is sacred is contradicted all over. So

people who consider abortion to be murder might be shocked to learn that they are thereby in disagreement with the Bible!

In several places the Bible defines life as breathing, and I found no place where it defines life otherwise. For example, Genesis 2:7, which also defines the entrance of the soul: "and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. Since a fetus doesn't breathe, it isn't life and doesn't have a soul, according to biblical definition.

Additional evidence that a fetus is considered to be less than a human life is that the biblical penalty for causing a miscarriage is only a fine to be paid to the woman's husband. While for an injury to a born person, it is life for a life, eye for an eye, etc. (Exodus 21:22-25, Leviticus 24:17-21).

Even an infant under the age of one month is considered to be worth a lot less than an adult (Leviticus 27:1-8, Number 3:15, 28, 34, 39, 40, 43).

Also, God once punished David by killing his newborn son (II Samuel 12:14-19).

The sanctity of life, born or "unborn," is denied in many places. Two examples: "Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling." (I Samuel 15:3), "They shall fall by the sword; their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up." (Hosea 13:16)

A lot of the discussion on abortion has to do with "illegitimate" pregnancies. An adulterous woman is to be killed (Lev 20:10). Presumably this means even if she is pregnant.

And "a bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even unto the tenth generation." (Deut. 23:2)

So according to the Bible, neither the fetus nor the born child is worthy of much consideration.

Note also that Jesus talked of being "born again." He didn't say "conceived again."

Edgar Pearlstein
Professor of Physics
Emeritus

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a farewell on the green

Wednesday, July 12, 1995
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3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.; program at 4 p.m.