

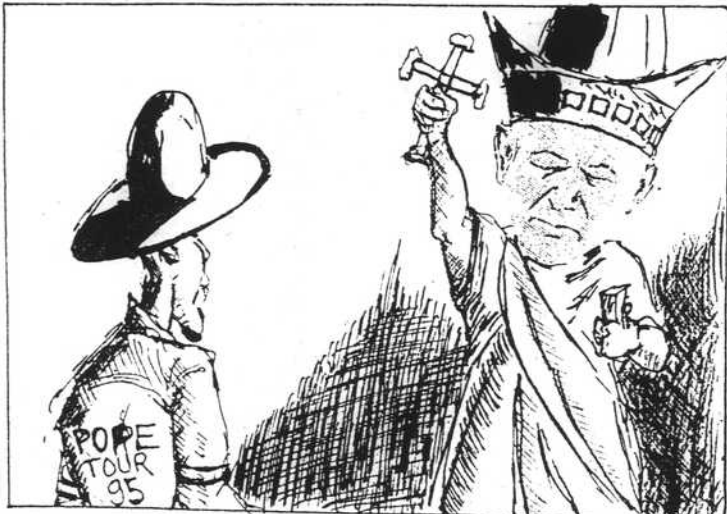
OPINION

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

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Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Bret Gottschall/DN

Pope pushes piety

Catholic leader stresses values, visibility

Pope John Paul II, perhaps the world's most visible religious leader, made his fourth visit to the United States last week.

The 75-year-old pontiff, installed as pope in 1978, visited New York, Maryland and New Jersey — the focus of his tour being a speech delivered to the United Nations General Assembly.

The last papal visit to America before John Paul II became head of the Catholic Church, was in 1965 by Paul VI. Paul VI also spoke to the United Nations, almost 30 years to the day from last week's papal speech. John Paul II has been our most visible Pope. Despite his sometimes precarious health and the risk of physical harm, John Paul II travels the world taking political stands and engaging his opponents in debate, rather than retiring to the Vatican and the comfort of the "big chair."

Whether one agrees with him or not, it's good for the leader of one of the world's largest living religions to be so visible.

As the role of religion in American society has become significantly blurred, the pope spoke about the crushing need for the visibility of values in American society.

"Democracy needs virtue," he said. "Every generation of Americans needs to know that freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought."

Many American Catholics have strong differences with the pope on issues, but his message of religion in American society finds an ear with those concerned about the moral direction of the country.

The pope challenged Catholics to defend "against those who would take religion out of the public domain and establish secularism as America's official faith."

Religion is an important factor in our lives and we can't divorce that from public policy.

Religion has to be a matter of debate. It's not a question of "church and state" but of a need for values in our communities, our legislation and our leaders.

Goodbye pope. Come back soon.

Editorial policy

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Letter policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others. Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted. Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A bad rap

Point blank, I'm upset by a column written by Steve Willey ("Odd couple," Oct. 5). I feel as if I've been slapped in the face with a hot bag of nickels because of this person's joltingly written essay about rap music or Gangsta Rap if you will.

As a rapper myself, I can't begin to explain the importance of rap music in the inner-cities and urban communities all over America. Rap is the voice of a people who, some years ago, were not allowed to say anything. Let us speak, let us say what we will.

Food for thought right here—don't address anything you don't know or understand, Steve.

Antone Douglas
Junior
Elementary Education

Sock it to me

I was very disappointed this Monday morning when I picked up my copy of the DN and didn't see anything about the women's soccer team on the front page. I understand that the big thing in the entire state of Nebraska is Husker football, but they didn't even play this week.

Our women's soccer team played two games this weekend at Abbott Soccer Complex, winning both and not letting the other team even get a shot on our goal once in either game.

I hope that in the future you will give the women the recognition they deserve for all their hard work and success.

Martina Seigel
Union Admin Offices

Jamie "Nelson" Karl

Usually when Jamie Karl takes up his pen and writes some ridiculous and bigoted comment about the way the world should be, I am able to restrain my rage and frustration. I remind myself that he represents the fringe element and holds no real power to achieve his scary visions.

But this all changed with the appearance of the letter to the editor from Gov. E. Benjamin Nelson (Letters, Oct. 9).

It starts off with the words "I appreciate the ideas expressed by Jamie Karl in a recent column," which is a real tip-off that Nelson's politics are on the fringe also.

The specific column Nelson appreciated dealt with the death penalty. Nelson goes on to say that if elected to the Senate, he will work to "reform" the appeals process. What he really means to do is "reform" it right out of existence.

If you elect Nelson to the Senate be ready for the Jamie Karls of this world to get their way.

Nell Eckersley
Senior
Women's Studies

...But your chains

While reading Nick Wiltgen's "Altruism threatens personal freedoms," certain passages seem to be lifted from thin air in his attacks on this "religion" of altruism.

Two of Mr. Wiltgen's points especially caught my eye. First of all, his take on the psychology of an altruist seems to be totally misguided:

"(Altruism) ultimately leads to feelings of worthlessness, loss of self-esteem and lack of identity."

Really? I'd think someone who is lost in the world of big business and money would find themselves struggling for a reason for continuing in the face of such monetary disappointments. Nothing is more rewarding than offering yourself for the benefit of someone in need.

The second point was even more outrageous:

"Only the doctrines of altruism could permit the horrors of slavery..."

Bear with me a minute, how do you support that claim?

As I see it, slavery was the saving

grace for this new idea of capitalism in our country.

What it did was allow the economy to be placed on the backs of free labor, and as any capitalist will tell you, there's nothing better than cheap labor.

I would suggest to Mr. Wiltgen, and any other capitalist out there who is struggling to find some direction in their life, to open their eyes to the broader picture and see the hopelessness in trying to survive with only your own best interests in mind.

Matt Jewell
Junior
Anthropology

Quilting B-

An important contribution to the names quilt from UNL was omitted from the front page story ("Quilt display an emotional remembrance," Oct. 9).

Last fall, the PERSUNL (Peers Encouraging Responsible Sexuality at UNL) Program, as part of World AIDS Day activities and with assistance from the Campus Red Cross HIV Educators, created a quilt panel that was signed on World AIDS Day (Dec. 1) by approximately 150 members of the UNL community.

The Quilt Panel will now be a part of the Names Quilt.

The quilt panel "University of NE Supports AIDS Awareness" was formally submitted to the Names Quilt at the closing ceremonies by members of the PERSUNL Program on Sunday along with a donation to the quilt that was collected at the signing of the quilt. It will now be part of the Names Quilt.

I think it is important to acknowledge the time, effort, and caring of the individuals involved.

Pat Tetreault, Ph.D.
Sexuality Education Coordinator



...to the

**Daily
Nebraskan**

Send your brief letters to:
Daily Nebraskan, 34
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