

OPINION

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Daily Nebraskan

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Break tradition

Teams' racist names deserve the boot

It reverberated throughout Fulton County Stadium last weekend, practically shaking the home of the Braves.

It wasn't a warrior's cry. It was a fan's chant — the "Tomahawk Chop."

The 1995 World Series opened with two straight victories for the Atlanta Braves over the Cleveland Indians.

Braves. Indians.

After a devastating strike, Major League Baseball must be so proud that its two best teams are meeting on the field in the Fall Classic.

It's a shame, though, that these are also the two worst-named teams in the game.

Yes, the year is 1995, and our country still turns a blind eye to racism.

Obviously, there are far worse things than sports teams named



Bret Gottschall/DN

after ethnic and racial groups.

But there's no reason for such names as Redskins, Chiefs, Braves or Indians.

Again, though, is it that big of a deal?

Some people say American Indians are being honored by such teams.

More like mocked.

Would we tolerate a team called the Brooklyn Jews, whose fans wore yarmulkes and Stars of David?

We say we'd never stand for such a stereotype. But look no further than Game 4 of the series tonight for proof that we do.

These teams insult, not represent, the people for which they are named.

The Atlanta Braves weren't even established in Atlanta. Maybe Bostonites were more sensitive to American Indians when the Braves kept their home there.

Regardless, it's time for those teams with ethnically and racially insensitive names — who no longer or never did represent their namesakes — to find a new name.

Last year, St. John's University abandoned its old name, the Red Men. Now Big East teams must face the Red Storm.

The school was able to keep its colors, and a new name perhaps only increased school spirit, if not merchandise royalties.

Did St. John's break a tradition with its move? Yes, but the school decided, as should the teams on the field tonight, that it was a tradition it could live without.

A tradition of racism.

TACT: DELICATE PERCEPTION OF THE RIGHT THING TO DO OR SAY WITHOUT OFFENDING



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tripped up

The recent lamenting of Mr. Baldrige over a lack of legalized drugs and prostitution ("LSD shines on one bright day," Oct. 23 and "Legal prostitution beneficial," Sept. 11, respectively) is about all I can stomach. One gets the idea he was born a generation too late.

It is no longer necessary to refer to an argument based on divine authority — which some of us still consider primary — in a debate over free love, abundant drugs and hard rock and roll. The results of a selfish philosophy are all about us — indeed they are consuming us.

We live in fear; our families are broken; our hearts know no peace.

Legal and abundant drugs and prostitution, Mr. Baldrige? No thanks. Maybe something new like a little self-discipline, self-control, self-sacrifice and concern for others.

Mark Nispel
Graduate Student
Classics

Tripped over

Mark Baldrige's "acid trip" column on Monday is just another example of irresponsible media that we don't need.

I'm sure Mr. Baldrige won't be bragging about his drug use to his children. We don't need to hear about it either!

Not everyone at this university has been in school as long as the author and many underclassmen are very impressionable, still forming their identities. The last thing they need is Mr. Baldrige glorifying the use of hallucinogens and preaching for the freedom to do so.

What he fails to mention is the statistics of young people who experience permanent psychological damage from using acid.

Come on, DN, and Mr. Baldrige, how about exercising some control over what you print.

Eric Black
Senior
Geography

Tripped on

Mark Baldrige wants to feel trippy? He should have seen the Phish show on Saturday. That is an experience.

Paris Heckman
Lincoln

Catholic lesson

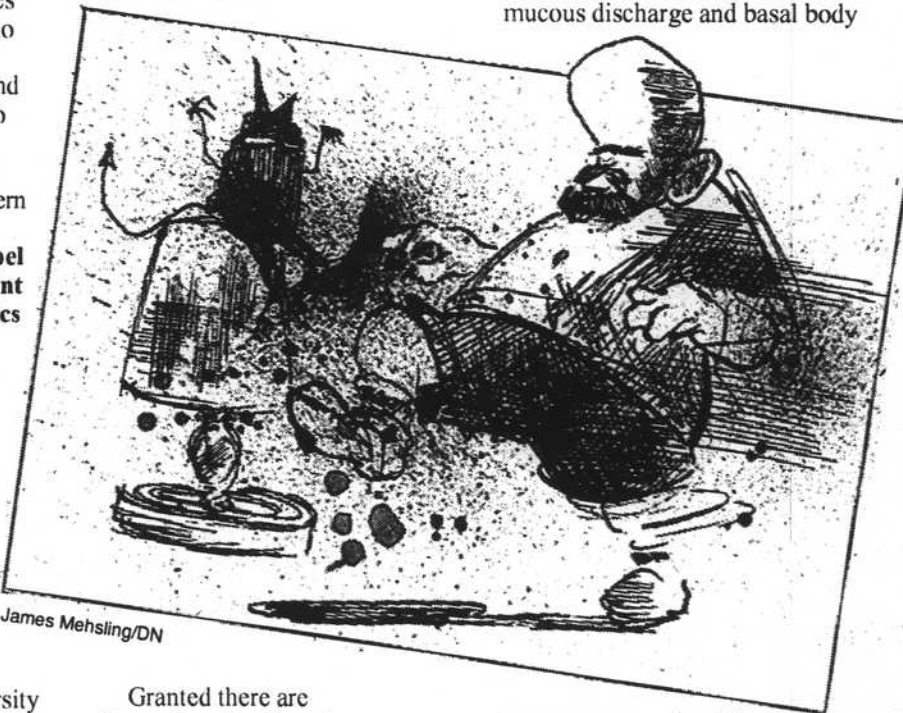
In response to "Religion detached from reality" (Oct. 20) Ms. Schwarting has a lot to learn about the Catholic faith. It has remained almost unchanged for over 2,000 years. It's held the same beliefs since its origins.

hope, challenging believers to accept transcendent moral truths. Truth is the ultimate reality, always applicable, but not always convenient, popular and gladly, not politically correct.

Suggest you study Church history to discover how it has indeed changed over the millennia.

While you're studying what the Church really teaches, take note that the rhythm method has gone the way of the Latin Mass, communion rails and Baltimore Catechism.

The Church promotes Natural Family Planning (NFP) which works in harmony with a woman's God-given fertility signs of cervical mucous discharge and basal body



James Mehlsing/DN

Granted there are times when the Church seems outdated and not practical, but if a person should look deeper than the surface she would find out that it makes sense.

Perhaps Ms. Schwarting should take an adult Catholic class to grow beyond a child's learning of Catholicism.

Nicole Russman
Senior
Elementary Ed.

Lesson 2

To Krista Schwarting:
Religion offers the last vestige of

temperature to signal the onset of ovulation. When followed properly it yields a success rate of 99.7 percent, better than the Pill, I've heard.

It's shallow to think that changing the Church will suddenly fill the pews.

Come home. Stop by the confessional on the way in. Frequent confession and the daily Mass is the remedy for our morally corrupt age, not a waffling, more moderate religion.

Richard O'Hearn
Project Manager
Facilities

Editorial policy

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