

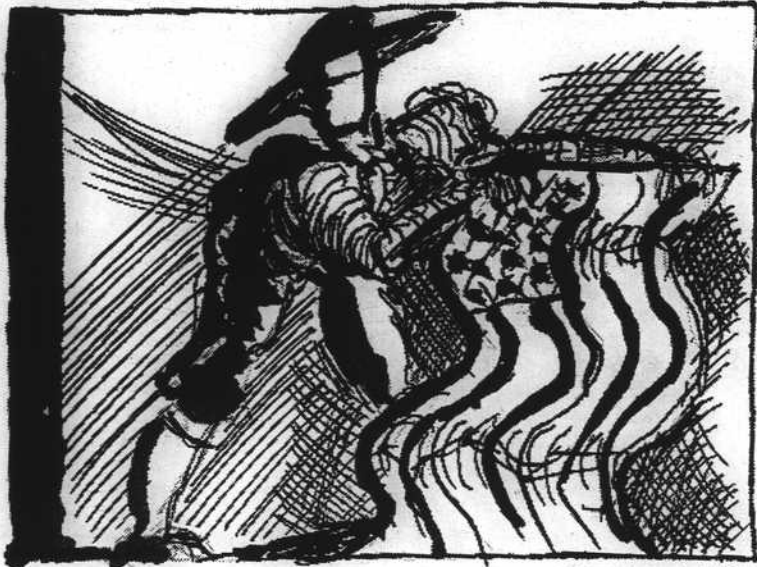
# OPINION

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

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Daily  
**Nebraskan**  
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Bret Gottschall/DN

## Old glory

*U.S. flag symbolizes the entire country*

It's not always high-flying, and it doesn't always make every heart ring true, but it's still a grand old flag.

Just ask the "Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club" of Phoenix. About 50 members of the group and their families walked into the Phoenix Art Museum on Saturday and dismantled two displays showing American flags draped over a toilet and placed on the floor.

It was the second time the displays had been dismantled since "Old Glory: The American Flag in Contemporary Art" opened in Phoenix on March 16. The exhibit has drawn daily protests ever since.

Phoenix Councilwoman Frances Emma Barwood has even proposed selling the museum's publicly owned building — and the land on which it sits — in protest. The museum itself is a private enterprise.

"I don't want to be responsible for stuff like that," Barwood said. "Let it be done in the private sector."

Barwood has received support among other council members, and corporate sponsors have withdrawn aid from the museum.

And rightly so.

The First Amendment guarantees that artists who choose to do so have every right to create such displays.

But with that right comes a responsibility to act within certain bounds of respectability. And wrapping a toilet in an American flag just doesn't seem to fit the mold.

Are such exhibits artists' interpretations of this country's ills? Probably. Is trashing the American flag the right way to bring those issues to light? Probably not.

The flag is more than a piece of cloth. It's more than a few stars and stripes. It's more than one unjust law, one Supreme Court ruling, one unpopular president.

It's a symbol of everything that has held this nation together for more than two centuries, through war, depression, civil unrest and racial strife. It should remind us of the strong ties that unite us as a people, not the differences that divide us as individuals.

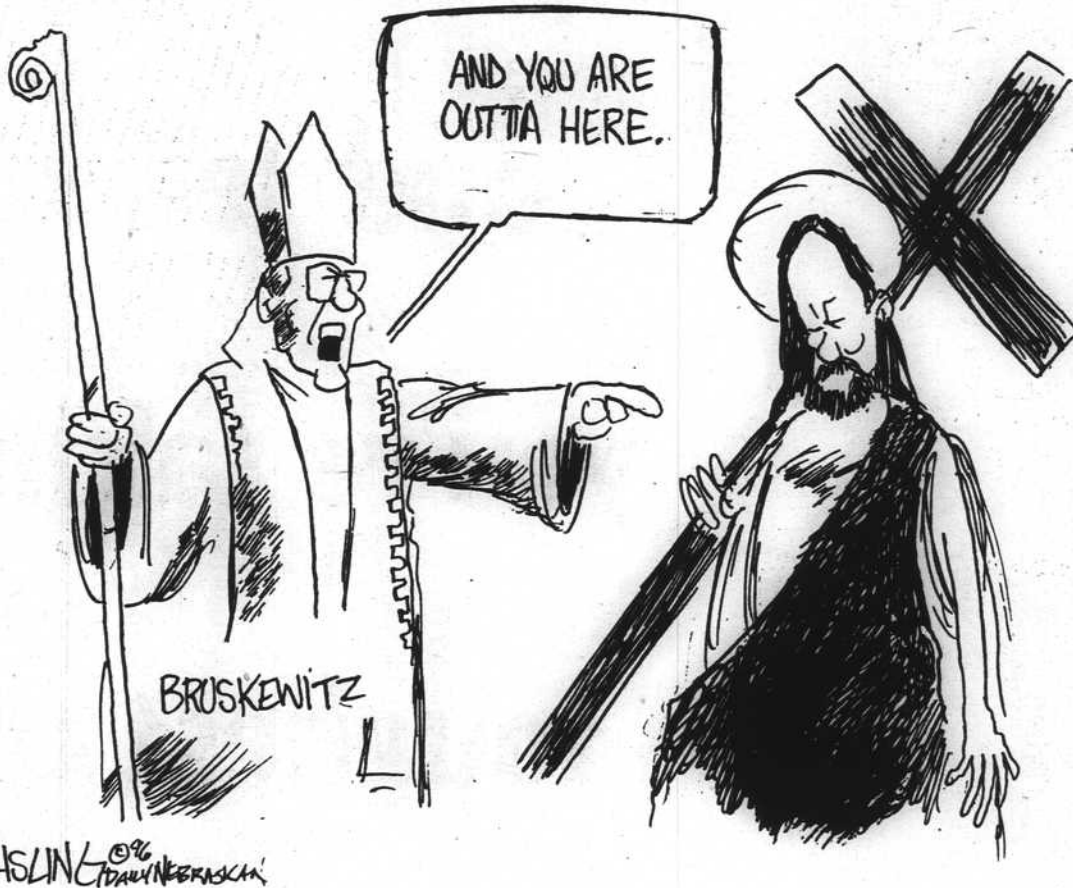
It's a shame that artists who desecrate the flag don't understand, that in doing so, they spit upon that which gives them that right.

### Editorial policy

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1996 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents. Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.

### 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

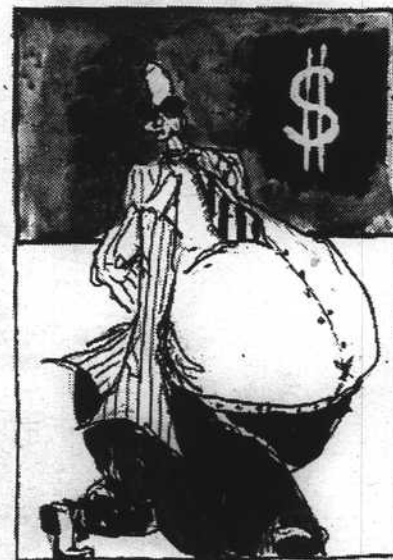
### Wise guy

I am writing in response to last Friday's article by Andris Dellinger about "who sponsored the phoney mob dude." First of all, let's get our facts straight. The speaker was brought in by Phi Gamma Delta fraternity in conjunction with "Gambling with the Good Life." Also, "Bobby Jay's" position on gambling was neutral.

Let's now address the issue that he is a "phoney." I think Mr. Dellinger needs to quit watching so much TV. The Godfather is a fictional movie based on the mob of a couple decades ago. Today's mafia is much less powerful outside Chicago and New York. If BJ is a phoney, why did he testify in front of the United States Senate earlier this year about legal and illegal gambling? Why are there 10 mafia members in jail because of his testimony?

I just think that the DN and Andris need to get their facts straight and wise up. BJ was a very interesting and informative speaker.

Scott Erickson  
senior  
chemical engineering



Bret Gottschall/DN

was available on three sides of the building; 4) trash cans, both federal and city, were removed from the outside perimeter of the building, and 5) the initials for the General Services Administration are, of course, GSA. I do not know about the cost of heightened security, but your reporters need to check their facts, even the minor ones, or else the whole article becomes suspect.

J. E. Thomas  
federal employee

### Security breach

The story on federal security increases (April 15) was very interesting, but also very incorrect.

So, just to set the record straight: 1) It is the Robert V. Denney Federal Building; 2) the magnetometers were previously on the fourth and fifth floors because of Federal Courtrooms; 3) before the Oklahoma City bombing, public metered parking

### Trim the fat

Because of their concern for rising student tuition, UNL faculty and staff are urging students — and their parents — to write to their state legislators. Supposedly, this is to

help secure \$5 million in funding earmarked for faculty and staff salaries. No state funding higher tuition the story goes (April 15).

As a UNL staff member, I find it rather unethical that some faculty/staff (endorsed by chancellors and the like) are using emotional means to secure their raises.

I ask Vice Chancellor Griesen, what's wrong with knocking a couple more layers of management out of the middle. Downsizing — it's happening all over the private sector. How about delaying the union project? Or maybe think twice before spending \$200,000 on green space, soon to be paved again.

Perhaps looking long-term and cutting the budget is just what we need. Start with waste like the loads of intercampus announcements and newsletters mailed every day to staff and faculty (why do we recycle?). Help property tax relief. Help your long-term tuition rates. Help send a message. Write to President Smith, Chancellor Moeser and the like and tell them to cut the \$5 million from the fat (or even our salaries — what's 4 percent?).

Joe Heinze  
UNL staff

### Wake-up call

The tragic death of 7-year old Jessica Dubroff is proof that liberalism has gone past the extreme. It's about time our generation takes on the responsibility that the baby-boomers have irresponsibly evaded for the last 30 years, and interject into our culture some common sense.

Greg Simon  
senior  
accounting



Please  
Write Back!

Send your brief letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 "R" Street, Lincoln, NE 68588, or Fax to (402) 472-1761, or e-mail <letters@unlinfo.unl.edu>. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification.