

OPINION

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Page 4

Daily
Nebraskan
Editorial Board
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

J. Christopher Hain Editor, 472-1766
Doug Kouma Managing Editor
Doug Peters Opinion Page Editor
Sarah Scalet Associate News Editor
Matt Waite Associate News Editor
Michelle Garner Wire Editor
Jennifer Mapes Columnist



James Mehlsing/DN

Living history

Holocaust survivor teaches lessons

It would be hard to challenge Elie Wiesel's point of view on fanaticism. History has made him right.

Wiesel won a Nobel Peace Prize. He wrote "Night," a book about his experiences at the hands of Nazis during World War II.

He survived the Holocaust.

For that reason alone, his words about fanaticism carry more weight. Even now, 50 years after the end of WWII, his wisdom bears great importance on society.

And it should be that way.

The scars of history teach the greatest lessons, and Wiesel bears some of the 20th century's worst. We all should take heed to his words like children to their parents.

Unfortunately, fanaticism still exists in our world. "Genocide," a word spawned by the very horror Wiesel survived, is still part of headlines all over the world.

Bosnia. Rwanda. Names that will go down in history books with that word, genocide.

Wiesel says genocide is the result of fanaticism. Fanaticism is when one group takes their beliefs too far.

Fanaticism breeds a feeling of superiority. Superiority breeds knowledge — a distorted knowledge — that turns into power.

And power is dangerous.

Like in Nazi Germany. Like in Bosnia.

If the world were to listen to Elie Wiesel like children — with open minds and open eyes — the world would be a better place. The world would be a safer place.

Wiesel is living history, something to be treasured. We all should listen to his wisdom before he is no longer able to teach the lessons that need to be taught.

Acceptance. Anti-fascism. Anti-fanaticism. Human rights.

"One right I won't grant anyone is the right to be indifferent."

Teach on, Mr. Wiesel. Hopefully, we will listen.

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.

MEHLSING BY DAILY NEBRASKAN



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Horrendous!

Whether one agrees, disagrees or is indifferent to Bishop Bruskewitz's controversial edict, I found the "political cartoon" in today's DN to be an example of extreme poor taste.

Pam Murray
Coordinator, Center for Grass-
land Studies and Center for
Sustainable Agricultural Systems

Outrageous!

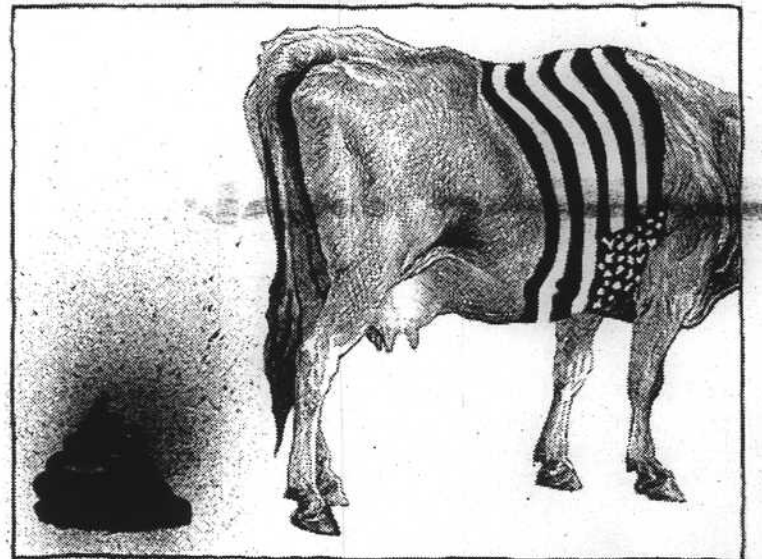
I have had it. This outrage you call a newspaper has gone way too far. The cartoon, if you can call it that, on yesterday's editorial page was not only an outrage but very crude, incorrect and offensive. Bishop Bruskewitz wants to bring his flock back to Jesus. Whether you agree or disagree with him, the Bishop only wants what is best for his people. Through Catholic definition of original sin, Catholics must follow the ways of Jesus Christ. The Bishop felt that some members of the flock were not doing that and asked them to change their minds or leave the flock. You are a Catholic by choice; if you do not like the rules, then go somewhere else.

To close, I am deeply outraged by the blasphemy that you spread about my faith, and I am even more embarrassed to read the DN. Please in the future, avoid covering topics that you do not understand.

John P. Hogg
junior
political science

Egregious!

The DN supports censoring a display of a U.S. flag wrapped around a toilet. A newspaper



Bret Gottschall/DN

supporting censorship — how ironic. I would assume that such a bold and hypocritical move would come with good reasoning, but it doesn't. The DN argues that the First Amendment has been abused by going beyond the "bounds of respectability."

The DN seems to have lost sight of how the country our flag represents has gone beyond the "bounds of respectability." How respectable was it for Americans to brutally murder 14 million Native Americans and then herd the survivors like animals into "reservations"? We also bought and sold human beings.

Today, old glory represents a country that boasts of having the best medical system in the world while tolerating a significantly higher infant mortality rate than Cuba. And how respectable is a country that holds back its people to maintain the doctrine of bigotry through racism, sexism and heterosexual supremacy?

America defecates on its people. In protest, Americans can and should

return the favor symbolically. It's a shame that the DN doesn't agree.

I'm now going to wrap the DN around my toilet.

Andy Bosselman
junior
advertising

Looks like it worked

I've never had much respect for the opinions of the Daily Nebraskan editorial staff, but now they're really clutching at straws.

Tuesday's "Flag Defamation" column was a cheap attempt to raise a discussion on a controversial issue. In fact, I'm disgusted with myself for even bothering to write in. But, for the record, the U.S. flag is little more than colored fabric and is an excellent substitute for toilet paper.

Kevin Gregorius
junior
broadcasting



...to the

**Daily
Nebraskan**

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