

# OPINION PACKAGES

## Our VIEW

### Helter Skeltered? Marilyn Manson pushes First Amendment too far

Last weekend's appearance of Marilyn Manson at Omaha's Civic Auditorium was meant to shock and frighten a lot of people.

Manson's hideous stage antics and his band's twisted, anti-everything songs were meant to whip public officials and moral watchdog groups into a frenzy of backlash. And those shock-value tactics were also meant to whip hordes of teen-age music-buyers into an equally avid spending frenzy.

On both counts, Manson's attempts worked. The concert was a financial success, and — following the footsteps of their counterparts in other cities — Omaha's civic leaders were quick to publicly denounce Manson's show.

But even if you're not afraid of blood-and-guts theatrics, unabashed displays of satanic rituals and gut-pounding music that borders on mindlessness, Marilyn Manson's Saturday night performance should have scared you.

Manson should scare you because in an age of widespread backlash against the entertainment industry's lack of restraint when it comes to sex and violence, Marilyn Manson serves as a prime target for those who would solve this problem by limiting our First Amendment rights.

The freedoms of speech and expression are among our most cherished rights in this country, and when extremists such as Manson abuse those freedoms for the mere sake of abusing them, we all risk paying the price.

When Marilyn Manson decides to use a public stage as a forum for displaying his genitals, the innards of mutilated animals, satanic propaganda and a horde of other unsavory items, we should be very afraid.

Not only because of the objects themselves, but because the irresponsible flaunting of these objects only lends relevance to public outcries to limit his — and subsequently our — First Amendment rights.

True, nearly everything Manson does falls under the First Amendment umbrella of protection, but there are people in our community and our government who would rather hack away at freedom of speech and expression than allow this to remain the case.

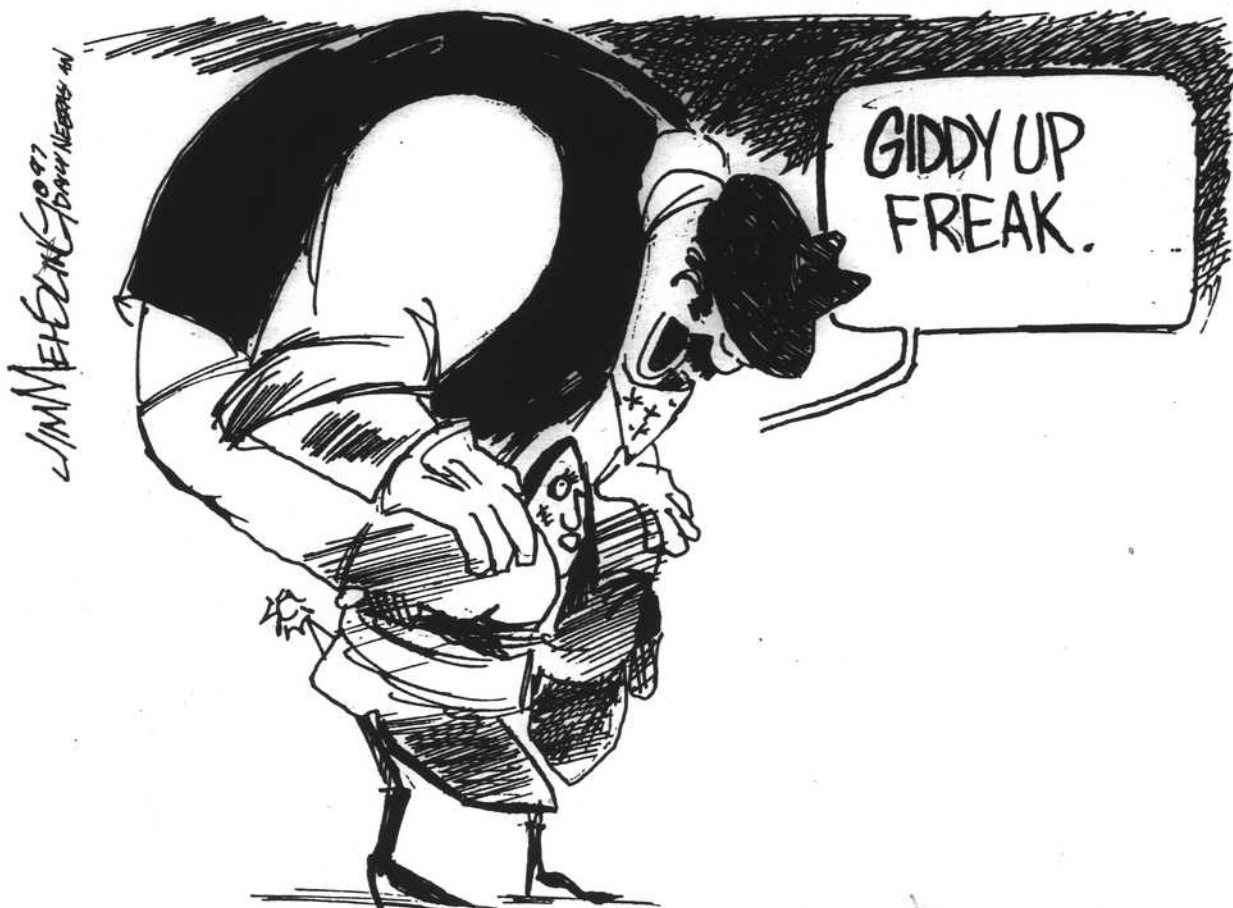
And when more of these people come out of the woodwork, it gives their case even more weight.

Marilyn Manson should be allowed to do or say whatever he wants on stage or in the studio. That's his right. That's America, no matter how ugly — or frightening — it gets.

But we can all do our part to put an end to Manson's potentially damaging attempts to push the First Amendment too far. We can stop buying his records. We can stop going to his concerts. We can change the channel when his face springs up — as it often does — on MTV.

By doing this, we can put an end to the threatening media presence of Manson and his beyond-the-limits sideshow act; and we can show a little good taste at the same time.

## Mehsling's VIEW



WHY IT WAS PROBABLY A GOOD IDEA THE RODEO WAS IN LINCOLN AND MANSON IN OMAHA

## DN LETTERS

### Fightin' Words

In response to "Call to action" (DN, Thursday) — you give conflict a bum wrap! You hope that the Republicans and the Democrats will work together toward their collective goal.

The editorial seems to advocate a calm peace on Capitol Hill. However, this nation was founded and is sustained through heated debate — not through "getting along."

The Declaration of Independence was a call, not to cooperation, but to a principle. The Constitution was drafted amidst a fury of conflict. The checks and balances written within it rely on the assumption of contention.

The Civil War was fought because there were things more important than peace. I dare say that our country has not progressed at all but through vigorous, painful struggle.

The two parties do indeed have some common goals, but their strategies — their solutions to the obvious ills that plague our country — are anything but common ground. As a voting citizen, I've sent my representatives to Washington to fight, yes fight, for their principles.

Don't get me wrong: I'm all for civility. I want a clear presentation and defense of the ideas, not muddled by name-calling and petty finger-pointing. But I want them to stand for their beliefs and articulate them. Only then will the right solutions rise to the top. I say Washington is working as the founders planned only when passionate debate is echoing through its halls.

Glen Parks  
junior  
philosophy

### Sharing Grace

I would like to take the time to thank J.J. Harder for his recent article discussing recent incidents where professional athletes had given the glory of their accomplishments to Jesus Christ.

It was sad for me to see how it



AARON STECKELBERG/DN

was taken and just how far away from our founding fathers' views we truly are. If I'm not mistaken, this country's foundation was built using Judeo-Christian values. The majority of our founding fathers were Christians.

I truly feel that we have been incredibly blessed more than any other country because of our founding fathers' willingness to build this country based on their faith in Jesus Christ. I also believe that the erosion of this society is due to our unwillingness to obey God's principles laid out for us. I really feel that people have the right to place their faith in whatever they want.

Our founding fathers came to this country for that very same reason. I don't think that Christians should shove their beliefs down anyone's throat. But I certainly commend the character and faith that J.J. has used to stand up for what he believes in. I am a truly committed Christian. I have sinned and will continue to sin. I will never claim to be perfect.

But I know that the burden of my sins has been taken away through Jesus Christ's death on the cross. It is also an incredible feeling to know that I have nothing to worry about. Many people feel that this world is eternal life. But I am so excited to

know that this life is temporary and there is a greater life waiting for me in heaven. I respect any beliefs that are different than mine but I also hope that others will have the opportunity to experience the grace of God.

Corey Metschke  
senior

business management

### Not Silent

A front page article Monday morning in the Omaha World Herald entitled "Talks Filling Silence After Cross Burning," quoted Lincoln activist Lela Shanks as saying that "Not one white religious leader issued any statement condemning the cross burning."

A statement was issued by one religious organization at UNL — Christian Challenge. On Tuesday, Jan. 28, we hand delivered a signed letter from our staff and student leaders condemning the incident and calling on the university for action to the Daily Nebraskan. It was never printed.

Maybe the editorial staff was unaware of the clear tie between racism and white churches during the days of Klan oppression and murder. Often Klan members were leaders in the churches. Being a white religious leader, I wanted to quickly and publicly denounce this incident of racism and stand up with and for the African-American community at UNL and in Lincoln. Therefore, with our students we wrote the letter which was not printed.

Regarding the history of racism in this country, I grieve the actions of and repent in behalf of those who were evil and misguided in their religion. The Jesus of the Bible spoke and acted against injustice everywhere he saw it.

Those who do otherwise are not his followers. I look forward to learning more about racism from Dr. Buster Soaries at a Veritas Forum free lecture, "Can Humans Be a Race?" Wednesday night in the union.

Obviously, at UNL we all need to learn more about racism.

Rev. Brett D. Yohn  
Lincoln  
Christian Challenge

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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