

OPINION PAGES

DN Quotes OF THE WEEK

"What did you charge him with? Masturbating? Is that a crime in Lancaster County?"

— Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, expressing concern about LB323, the Sexual Predator Act

"Finding O.J. Simpson liable of the murders and acting with oppression and malice was one of the easiest decisions I have ever had to make."

— Juror No. 11 in the Simpson civil trial

"Weird stuff can happen. One lady even drove a Neon into the Rio Grande River."

— Angie Kettler, a customer service representative for Budget Rent-A-Car

"It hurts. We're obviously out of the race for the Big 12 Championship."

— NU junior guard Anna DeForge after the Huskers' loss to Kansas State Wednesday night

"I feel compelled to emphasize that overt and implied acts of racial hatred and bigotry will not be tolerated at the University of Nebraska."

— NU President Dennis Smith

"The scariest thing about this is the silence. Silence, as you know, indicates consent."

— Eric Crump, chairman of campus advocacy and race relations for the Afrikan People's Union

"When you work on something for months, it tends to get redundant."

— Patty Diloon, member of the Theatrix

"If there is any action that comes closer to infanticide, I don't want to know about it."

— Sen. Dave Maurstad of Beatrice, who introduced a bill to the Legislature that would ban partial-birth abortions

"A woman does not carry a pregnancy to that stage only to have an abortion."

— Kelly Groux, president of the Pro-Choice Coalition of Nebraska

"We're going to Northern Iowa with one goal: to win the game — period."

— NU Coach Danny Nee

"I want my tours to reach out and grab people."

— Gloria Witherspoon, Nebraska State Capitol tour guide

"I had a gal ask for some rubber bikini briefs for the men, that we didn't have in stock."

— Audrie Sparks, employee at Priscilla's, on some not-so-hot items for Valentine's Day

"I thought we played like horseshit."

— Nee, following the Huskers' loss to KSU Monday night

Mehsling's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Absurd Stance

The letter from Mr. Robert A. Aguirre illustrates the problem with the efforts to censor insensitive speech. He interpreted the statement by J.J. Harder — that he would like every 8-year-old in America to be able to read "not counting illegal immigrants" — to be antagonistic against all Mexicans — "rampant racism." I had interpreted the same phrase as gentle sarcasm against Conservatives and Republicans.

Anyone can attach any meaning to any phrase or symbol at any time. The danger arises when the government, or any subunit thereof, insists upon a single "permissible" interpretation. All other viewpoints then become thought crimes. Such is tyranny.

I wonder if Mr. Aguirre would consider me to be a rampant sexist, since I refer to him as "Mr." In America's mad rush toward socialist totalitarianism ("liberalism"), any absurdity is possible.

S. Duane England
graduate student
biology

Making a Mountain

I see that J.J. Harder expressed an objection to illegal immigrants. This should not be too controversial because most of us have a problem with people who break the law. Robert A. Aguirre, however, chooses to look beyond what was actually said in order to see racist comments that were never made.

First, he claims it is an attack on Mexicans, when Mr. Harder said nothing about nationality. And even if a significant proportion of illegal immigrants are Mexican, he isn't objecting because they're Mexican but because they are here illegally.



JIM MEHSLING/DN

Mr. Aguirre then talks about "so-called 'illegals.'" I'd like to point out that an immigrant enters the country either legally or illegally. There is nothing "so-called" about this. I wonder what Mr. Aguirre instead suggests we should call people who break the law to enter this country.

Finally, Mr. Aguirre says that Mr. Harder denigrated Mexican-Americans. The fact is that Mexican-Americans are either citizens or documented workers. Mr. Harder said nothing about them that wasn't extended to all people who are here legally.

If Mr. Aguirre expects to be taken seriously when he expresses his outrage against racism in the future, he's going to have to do a better job of telling what is racist and what is not.

Brad Pardee
Love Library

One Night

Up to this point I have rarely, if

Edward J. Cargill
sophomore
animal science

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