

# OPINION PAGES

## Our VIEW Waco 2?

Show force, resolve in conflicts with militia

Bring on the government!  
This seems to be the rallying cry of militias and splinter groups alike in the United States today, evident by the recent events of the "Republic of Texas" secessionists.

On Sunday, Richard McLaren, the self-proclaimed ambassador of the Republic of Texas, and his followers holed up in a remote region of West Texas — taking two civilians hostage in order to facilitate the release of two of their own from jail. But the key concession McLaren demanded was "...a referendum to allow Texans to vote on the independence issue."

And inside his "embassy," a trailer home, McLaren boldly said "We are in a state of war."

According to McLaren's lawyer Terry O'Rourke, if officers move in for an arrest "there (is) the potential for a lot of killing." And once again the federal government is forced to grind out another lengthy "siege" on a splinter group.

McLaren's group is fully aware of the federal government's trepidation concerning another conflagration that could lead to, as O'Rourke said, "another Waco."

To that, we say — so what?

The U.S. government needs to stop pussy-footing around with these militias and nip them in the proverbial bud.

Whether it be misguided secessionists or self-purported "patriots," the federal government should not show weakness. To avoid another Waco or Ruby Ridge, the federal government is setting itself up for more groups to rise up and stake a claim for independence.

If a group proclaims itself independent, and threatens the use of force — which would certainly put the lives of law enforcement officers in danger — the government needs to recognize the "rights" of these groups as "independent nations."

Then invade.

Treat these people as foreign invaders on U.S. soil, and as Marsellus Wallace in "Pulp Fiction" said, "get medieval on (their) asses." As a sovereign nation, the United States has every right to protect its own interests on its own soil.

This should send a clear and loud message to militias that taking people hostage and threatening the lives of law enforcement personnel is justification for such unilateral action.

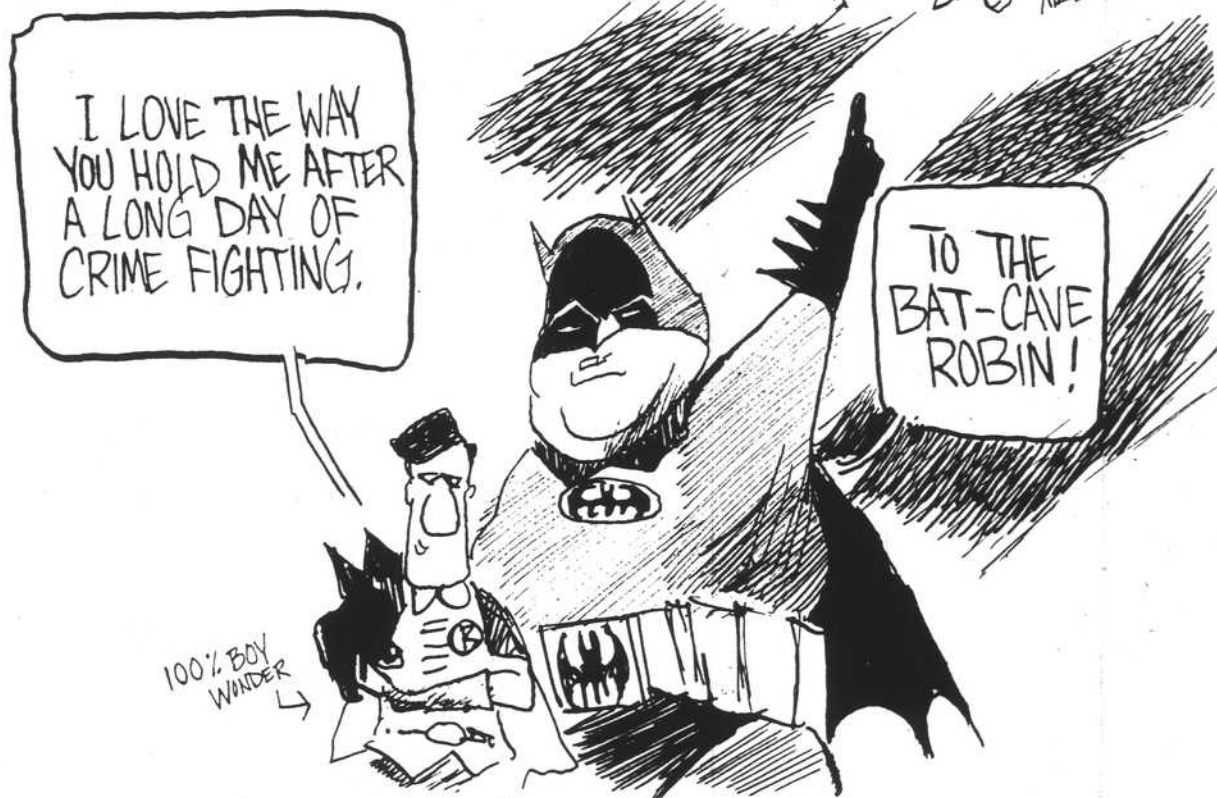
As law-abiding, tax-paying citizens we shouldn't put up with groups who threaten officers of the law or laws which we have set into place as part of our social contract.

What these groups don't realize is the federal government provides them with the infrastructure to exist.

Do they seriously believe, that without a federal government to protect them, another foreign power wouldn't find the U.S. to be fertile ground — for a colony? Do they seriously believe that their stockpile of weapons could fend off an invasion?

We hope not. But if so, then our own federal government should show them what a "foreign" invader could do — and at the same time alleviate some of the brashness of these "patriots."

## Mehsling's VIEW



Things that would not have been on television twenty years ago ...

## DN LETTERS

### So which is it?

I am writing in response to the column "Oinga boinga" in Tuesday's DN written by Tagi Adams. All of this multiculturalism talk is getting out of hand. Either these people are incredibly insecure or they just like to hear themselves talk politics.

Concerning Sigma Chi, there was no malicious ceremony held for the purpose of discrimination. That fraternity was founded for one reason. During the Civil War, men of all different races and faiths fought each other destroying the very brotherly love that fraternities were built on.

By the end of this war, the greek system was nearly obliterated. Several men from different sides of the war decided to rebuild the love that they once shared. They did this by founding a sacred fraternity of men who would not discriminate and hate one another; a society of brotherhood that would accept men of every race and faith equally.

These men started a ceremony of brotherhood that has lasted since then that included igniting a cross symbolizing a holy brotherhood that would last forever — a brotherhood for men of every color. The flames only signify the power of the friendship that greek men experience.

It is incredibly selfish of anyone on this campus to call this sacred ceremony racist, and I'm sure that every black man who saw what the founders of Sigma Chi did to pull the races together would roll in their grave if he knew how little some people appreciate what they did. I hope this lack of appreciation is only because of ignorance. These men devoted the rest of their lives to something that has existed ever since — a group of men who exhibit brotherly love regardless of race or faith.

This is Nebraska, a state full of corn-fed conservatives. Of course the majority of the people here are going to be "homophobic" or anti-transsexual or whatever else seems strange to a hard-working country man (or woman) who has been taught what is right and wrong according to the moral system that

has been passed down generation to generation from the very men and women who founded this country.

If you want to be gay or possess both organs of reproduction, fine. Just don't tell me, and definitely don't show me. I truly believe that the very issue of discrimination would die if minorities would accept the fact that they are accepted and if they would quit reading into every incident trying to find some display of discrimination that they can take their insecurities out on.

The men of Fiji meant no harm in their festive celebration of greek brotherhood, and there was no harm done. Every college student knows that islanders don't run around in grass skirts anymore ... but they did, and no one is making fun of them — it is only a theme.

Does anyone complain about ballroom parties where people wear white wigs and dress as the Whigs did? No, everyone knows that we are not making fun of the Whigs, we are only celebrating something that occurred in the past as a part of our heritage.

Are you saying that just because the men of Fiji are not from islands (as far as you know) that they cannot celebrate the heritage of our world? If you are, then you are racist. No greek member would be ashamed to have an islander or a black or a Jew or an Indian or anyone else of any color show up at a ballroom party dressed in long tails and a white wig.

The greek system exists to provide a place for men and women to make life-long friendships and learn about life. No fraternity or sorority excludes people because of their color — this is not even an issue. We recruit qualified men and women from every faith, race, economic group and geographical background.

It is your choice whether or not to become a member of the greek system, but if you choose not to, it is you who is excluding yourself from the ranks and there are no hard feelings from the greek members. We, the members of the greek system, are here for scholarship, brotherhood and the enjoyment of life, not death, destruction and world power.

We only ask that you not spite us for our decision to join in this system of friendship based on love for one another.

Finally, about the "recommendation" for Fiji to change their name, their name was drawn from the F

and G in (F)iji Gamma Delta, not from Fiji islanders. FGD doesn't sound as good as DG or ATO, so they got creative and came up with "FeeGee." There is no hidden insult in their nickname, so please don't try to find one.

Aaron Lee  
freshman  
veterinary science

### Raise the Roof

Have you ever been so excited at a sporting event that you just stood up and cheered? Nebraska football games can make you do that.

In the April 24 DN there was an editorial informing the readers that, according to Bill Byrne, UNL students need to learn to behave and calm their excitement during Husker football games, but to be in Memorial Stadium on GAME DAY is too exciting to sit still.

Students should be able to stand anytime they want.

Cheering shows pride in the school. The success of the football team has given students something to be proud about.

To rid the problem of standing students, place all the students in the lower tier of East Stadium. This idea was suggested in the editorial and seems to be a good solution. This way students can stand, other viewers can still see and everybody is happy. Perhaps the application form for tickets should ask "standing or non-standing section."

I am paying more than \$9,000 to attend this school, and I am willing to pay another \$87 for football tickets. I should be able to stand and cheer when I want.

Besides, if you want to sit down ... well, that's what timeouts are for.

Anna Ebert  
freshman  
dental hygiene

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