

OPINION PAGE

Our
VIEW

Public nuisance

Cal Thomas' attack on schools ridiculous

In the last few years, it has become commonplace to criticize the effectiveness, the safety and the overall quality of public schools.

Indeed, test scores and random bursts of violence have given fodder to this rhetoric, and voucher programs in several states have turned the rhetoric into action.

But a few weeks ago in Omaha, syndicated columnist Cal Thomas—a man whose penchant for the religious right and moral conservatism has been duly noted—crossed all lines of reasonable debate when he spoke at a fundraiser for Central Christian Schools.

In his keynote address to about 600 CCS supporters, Thomas vehemently lambasted public schools across the nation, at one point claiming he didn't want to criticize public schools; he wanted to "bury them."

Putting the blame for the behavior of American youths on a lack of moral instruction, Thomas called for an injection of good old-fashioned Christianity into curriculums across the country.

He trashed multicultural education, claiming that learning to appreciate (or at least tolerate) other cultures was taking time away from the basic reading/writing/arithmetic education.

He lamented the removal of the Bible from the public school system and the arrival of the metal detector.

And after he left, the debate raged on, culminating Friday with a decision by the Elmwood-Murdock School District to withdraw from all high-school athletic competitions with CCS.

While it would be easy to point out the countless flaws in Thomas' argument for the conversion of public education, we at the Daily Nebraskan would rather use Thomas' comments as an opportunity to illustrate the unfair maligning of public schools, particularly by right-wing politicians.

As proponents of family values and the teachings of the church, moral conservatives seem to place an unwieldy burden on public schools to be guiding lights for children.

And on the fiscal side, many of these conservatives call for tax cuts and reduced funding for federal programs that would help the schools they seem to despise so thoroughly.

If Thomas and his ilk had their way, Christianity would run roughshod through government and education on an equal level.

Their disregard for those with conflicting beliefs, their lack of sympathy for those less fortunate than them and their lack of competency when it comes to cause-effect relationships are the institutions that should be buried.

For now, Thomas' ignorance and CCS' compliance with it has only resulted in the cancellation of a few sporting events.

But if such ideas are left unchallenged, we may face the cancellation of much more, including some of the very ideas upon which this country was founded.

Mook's
VIEW



DN LETTERS

Rockin' in the school world

Right on. Todd Munson hit the nail on the head in Tuesday's Daily Nebraskan column "Rocky" road: The Huskers have taken a turn similar to Balboa's fall from grace."

I want to say that I am in full agreement. The Husker football team needs to quit getting involved in other things outside of school and football. After all, they are college students, and if they want to take time to get involved in promotions and other activities, they will have time after they leave UNL or graduate. I am still confident my favorite football team will beat Kansas State and go on to the Big 12 championship, but they aren't going to get it done going at it the way they have been. As for the fans of Nebraska football, remember, it isn't the end. We've been down before.

We have a young team, a new coach and we still have a winning record.

Sam Mortensen
sophomore
agriculture education

Save it

In Monday's issue of the DN, the column "Double Standard" (Tasha Kuxhausen) brought forth some troubling issues to me. I'll be honest, I disagree with many of the author's opinions.

First of all, the statement that "kids are going to have sex" seems to be the notion of today's society. WHY? Why as a culture do we have to accept this? Can we not, as an advanced civilization, change the accepted norm from pleasure seeking to one of morality? Yes, we can.

If parents won't teach their children, then the author is correct in saying the schools must. Children should be taught about the diseases and the consequences, but why not focus the education on the purpose of sex? For those who may still not know the

intent of sex, let me tell you, and in doing so, I will use a religious standpoint.

The purpose of sex is twofold. 1) Procreation, and 2) An expression of love between two married people. Many people only take a portion of this explanation to justify having sex. Using an excuse, such as "I really love this person, and I want to share with them in this special way," is not what God intended sex for. The objective is rather the acceptance of both reasons together.

With sex comes the responsibility of procreation. If people are not ready for that responsibility by using contraceptives, they should not be partaking in sexual activity, and if they are ready for the responsibility, they should love each other enough to be married. As humans, and the more intelligent beings on earth, shouldn't we stop abusing sex just to seek pleasure?

The author also states that "Marriage is for monogamy." I would like to add to that. Not only is marriage for monogamy, but sex is for monogamy, meaning one partner, for

ever. This brings me to the idea of saving oneself for that special person you will marry. The idea is known as abstinence. Schools should be teaching children to wait until they find the one they love enough to marry and are willing to create life with.

Sex is a "natural thing" and "part of life." More than that, however, it is a gift, a privilege two married people can share with each other. I am a virgin. I'm proud of my choice to remain abstinent. Through my faith and my parents instilling in me the morality and education about sex, and the choices that come with it, I have made my decision. Maybe I'm just a lucky exception to these times, but why can't we make the exception the norm? Are we afraid to set a new standard?

Think about it.

Anthony Egelhoff
junior
civil engineering

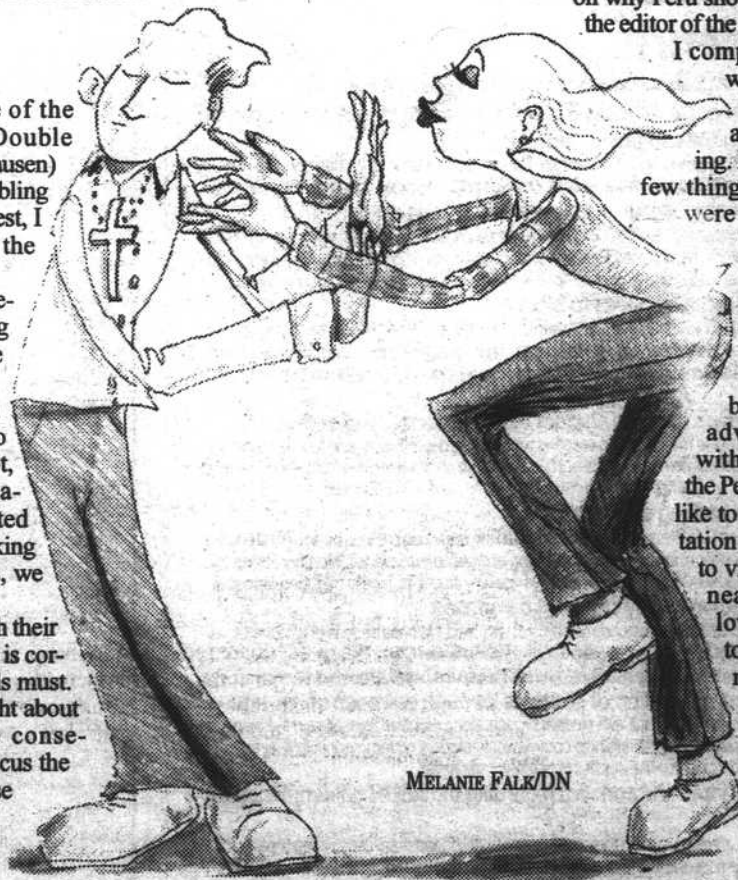
Peru State the facts

We here at PSC read your editorial on why Peru should close its doors. As the editor of the Peru State Times, may

I compliment you on your writing style and militant delivery. We appreciate good writing. However, there were a few things mentioned that we were confused about. We

debated over how to inform you of your miscommunications, and finally decided a trip to Peru State College might be an educational adventure for you. So, with that, we, the staff of the Peru State Times, would like to extend a formal invitation to you and your staff to visit our campus in the near future. We would love to give you a full tour and show you what makes our college so special.

Harold Davis
editor in chief
Peru State Times



MELANIE FALK/DN

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