

OPINION PAGES

Our VIEW

Cry foul Civil duty calls for president's resignation

Last week must have been a tough one for President Bill Clinton with White House lawyers denying his newest alleged crime.

After all, if they hadn't denied it, folks might have lent some weight to Juanita Broaddrick's charge that the president raped her 21 years ago in an Arkansas hotel room. Folks might have demanded the President resign.

But, apparently, that won't happen for William "Teflon" Clinton. How sad for America.

Not that any resignation would be justified by just the facts of Broaddrick's charges. There, the president will remain innocent. Why? Because he can't be proven guilty by an outdated case lacking evidence — even if, behind it all, stands a retired nursing home director with an honest face and a rather believable charge.

No medical examination records or any other evidence can substantiate Broaddrick's claim. Plus, she can't file charges — Arkansas has a six-year statute of limitations on sexual assault. Then again, she doesn't seem like she'd want to. She has said she only came forward so Americans would know "what kind of man (Clinton) is."

Oh, but we already know he's an unethical adulterer with a penchant for telling tall tales whenever his Arkie butt needs saving. That doesn't seem to matter as long as he's in office, and his power lends him credibility.

Broaddrick doesn't get that luxury. She proclaimed herself a victim with no evidence after the Barnum and Bailey of political circuses. She could be a lying pawn. She could be scheming just to rake in some dough, although she's refused money so far. She could be secretly bankrolled by that same vast right-wing conspiracy that gives Hillary terrible nightmares.

Or — just maybe — she could be telling the truth about her own *real* nightmare. That's irrelevant to the courts at this stage, but it shouldn't be irrelevant to the American people.

Why? Because when the charges arose, people rolled their eyes at yet another White House denial. Because people thought, "Jane Doe No. 5? Geez! What did he do to Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4?" Some thought, "Another one? Oh, big surprise."

Reactions proved people have abandoned all faith in their president and commander in chief.

Thus, the charges aren't weighty themselves, but they are relevant because the public reaction to them proves how Clinton has ruined the integrity of his office and can no longer lead effectively. Any dunce knows a system breaks down without credible leadership.

So please, write your state Congressmen and Congresswomen. Tell them Bill should move over and out. Tell them he made his moves, and they weren't good for America. Tell them the pressure to resign should be crushing.

Just be sure to say, "Get him out of here!" Please. It's past time.

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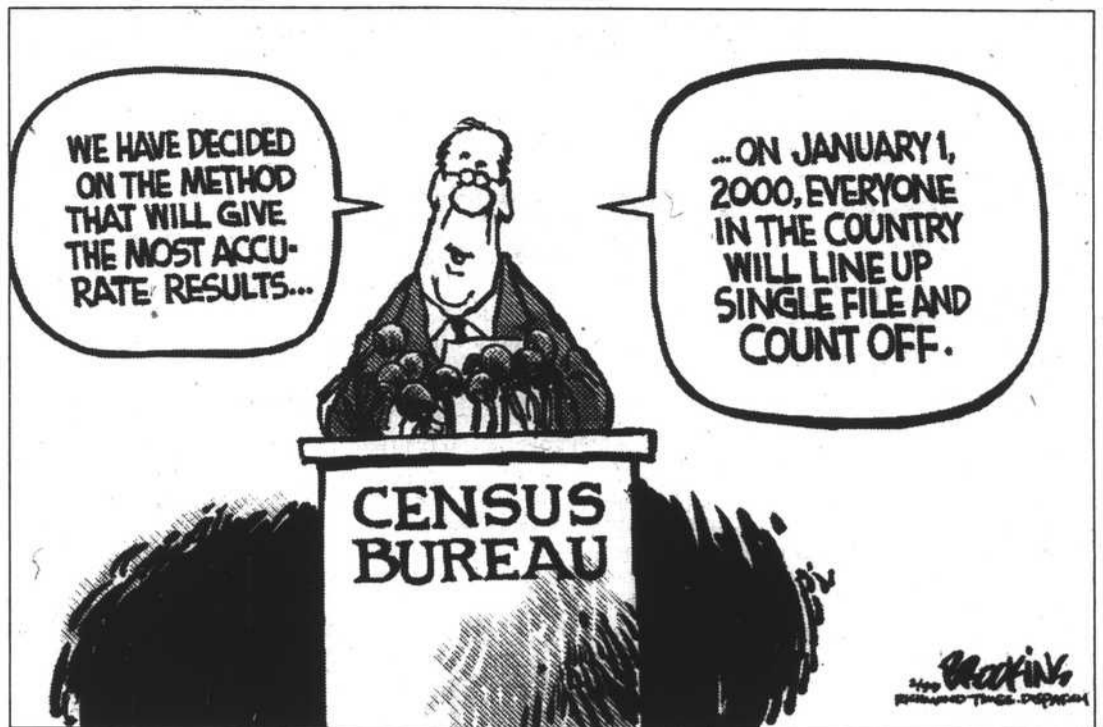
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Brookins' VIEW



DN LETTERS

Owning up

Yes, we did it.

The "feminazi" flier promoting Bay Buchanan's visit to campus last week was approved and distributed by the College Republicans executive board and other CR members. We take full responsibility for it. We do concede, our name should have been included somewhere on it, and we apologize for any confusion the omission may have created.

However, all apologies end there. We will never apologize for the content of the flier or for exercising our right to free speech.

On Friday, Barbara DiBernard, an associate professor of English and women's studies, misrepresented and took out of context the flier's meaning in a letter to the editor. She included in that letter excerpts of the flier she claimed made the piece "threatening," and she left out excerpts that would have instantly nullified this claim. If she had responsibly included the flier's entire contents, it would have been apparent to any sensible person, perhaps even a women's studies professor, that "feminazis" were to be best "beware" BECAUSE their radical views were about to be exposed by Buchanan.

The word "feminazi" is widely misunderstood by most as referring to all feminists. Not so. Rush Limbaugh, the man who coined the term, defines it as an especially radical feminist to whom the most important thing in life is ensuring that as many abortions as possible occur. In seeing that their mission is carried out, these "feminazis" often use Nazisque tactics to suppress any speech that contradicts their own.

DiBernard lacked any personal knowledge regarding Buchanan's speech and based her criticism upon hearsay.

Lastly, we want to say we are disappointed in the lack of open-mindedness and tolerance shown by some members of this campus for viewpoints they disagree with.

Are we sorry about the contents of the flier? Not one bit.

Josh Moening
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advertising and
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UNL CR secretary

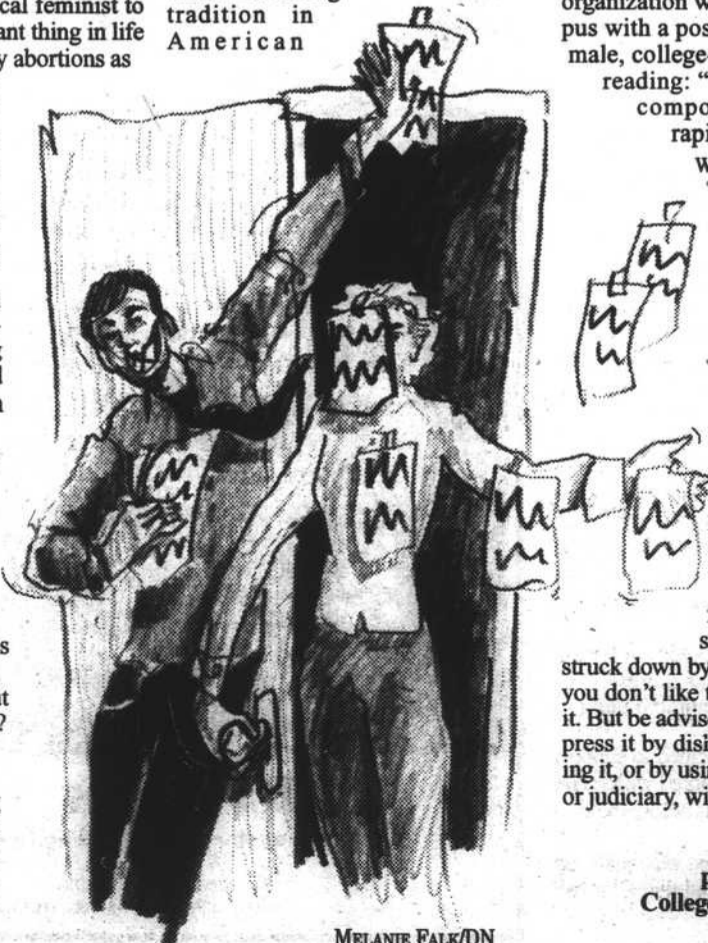
Rick Parsons
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Rush Limbaugh revisited

A letter in (Friday's) Daily Nebraskan from Barbara DiBernard, protesting the poster, is characteristically dishonest.

(1) DiBernard claims the poster is threatening. She tries to demonstrate this by quoting the poster, which said "...Feminazis, you best beware," making it appear to be a vague, and rather sinister, threat. However, DiBernard truncated the rest of the text, which goes on to say, "You're about to be exposed. Bay Buchanan is coming to town." Editing the text to make the threat appear to be general, rather than a specific threat of exposure, is a classic example of the sort of intellectual dishonesty for which feminism is notorious, and which is a strong factor in the lack of intellectual respect accorded to women's studies.

(2) DiBernard claims the poster is "inappropriate." "Inappropriate" is the great pejorative of the '90s, used when one doesn't like something but can't make a strong case why it should be banned. The poster was quite deliberately tongue-in-cheek, an example of good ol' fashioned rabble-rousing which has strong tradition in American



political culture.

The word "feminazi" was coined by Rush Limbaugh, originally to refer to feminists who seemed eager to maximize the abortion rate, but it obviously has hit a chord with the general populace, a chord which our women's studies faculty have done little to diminish. Not stated in DiBernard's letter was that one faculty member in that program filed a report with the University Police to try to suppress the poster. If one resents comparison with Nazis, might I humbly suggest that using the police to suppress speech one doesn't like is not a good way to prove one's case?

(3) The College Republicans were indeed negligent in not putting the name of the organization on the poster, but it is my understanding that they take full responsibility for it, and have no intention of disavowing it or of going through the "show-trial" exercise of expressing contrition for it.

(4) DiBernard apparently resents the fact the poster was posted on doors and bulletin boards of the Women's Studies program. While no doubt they would like to exclude the rest of the world from their sanctum, the Women's Studies program is part of the university, and their doors and bulletin boards are no different than the bulletin boards, say, in the department of chemistry. Two years ago, when the Women's Studies official student organization were papering the campus with a poster depicting a white, male, college-age student with text reading: "Safety alert: this is a composite of the average rapist," going on to warn women to avoid the "environs of the athletic department and of fraternities lest they be raped. They posted it all over my building, including on bulletin boards reserved for other purposes. Now, that was hate speech.

This is America, DiBernard. Feminist-inspired Orwellian tactics of suppressing contrary views by making the form of their expression illegal have been struck down by the Supreme Court. If you don't like the speech, try to rebut it. But be advised that attempts to suppress it by dishonestly misrepresenting it, or by using the university police or judiciary, will surely fail.

Gerry Harbison
professor of chemistry
College Republicans adviser

MELANIE FALK/DN