

OPINION PAGES

Our VIEW

No respect

Useless Louisiana law a burden to the books

Smile when you say that. This June, Mike Foster, governor of the state of Louisiana, signed into law legislation that will require the girls and boys of that state's elementary schools to show the respect due to the men and women who teach them.

Believed to be the first U.S. law mandating respectful conversation, it requires students, kindergarten through fifth grade, to address teachers and other school employees as "ma'am" or "sir," "Mr." or "Ms." as the case may be.

Students who fail to show the appropriate respect can be punished, though the law leaves enforcement of the rule in the hands of each of the 66 public school systems — with the only restriction being that students cannot be suspended or expelled for failing to comply.

At last the citizens of Louisiana can rest easy. No longer will they be terrorized in the night by 10-year-olds packing pistols.

Oh no. The law didn't take guns out of the hands of children, did it?

Well, at least Louisianans won't have to worry about their kids growing up to be loud and surly like New Yorkers or lax and familiar like those kids in California.

Not that Louisiana's problem (and every state has them) has ever been rudeness. Quite the contrary.

Louisianans are already more likely to address older people or people in authority with the appropriate titles than your average Wisconsinite.

In fact, and just going by the prevailing stereotypes (as we have been in comparing Louisiana to the other great states we've been maligning), the sons and daughters of Louisiana have been thought of as ignorant, backward hicks — a conception totally at odds with the real facts of the majority of Louisianans, but there you are.

This somewhat more significant image problem could possibly be rectified if the Legislature of that worthy state would spend more money and time actually improving the education their little tykes are to receive, than in burdening the already bloated statute books with one more useless, featherweight law.

Just a thought.

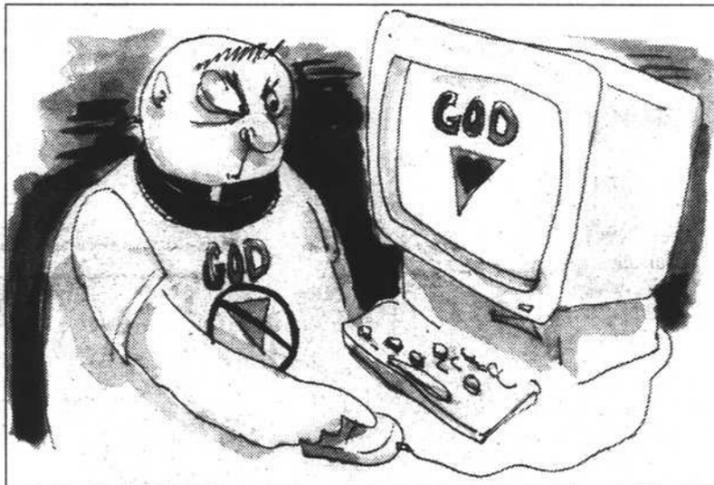
“Well, at least Louisianans won't have to worry about their kids growing up to be loud and surly like New Yorkers or lax and familiar like those kids in California.”

Obermeyer's VIEW

At an inter-fraternity meeting, this year's rush statistics are discussed



DN LETTERS



MELANIE FALK/DN

God Hates Hackers!

The "Reverend" Fred Phelps of the infamous Westboro Baptist Church, Topeka, Kan., is well known nationally for his homophobic bigotry and for his mantra, "God hates fags!"

Phelps has established a considerable presence on the World Wide Web at www.godhatesfags.com, where one could find dozens of hateful documents, photos of Matthew Shepard burning in hell, and even sound clips of Phelps preaching against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, apparently very amused with himself.

On Aug. 18, an anonymous good Samaritan ended Phelps' presence on the Web by transferring ownership of the godhatesfags.com domain to the GLBT rival organization, "God Loves Fags," owned by Kris Haight of New Hampshire and Web-mastered by Rich Mackey of Nebraska.

The GodLovesFags site owners explain that they received an anonymous e-mail on August 17 telling them to "pay close attention" to the godhatesfags.com Internet information over the next few days.

The next day they were the surprised recipients of an authentic and legal transfer of the godhatesfags.com domain to their ownership.

Since then, GodLovesFags has logged over 30,000 visitors, about 50 times their typical traffic, and access rates are climbing.

So far, 604 supportive e-mails (and counting) have been logged and only nine hateful e-mails.

How long will GodLovesFags will retain ownership of the godhatesfags.com domain?

We're not sure. Could be a day, could be forever. We intend to keep it the way it is as long as we can.

Many are regarding the domain transfer from the anonymous Samaritan as a gift from God.

The Lord works in mysterious ways.

Sarah Fox, Ph.D.
chief administrator
QUILL News and
Communications

Editor's note: At press time the godhatesfags.com domain seems again to be contested. Surf on over for further developments.

So you moved out of the residence halls and got your own new apartment?
May We Suggest...

1. Replace the battery in the smoke detector. God knows how long it's been in there, and a dead battery can make a dead fella pretty easy. You don't want to wind up a shrinked skellington, do ya? Sixty cents and you could maybe pull your fat out of the fire.
2. Check with the Better Business Bureau before you sign that six-month lease, dope! Too late? Then for cryin' out loud:
3. Know your renters' rights! When you're up against it, Student Legal Services can back you up. They can't represent you in court, but they can tell you how to get there if it comes to that. They also keep a handy list of deadbeat, slum lord, never-gonna-fix-that big-hole-in-the-ceiling where-the-raccoons-get-in landlords, so you can look up how to spell that so-and-so's name.

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The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor and guest columns, but does not guarantee their publication. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Submitted material becomes property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Those who submit letters must identify themselves by name, year in school, major and/or group affiliation, if any. Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. Lincoln, NE. 68588-0448. E-mail: letters@unlinfo.unl.edu.

P.S. Write Back

Send letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 "R" St., Lincoln, NE 68588, or fax to (402) 472-1761, or e-mail letters@unlinfo.unl.edu. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification