

Spread the caring

People caught up in blindly loving or hating religion are wasting time



Even today, we "forget" to converse with those not sharing our beliefs.

We're afraid of being tainted. But why? I don't understand the enigma of the "heathen," as we so insolently call them.

Not OF the world:

Don't forget that even in these safe havens called churches, we often become corrupted.

When pettiness and back-stabbing makes its way into our sanctuaries, we're falling behind.

When the churches of the Middle Ages defiled themselves and sold salvation, it was definitely setting us on the road to perversion. But it did not start there.

When the churches in Christ's time split over Jews and Gentiles, it definitely sent the wrong message concerning brotherly love. But it did not start there.

It all came down to the fall of man, baby. Oh yeah, we've been screwed up since day one.

Let me explain. You, non-believers. You don't care that churches scream damnation. It scares you, sure. But not enough to make you run.

You don't care that Christians are hypocrites. It disgusts you, sure. But not enough to make you spit.

The problem lies with you. Ha! I've always wanted to say that.

All of you out there who think you're so politically correct, so empathetic toward the plight of women, reaching out in love to that other culture in need; you're still a bigot.

When you scream about the virtues of equality, and join in the marches, your motives are no better than the Klan member down the street.

Why? How do I have the right to say this?

I've seen it happen.

Atheists. Agnostics. Those holding a belief system based on not believing.

I've seen you immediately clam up the second you find out someone is a Christian, giving them the cold shoulder.

If everyone deserves equality, why are we, Christians, suddenly treated as no-minds, weirdos, losers?

And Christians. Catholics. Protestants. Believing often only what's easy for us.

If everyone should be loved as yourself (the second most important commandment, let us be reminded), why are the "lost" treated as evil, yucky creatures?

Let me remind you, we were once that way and still are without Christ.

So quit it!

Love your brother!

I fail often enough. Every day. Choosing not to love. Choosing not to erase the critical nature from my spirit. Choosing not to expunge my pride.

Now that we're coming to the dawning of a new era, people are actually divided over when the Rapture of the church will occur!

(For those of you who don't know, that's when Jesus Christ comes back for the second time to take his church - all those who have taken Him as Lord and Savior - with him into heaven. Those left will go through the Great Tribulation.)

As if the date of this were the most crucial detail of our lives, it has spawned mass chaos.

Well, let's get one thing straight right now. It does not matter.

And those of us who are actually concerned

“
It all came down to the fall of Man, baby. Oh yeah, we've been screwed up since day one.”

Organized religion is a big joke. I never cease to hear this. Everyone will confirm it. No one wants to get involved in it.

I can tell you right now. Having been raised in an era where nothing makes sense, we are screwed up. Plain and simple:

Our God-fearing president is a poster child for tainted morals.

Our churches fight and split factions over the color of a sanctuary's carpet.

And religious artifacts are sold like candy, making more money than Husker memorabilia.

Something is wrong.

The church is supposed to be, by definition, a body of believers, who have been called out from the world, set apart to profess faith in and give allegiance, in the case of Christianity, to Jesus Christ.

Christians are human. They are fallible. They come together because there is support in numbers.

They are supposed to "be in the world, but not of it."

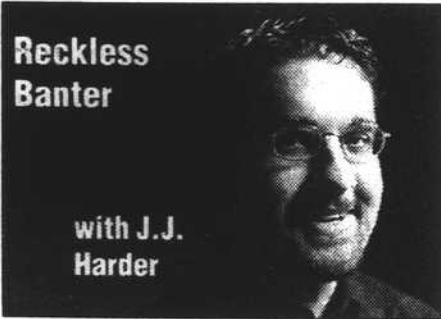
IN the world:

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Ticket trauma

Stadium should be for students, not the highest bidders

Reckless Banter



with J.J. Harder

Dear Mr. Byrne:

Sorry to bother you at a time like this. I know it's a little hectic, with Evans cryin' his way off the team and Bobby finally getting moved to wingback. But I'm writing of more pleasant things - like last week's big win.

What did you think of the game? I'm wondering because I know you enjoyed the view from your plush new skybox recliner, while I was fooling with a remote control and rabbit ears.

That's right. You got a cute young waitress bringing Fairbury Franks right to your lap while I was eating stale Tostitos.

You see, I didn't have the 110 bones to send you so I could be immersed in the Sea of Red this season. Maybe I can exchange one of my kidneys for a ticket to a game sometime. But I'm gonna get a cheap ticket about the time you fit into a 32-inch pair of pants.

What I'm trying to tell you is that the tickets are way too overpriced. I know you don't think about us students while your sipping your official Pepsi product upstairs, but Billy - it's about time you did.

Let's just begin with the price of the ticket. Eighteen bucks? Really, do you know how much that amount of money means to a college student? It's three pizzas, buddy.

You are totally bending us over. It's a full enema! Do you know how much it costs to see a game if you're a student at any other big 12 school? The average is \$8.07, with \$9 for a Sooner game and \$4 in Boulder!

And as for other championship programs, well, this next part might make you madder than Jay Runtty when he saw the depth chart:

At Florida State, Tennessee and Miami, students see the games for free.

That's right, Billy Bob - for FREE! At those universities, students are truly valued. They are appreciated. They are not given the shaft.

And the shaft is exactly what we're getting. In fact, we're getting that shaft Byrne-style all the

way to the corner of the end zone. Can you even see us through that tinted window? Don't strain your eyes, Willie, call the waitress for a pair of binoculars.

Look for that thin slice of coeds in the Southeast corner of the end zone. Yeah, right by your precious HuskerVision screen. See us, Bill? Can you even tell if we're standing on our seats?

While our student section is a pathetic glob divided into two quadrants of the stadium, other colleges have huge student contingencies right on the field.

Take, for example, California. Their student section begins at the 40 yard line with row 1. Not row 1 section GG or row 1 of the upper deck. I'm talking about the 20-feet-from-the-players kind of row 1. That, my money-grubbing friend, is a student section.

And as for the Big 12, you may not want to hear this either,

partner. Every single school in the conference has better student seating than we do.

Some just extend to the 20-yard line, others the 35. Missouri and Oklahoma have the students on the 50. No, not 15, Byrne. The 5 - 0.

I remember a game at K-State a few years ago where I saw how valuable the student section was. I was there a full hour before the game, and the student section was completely full. There they were, purple clad collegians on the 25, yelling with the spirit squad to pump up for the game.

Being born a Kansan, it was awesome to see. And, B-dogg, we can't have that kind of a presence at Memorial. All of our chest-painted rowdies and flask-hiding frat boys are making their noise in the corner of the end zone. It's pathetic. It really is.

And then there's the whole skybox

thing. You're charging these Nebraska corporations millions a year to sit in air conditioning, watch TV and enjoy a nice selection of refreshing beverages. It's basically a big sports bar without the smoke. Oh, and I guess it's close to the field.

I can't blame these fans - I wouldn't complain if my boss gave me free tix to a game. But the difference between Berkshire Hathaway and J.J. Harder, Bill, is that it is a company and I am a University of Nebraska student. This institution is not here for Nebraska businesses, Nebraska families and especially not for an Idahoan like you, Bill-o.

And that means Memorial Stadium, too.

That stadium is for the thousands of alumni who continue to give back to the university decades after they graduate.

That stadium is for the kids that are going to graduate in May and will want to remember the great times they had at games throughout their four years here.

And that stadium is here most importantly for those freshmen that haven't experienced the awe of Husker gameday - the tunnel walk, the starting lineup, the fight song and the feel of being a winner. Even though we don't play, we still feel like we helped get that mark in the "W" column. We still feel like we were part of something special each Saturday.

But we can't afford tickets, Bill. And we don't have good seats, Bill.

Don't get me wrong. I think you've done a great job here. Without you, we wouldn't have HuskerVision at Memorial or Devaney. We wouldn't have John Walker and Paul Sanderford as head coaches. And without you, the 'Skers wouldn't be running for touchdowns on the soon-to-sweep-across-the-country FieldTurf.

Why? Because you care about nothing but the bottom line, like you're supposed to. You're a businessman - plain and simple.

Unfortunately, Bill, this is one of those times you're supposed to suck it up and give in to the students.

We're not asking for skybox seats. We're not even necessarily asking for free tickets. Just do like Coach Solich did. When he saw that Crouch was the best QB, he moved him to No. 1. So put the students in first and make the money second-string.



Sincerely,

J.J. Harder

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