

OPINION PAGES

Our VIEW

Sign of the times

ACLU wants KU to remove Moses from seal

The University of Kansas has made the news recently, with the American Civil Liberties Union working to have its traditional seal removed or changed.

The seal depicts Moses before the burning bush, a familiar theme from the Bible.

KU, as a public institution, should not have a religious icon on its seal, the ACLU argues.

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And though it is also true that, as a prophet, he represents a religious perspective, the significance of Moses goes far beyond this.

The figure of Moses looms large in Western culture, particularly in his role as lawgiver.

The advent of the written law

code had vast implications for western culture, including the development of democracy. Moses was a vital part of this process.

No longer would judges rule at a whim or in favor of the largest bribe: Anyone who could read could refer to the law for protection.

And Moses represents something else: the liberator of a downtrodden and enslaved race.

If Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were depicted on the seal, would the ACLU complain because he was also a reverend?

The separation of church and state is not a light-hearted whim of America's founders but the very capstone of religious freedom.

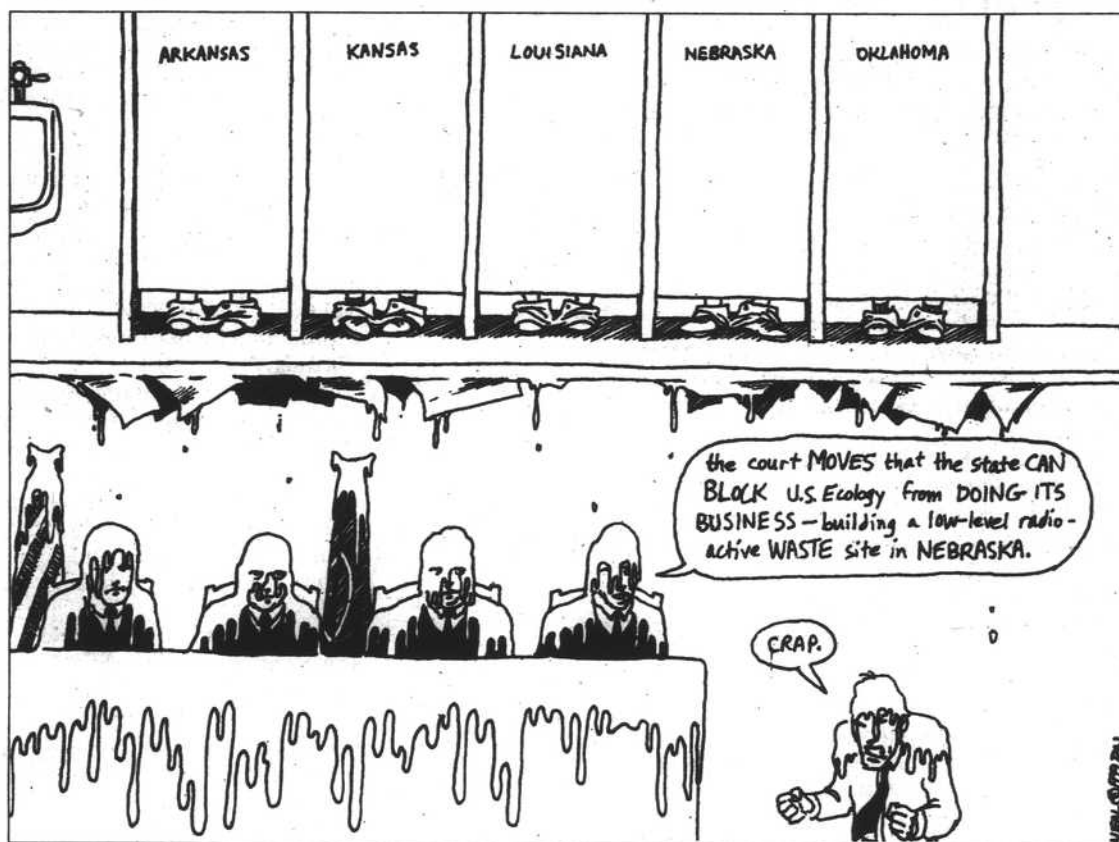
However, the concept can be misapplied, particularly in cases where other interpretations or emphases are possible and even productive.

Moses stands for all of us, for the highest traditions and aspirations of the West. Not as opposed to any other of the cardinal directions, but as opposed to the arbitrary tyrant of economic or political power without the civilizing influence of law.

But the times, they are a changin', and maybe KU should change with them.

May we suggest the cost-cutting measure of simply replacing Moses with Charlton Heston?

Obeymeyer's VIEW



DN LETTERS

To Catch an Emu

There is no reason that that emu had to be shot.

If you can get close to it, you can catch it. So how do you get close to it? Let it come to you. Do not scare or chase it. A bucket of feed works great.

They are a curious bird.

And how do you actually catch it? Well, first you need the right tools. All you need is a broom stick, a coat hanger and a pillow case. Make a large loop out of the hanger and fasten it on the broom stick. Then attach the pillow case to the hanger. It is kind of like a butterfly net.

Now all you have to do is get the pillow case over the bird's head.

Cover the bird's head, and you can lead the bird anywhere. I personally use a sock, but if the bird is scared, you should use the net.

And if you do get the bird netted, don't try to hold him with it. He will stop on his own.

My family raises both emu and rheas. If they can't see the light of day, you can guide them all over the place. This is how we move the birds from one pen to the other.

Kevin Marquette
freshman
computer science

Understated Sarcasm

Mr. Obermeyer, how dare you? Your cartoons, if you will - and I think you will - do not reflect what I and this university are all about: red.

Day in and day out, I put on my Nike pants, zipped at the ankles, and my red Husker jersey (mesh) and gleam with pride as I step on to this campus.

I am red. You should try it, too.

Sometimes I get beat up, but I put on my smile and swerve on and keep it going.

Mr. Obermeyer,

realize what's true. Start making fun of things worthy of making fun of, if you know what I mean - and I think you do.

Make fun of me if you want. Punch me, toss me, whatever. Just please keep your cartoons in good taste.

Your friend, Red.

Seth I. Witkowicz
broadcasting
senior

Ober-rated Cartoonist

I am writing in response to the cartoon in the paper on Oct. 27 and the follow-up cartoon on Monday.

Two days before the first cartoon appeared, golf champion Payne Stewart boarded a small jet in Orlando, Fla., bound for Texas, where Stewart would be competing in the Tour Championship this weekend.

Shortly after they were in the air, the cabin lost its air pressure and everyone aboard died. The plane flew on autopilot until it ran out of gas and crashed in South Dakota.

So, what does this have to do with the cartoons in the paper? I don't know. You tell me.

I would like to know who in the hell is so sick in the head that they would think this is funny. Maybe the first cartoon wasn't supposed to be directed at the crash, but rather at the Reform Party, but it was still wrong. A lot of people are angry at these cartoons because they deal with a great loss of a great man, a role model, a leader and a hero to many, including me.

I took his death as though someone whom I know and love had died. You made light of a situation that is a tragedy for his family, friends and the golf world.

He came such a long way. From his father's death in 1986, to his mother's alcoholism, he raised a family and won tournaments when nobody thought he could. He was such a fun person with an unforgettable personality who will now be remembered by photographs and past videos.

So the point is, if you are so stuck on making fun of something, and you can't come up with any other way to do it except by making light of a tragedy, then you shouldn't be working for a newspaper.

Cartoons are supposed to make people smile, and the only thing it did to me was break my heart and put a tear in my eye.

You should be ashamed of yourself.

Kristin Kucera
sophomore
business administration



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