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**Life span . . .**

Continued from Page 4  
 The books, as the authors admit, "not a scientific treatise. It is more like friendly advice." The friendly advice runs from hints on remembering names, to admonitions against turning into a bore or a backseat driver. Some of the parcels of advice will sound familiar or even mundane. There are sentences that turn into aphorisms: "The more reason we have to pay attention to life, the less we have to pay attention to death... The nothing-to-do or boredom is nothing-you-want-to-do."

But for a people who waver between rank pessimism and fairy-tale fantasies about old age, this is a wonderfully refreshing treatment. Despite, or perhaps because of, the frankness about the potential problems of age, it is fundamentally optimistic about the human condition.

Skinner insists that the majority of us can learn to manage our environment to make life better. If we can adjust to old age, we can adjust our everyday worlds to age and enjoy more of it. That's not a bad thought to remember for a life-span of 74 1/2 years.

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**Letters**

**Facilities better**

It is unfortunate that there are individuals who believe computer science and academic computing at UNL still are struggling for support and are ignored because of the popularity of Cornhusker football. Pointing to the throngs at Memorial Stadium and declaring that they should be supporting the computer programming team is not only missing the point, but ignoring the facts.

In his letter (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 13), Woody Meeker claims that computer science at UNL is a "continuing in anonymity." While this description may have applied a year ago, it certainly cannot be used today. Computing facilities at UNL are getting better. Last year, the College of Engineering and Technology invested approximately \$500,000 in a state of the art VAX-11/780 super-mini computer which has served more than 1,300 users for nine months. This summer, the College of Arts and Sciences purchased another VAX which is already installed and serving more than 1,000 users.

It must also be mentioned that one month ago, a contract was signed with Control Data Corporation which will give UNL a third, separate, computer network. By the projected date of June 1985, two minicomputers, one mainframe and various peripherals will be provided by Control Data at a total cost of \$3.2 million to serve educators at UNL and across Nebraska.

Indeed, within the last three months, the entire structure of academic computing at UNL has been entirely overhauled. Granted, there are still many problems, but it is important to note that the administration involved recognize all of these problems and are working on alternatives.

These are the facts, this is the point: The success or failure of any program depends more on the efforts of the individuals involved than on the amount of publicity the program gets. The time has come to stop resenting the popularity of the football team and start finding solutions to the real problems before us.

Bruce Oberg  
 senior  
 math

**Argument refuted**

I am sure Christopher Burbach will receive many scathing replies to his column (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 12). While his article was unfortunate, misinformed and totally erroneous on several key points, it would be even more unfortunate for me, as a Christian, to reply in unkind or derogatory terms. So, in a spirit of love and with a quest for understanding and truth, allow me to correct the points at which Burbach is mistaken.

First, concerning his contention that that Exodus 20:13 says, "Thou shalt not kill. Period." It does not. Burbach probably is not a Hebrew scholar, and that is OK. One does not have to be well-versed in the biblical languages to understand the Bible. However, if he would check practically any modern translation of the Bible, he would see that Exodus 20:13 is translated, "You shall not murder." The context and the

word deal with personal ethics, and the prohibition is not against killing of any kind, but against an individual exercising a personal vendetta in taking the life of another.

Second, concerning the presupposition that the United States is "a Christian nation." There is no concept in the entire New Testament of a Christian nation. Only people can be Christians. At no point in its history has the United States ever had even close to a majority of people who were active, committed Christians, let alone an overwhelming enough percentage to justify referring to it as "a Christian nation."

Third, concerning the justification of military buildup and war of any kind. I wish things could be as simple as Burbach thinks they are. I wish we could just say, "Hey, this is dumb. Let's stop!" But we can't. War is never the best possible solution. But too often it is the only solution — even for those who wear the name of Christ. We are called to be good citizens — patriotism is a Christian duty. There are things worth dying (and killing) for.

Finally concerning the final statements of the article. The Bible has a lot to say about what makes a "true Christian," but none of them refer to Burbach's subject. Unless he can give me book, chapter and verse for his rash statement, I graciously request that he not render such blatant judgments on the Christianity of many exceptional believers.

James F. Sennet  
 campus minister  
 The Agape House

**Weapons needed**

I agree with Christopher Burbach that the nuclear proliferation the United States seems so fond of continuing is horrible (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 12). However, it is simply absurd and unreasonable to toss aside all our weapons, no matter that it may "cost us our freedom or even our lives."

Burbach is living in a dream world. He believes we should toss aside every weapon we have. Not that I am paranoid or anything, but it is hard to imagine the United States would be safe from countries such as Russia, China or Iran if we dismantled our weaponry entirely.

In addition, I disagree with Burbach's labeling of the United States as a "Christian nation." I do not claim to be a Christian. Does this mean I am not a member of this nation? After 23 years, it would be hard for me to accept that I am a man without a country.

This is a nation of all beliefs, a nation which makes decisions based on how it will help all the people, a nation whose leaders base their decisions on the problems of today and don't use the Bible as a guideline.

Tom Shelton  
 senior  
 economics

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