

Letters

Deprogrammers devious

I would like to take exception to the article (Daily Nebraskan, Nov. 14) in which "Karen Smith", a UNL student, recalled her "nightmare" experience with the Unification Church.

The article portrays deprogramming with too much legitimacy. Deprogrammers supposedly rescue young people from "vicious cults" who seek to "brainwash" their converts. I want to declare that "Karen Smith" is not a victim of the Unification Church, but rather is a victim of deprogramming.

Deprogrammers illegally abduct people against their own will, subjecting them to threats or even physical abuse so that the convert to the new religious movement will renounce his or her beliefs. "Karen Smith" was kidnapped and dragged into a van and driven around for 12 hours. I know that in her 12 hours in the van, she was thoroughly programmed by her captors. They fed her mind with fear, doubt and half-truths about the Unification

Church, convincing her that by being in the Rev. Moon's church, her mind would become a vegetable, she would be completely indoctrinated, and that she would be a "tool for Moon who is only in it for the money." This is a consistent practice of deprogrammers to discredit the Unification Church. I know this from my own experience with deprogrammers and the experience of others who escaped from their deprogrammer captors.

William D. Rogg
director
Unification Church of Nebraska

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

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'Superior species' set apart by greed

As humans, we call ourselves the "superior species." We are able to think, to reason and to manipulate resources to fill our wants and needs. In light of these capabilities we declare our existence superior to all other species that inhabit the earth. After all, their purpose in life is only to survive. We, on the other hand, seek to live lavishly with every possible convenience.

In that distinction lies a crucial difference between humans and all

played as trophies.

Another index of human greed is our treatment of land and resources. We require a certain amount of land and resources for survival, but we must realize that in order for the earth and all life forms to survive we cannot use them all.

In the last few decades, encouraging new alternative methods of energy have been discovered. However, certain groups of our superior species are doing their best to keep the alternatives from developing into viable energy sources. For instance, we have the technology to utilize solar energy and petroleum power substitutes. But developing them further could mean the giant oil, gas and coal companies would lose a great deal of money.

Perhaps the most frightening aspect of human greed is our inability to live in peace. One country wants to impose certain ideologies that other countries object to, and they fight. Another country wants the minerals and resources that a different country has, and they fight. We are killing off each other to get more land, more resources, and in order to gain superiority over the rest of our superior species.

It seems ironic that humans, relative newcomers to earth, are the species that will eventually destroy the planet. If only we could learn a lesson in living from the subordinate species around us, maybe a more acceptable fate would destine our lives. Because if we are to survive, we have no choice but to change our way of life. If we don't change, if we don't begin to respect the earth and all species including our own, our only destiny will be extinction.



Janet Ward

other species, something that we have that no other life form on earth will ever have: greed.

No other species is greedy. Other species hunt prey when they (or their offspring) are hungry, seek shelter in inclement weather and are mutually beneficial to nature's life cycles.

We no longer rely on hunting for food. There now are much more sophisticated means of feeding ourselves. For instance, we raise animals in confinement and isolation, supplement their diets with chemicals to make them grow larger and faster, slaughter them when they attain proper weight, and freeze their flesh to be eaten at some later date.

The hunting that humans participate in is not for survival, but for pleasure. It is true that some of the animals we kill are eaten, but that doesn't make up for the thousands that are killed and beheaded, their carcasses left to rot, their heads dis-



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