

**opinion**  
READER

# Readers answer pro/con on death penalty

## Sentence supported

I am fully in favor of the death penalty. All I can really say about it is this: If some lunatic butchered one of my friends or a member of my family, I'd want the "lunatic" off this earth so he wouldn't have any possible chance to do it again.

Lisa Donovan, in your column, you said "... no one should be allowed to decide another human being's fate." Exactly. Ted Bundy decided the fate of a 12-year-old girl, and deserved exactly what he got.

Andrew Meyer  
freshman  
pre-med

be put away for the cruel and unjust actions he did, but capitol punishment is not right. I certainly have condolences for the murdered victims' families. And I'm sure if someone killed someone close to me I'd be mad as hell, but believe me, I wouldn't think twice or even consider the death penalty for anyone. Those in favor of such an inhumane act ought to put themselves in the chair right along with the killer. Remember what Jesus said. "Those without sin should cast the first stone." Think about it.

Jay Failla  
junior  
broadcasting

## Penalty condemned

Is there such a thing as justice and forgiveness? In the real world we live in, I think not. Think about it people, who are we as human beings to take another's life. Sure, Ted Bundy exemplified to the nation that he must

## Killers lose rights

Lisa Donovan made one good point in her editorial opposing the death penalty, but only one. She said, "No one should have the right to determine another person's fate." That is true, but she applies the logic where it does not apply, and does not apply it where it should be applied.

She makes little mention in her letter about the victims of these convicted murderers. What have these murderers done but decide another person's fate? They have taken away another person's right to choose their own fate.

Her statement falls down when she tries to apply it to the death sentence. As long as the death sentence is a possibility of punishment for convicted murderers, then, by committing a murder, the murderer is taking his fate into his own hands. The courts are not deciding someone else's fate, someone has already decided it.

She also talks about the cost of appeals vs. the cost of keeping someone in jail for 40 years. The fact is, first degree murderers average only 18 years in jail. That means that for everyone who serves 40 years, two would serve only about 10 years. As a taxpayer, I would rather shell out a few more dollars and make sure the murderer is permanently removed from society.

However, I do think the appeals process should be made more efficient. There should be a maximum of six months or a year in which all appeals must be exhausted. This may mean giving these cases first priority in the courts, but it should save a lot of time and money used in appealing.

Lisa also talks about these convicts having meaningful lives. Is she

kidding? I'm sure they pondered long and hard over how meaningful their victims' and their victims' families' lives would be after the fact.

The death penalty is not an atrocious act similar to the Holocaust (A truly ludicrous comparison Miss Donovan). It is a rational, logical way to remove from society those members who have violated society's laws in such a way that they have taken another person's life. Those people don't deserve to decide their fate any longer. They gave up that right when they chose to take that right from someone else.

Brent Boettcher  
junior  
ag honors

## Killer link foolish

This letter is not to argue the validity of capital punishment but is to discuss Lisa Donovan's erroneous analogy of a religious persecutor with the sentencing of murderers.

Lisa's correlation of the U.S. judicial system and Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany has to rank as one of the most ludicrous statements printed by the Daily Nebraskan. This pro-con editorial stems from the Jan. 24 execution of Ted Bundy. Our judicial system sentenced Bundy to death based on ONE of 36 reported heinous

murders of young women. Adolf Hitler was a confirmed psychopath who sentenced MILLIONS to death solely based on religious beliefs.

Lisa has the audacity to link a murderer of innocent millions to the sentencing of a habitual woman murderer? Come on, Lisa, this reminds me of a debate team when people had to defend a topic against their general beliefs. You could always detect an incompetent debater based on their grasping for irrelevant information. Either Lisa was asked to defend a topic she didn't believe in or she's a naive student who requires a history refresher.

Whatever the case, she presented an atrocious analysis of capital punishment.

Lisa's credentials at the bottom of her article state she's a junior news-editorial major and senior arts and entertainment reporter. My opinion is that Lisa should stick to reporting for arts and entertainment because her apparent understanding of current and past events is lacking. If Lisa pursues a career in journalism she shouldn't put this article in her resume -- she would probably be laughed out of an interview.

By the way, I would favor the execution of Adolf Hitler!

Jeff Johnson  
graduate student  
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