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Daily Nebraskan

about oth

I checked my watch again and settled back into my comfy chair. There's nothing like a good comfy chair: it rocks, it swivels, it eases the mind.

Another two or three minutes and the three of us were supposed to get together from the safety of our homes. We would use images of the door in the bar as a trigger to help make the telepathic link

I surveyed my room and its familiar contents. The computer, the books, some cooking things and a bedroll. Easy to pack, easy to move. I had been in a sleeping pod for a while, then found an abandoned room and fixed it up.

The pod was nice but too cramped, too many people. Here, I could relax and finally get started on my own work. Except for this whole business we were involved

Mary? Drake? Are you there?

Yep, I'm here.

Me too. (I had gotten used to letting those two do most of the talking. Or thinking, or whatever it

Everyone all tucked in for bed? Ha, I'll be up all tonight working on a program. I've been out of the network too long.

How about you, Karen?

I've been wondering about

something. I used to always be so scared when I heard all those voices and I didn't know what they were. I almost forgot about all this once I

finally met the two of you. So what's the problem? Sounds

like you're doing better now. That's the whole thing. I haven't heard any of the other voices lately.

Just you guys, when we want to.

(Whoa, she was right. I used to hear more voices than ours as well.)

Yeah, I was thinking about that the other day. (Sure I was.)

Do you think something has happened to them? Wouldn't they

still be trying to reach us?
(Flash! I had something valuable to contribute, for once.) Maybe we shouldn't do this. That could be



how they got the others. If there's

something going on.

But why? They had us right there.
We went straight to their headquarters. And they let us walk right out. It doesn't make any sense. What if they didn't know who

you were? (That was Karen. She hadn't been with us on that little

But they did, they told us all about it, the whole research program we told you about.

I don't know. I want to meet tomorrow. This whole thing wor-

ries me. The park again?

Great. Sure. (Mary and I spoke, orthought, or whatever at the same time. It isn't like a conversation, where people talk one at a time. It gets a little confusing, but this goes faster.)

I was the first one at the park. It gave me some time to think on things, totry to sort this out. Karen's idea still was bugging me.

She was right. We all used to hear a bunch of voices earlier, and

now it's just us three. And there had to be a reason for it.

Why would the company come back after us all? We had been right there in front of them, the perfect opportunity

How had they found the others? They might know where the three of us are now. Or maybe they only could find us when we made the mental link. If that was so, they might already be after us.

I don't know how long I had been there, but it was definitely too long. They were more than fifteen minutes late. One or the other I could understand, but I started to

worry with both missing.

I rose and made another circuit of the park, trying to think if I had misunderstood the plans made last night. That couldn't be. It was ten in the morning, today, here in the park. There's no way any of us could have messed it up

A second circuit, and still no sign of them. I rounded the third corner and saw two men walking toward me. I paused, then figured if they wanted me, they would get me no matter what I did.

Peterson is a senior psychology and philosophy major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter and columnist. This is the 10th in a continuing series.

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