



## Journalist warns of threat to U.S. liberties

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick  
Senior Reporter

Moralists could change Constitution, he says

The United States is engaged in a culture war that could threaten Americans' constitutional liberties, journalist Lyle Denniston told about 250 people Wednesday at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery. "Many groups, and individuals, of course, would like to turn the Constitution into their own moral manifesto," he said. "That, it seems, is occurring with greater frequency these days — and it is that which is

largely responsible for the darkening of the American constitutional mood." Denniston, a Nebraska City native and a University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate, has covered the U.S. Supreme Court for 32 years. Now a reporter with the Baltimore Sun, he is an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University and a legal commentator for the C-SPAN cable network. Denniston said that "hard-eyed

moralists," insecure about what they see as a decline of morals in American society, are trying to impose their moral standards on the rest of the United States. "It is tempting to suggest that this phenomenon may already be on the way to becoming the modern equivalent of the Salem witch trials," he said. Although burnings at the stake aren't occurring, he said, "there has surely

been an increase in the price of liberty for some not among the morally elect." Denniston said the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George Bush contributed to the darkening of America's constitutional mood by giving a voice to moral fundamentalists previously unheard in Washington, D.C. He described the mood of these "new moralists" as one of anger, intolerance and ungenerosity.

"And those in that mood seem to want a Constitution to match," he said.

The new moralists, he said, want to transfer moral responsibility from the "deviants" and untrustworthy to the politically controlling.

"They are . . . determined to restore morality by seeking to impose their own moral judgments upon others, and to do so by fiat, or by open coercion rather than by the compelling force of their reason," he said.

See DENNISTON on 3



Jeff Haller/DN

### Center of attention

Nebraska center Derrick Chandler celebrates after a second-half dunk late in Wednesday's game against Oklahoma State. Nebraska beat the second-ranked Cowboys 85-69. See story on page 13.

## Rapper Sister Souljah speaks on racial issues

By Sean Green  
Senior Reporter

"We are at war." That was the message Sister Souljah brought to about 400 students Tuesday night in the Nebraska Union Ballroom.

Souljah, the only female member of the rap group Public Enemy, said that war existed when someone had taken away that which was fundamentally yours.

Whites declared war upon blacks when they deprived African people everywhere of their fundamental rights, she said.

In her 90-minute speech, Souljah addressed the issues of interracial relationships, portrayal of African Americans in the media, reverse racism, President Bush's New World Order, the arrest of Scott Baldwin and homosexuality.

Souljah spoke out strongly against interracial marriages and relationships, and said it was imperative that black

men find black women to love.

Souljah attacked the American media's portrayal of blacks, and said blacks should divorce themselves from the fake values offered by white society.

Most members of the crowd rose to their feet and applauded in response to Souljah's statement that there is no such thing as reverse racism.

She said whites had systematically kidnapped, enslaved, raped and killed Africans — essentially everything racists did.

Souljah also said racism and prejudice were different.

She said she was prejudiced because she prejudged white people and knew that they came from "a long line of lying, stealing cheats."

"I do not trust white people whatsoever," she said. "If you don't like it, you're in the wrong place."

Souljah, who has degrees in Afri-

See SOULJAH on 3

## Council offers students alcohol guidelines

By Sean Green  
Senior Reporter

College students are bombarded with slogans such as "Know when to say when," and "Don't go for a slay ride."

But despite these slogans, about 80 percent of college students nationwide said they still drank, according to a survey by the University of Florida. That figure is down from 89 percent in 1981.

Now, steps are being taken to provide students with specific guidelines about the safe and healthy use of alcohol, an official said.

"There are a certain number of college students over 21 who are saying, 'OK, you've told us how not to drink; now tell us how to drink responsibly,'" said David Hunnicutt, education director at the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council of Nebraska.

The council has devised a formula to help college students know when to say when.

The formula is simple and easy to remember, Hunnicutt said.

0-1-2-4.

Zero is how many drinks students should have if they are:

- Taking medication.
- Driving or performing tasks that require full attention.
- Suffering from stress or are tired.
- Recovering from alcoholism or drug dependency.
- Violating existing laws or policies.
- Expecting, nursing or considering pregnancy.

Hunnicutt also said students should not drink if they were the son, daughter or sibling of an alcoholic.

For those not in the zero category, the rest of the 0-1-2-4 program comes into play.

The council suggests that male students have no more than one drink an hour and no more than two drinks per day, and that they drink no more than four days per week.

Hunnicutt said that women should cut the alcohol-use formula in half. This means that women should have one drink every two hours, only one drink per day and drink no more than two times a week.

Cutting the formula in half for women is a matter of health, not equality, Hunnicutt said.

Research indicates that women do not respond to alcohol in the same way as men for several reasons, he said, including body size and composition, alcohol dehydrogenase, the menstrual cycle and the use of oral contraceptives.

Women also have a higher percentage of body fat than men, he said, a condition that translates into less water to dilute alcohol in the blood stream. Women also have less alcohol dehydrogenase, an enzyme that rids the body of alcohol.

Hunnicutt said the new campaign to educate students was started because alcohol use on campus had not declined.

"In the last ten years, the use of illegal drugs has declined dramatically on campuses," he said. "Over the same time period, alcohol use has remained at a constant 80 percent."

Another problem with drinking in college is

See DRINKING on 3

### Reducing risk for alcohol-related problems

0 Research reveals that, under certain circumstances, alcohol use can be dangerous. Zero alcohol is the best choice if you are:

- On certain medications or have certain illnesses.
- Behind the wheel or engaged in tasks that require full mental or physical functioning.
- Stressed or tired.
- Either the son, daughter or sibling of someone with alcoholism.
- Recovering from alcoholism or drug dependency.
- Violating existing laws or policies.
- Expecting, nursing or considering pregnancy.

By OBSERVING the times to abstain you can greatly reduce the risk of experiencing an alcohol-related problem. If you aren't in the 0 category and choose to drink, current research suggests:

- 1 No more than one drink per hour.
- 2 No more than two drinks per day.
- 4 No more than four days per week.

-Because of the differences in gender, the alcohol use formula listed above should be cut in half for women.

Source: Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Council of Nebraska

Scott Maurer/DN

### THURSDAY

Correction: Stories in Wednesday's Daily Nebraskan about films playing at the Mary Riempa Ross Film Theater in the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery should have indicated that "My Father's Glory" will show at 7 p.m. today through Sunday, at 1 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday; and that "My Mother's Castle" will show at 9 p.m. today through Sunday, at 3 p.m. Saturday and 5 p.m. Sunday. The Daily Nebraskan regrets the errors.

Diversions goes grocery shopping. Page 5

	INDEX	
Wire		2
Opinion		4
Diversions		5
Sports		13
Classifieds		14

## Senators delay action on death penalty bill

By Cindy Kimbrough  
Senior Reporter

First-round consideration of a bill that would eliminate the death penalty was delayed Tuesday until a later date this session.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha proposed passing over the bill because he said a number of co-sponsors of LB327 were not present.

The bill originally was laid over Jan. 14 with an indefinite postpone-

ment motion pending.

Sen. Carol McBride Pirsch of Omaha and Sen. Elroy Hefner of Coleridge rose in objection to passing over the bill.

Hefner, who is sponsoring a bill to change the mode of the death penalty to lethal injection, said LB327 already had been on the floor a number of times. He said he thought it was time for the Legislature to act on it.

Pirsch said that when Chambers asked for the bill to be placed on the agenda, he should have made sure his supporters were present.

Pirsch is sponsoring a resolution that calls for a vote by Nebraskans on

a constitutional amendment that would repeal the death penalty.

Chambers said that he was against the senators' attempts to hurry LB327, but that he would accept a vote to pass over it.

"I know it is a chance to demagogue an issue, it's a chance to try to grab headlines and try to pay off promises," he said.

"And if that is the game that is to be played this morning, I can play it this morning, and for the rest of this session.

"The worst thing you can do is to alienate me. You can take it as a challenge, which is not my intent."

But, Chambers added, if war was being declared, he could be their equal.

Sen. Brad Ashford of Omaha supported passing over the bill because he said the issues involved were difficult and needed to be studied.

Hefner revoked his earlier objection, but added that he thought the bill was "a farce and a sham" because a constitutional amendment must be included to ensure a life sentence without parole.

The bill then was passed over by unanimous consent. It will return to the floor at an undetermined date.

