

## Daily Nebraskan

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### EDITORIAL

## Stay alert

### Waco proves cults need close watching

**M**onday, rather than being forced out of his compound in Waco, Texas, David Koresh set it ablaze and is believed to have perished inside with as many as 87 members of his Branch Davidian cult. Among those suspected dead are 25 children.

The fire was set six hours after FBI agents began pumping tear gas into the compound buildings in an effort to end the 51 day standoff. According to the FBI, the cult members who perished set the fire themselves.

This startling episode brings back memories of the 1978 mass-suicide of followers of Jim Jones in Guyana that killed 913 people. It is a sobering reminder of what people are capable of — especially when guided by one such as Koresh, who claims to know the will of God.

It is also further evidence of the danger of cults. And the problem is not so far away as Waco. Lincoln has had its own problems with a group that has been identified as a cult that has used suspicious methods of recruiting and training its members.

Cults like David Koresh's operate by preying on those who feel isolated from society and taking them in and giving them a false sense of belonging. The allegiance that can be developed by such groups — as evidenced by the willingness of the Waco compound members to literally burn themselves to death — can be frightening.

In Lincoln and in cities everywhere, care should be taken that cult groups do not establish such a hold on helpless people. Certainly the danger of something like what happened in Waco is not likely here, but still we should keep a watchful eye on groups that prey on those isolated from society and demand control over their lives.

## Shameful symbol

### Mississippi should redesign state flag

**A**n assault was launched in Mississippi on Monday against an institution that has been dead for almost 130 years but still refuses to die in too many peoples' minds.

The Mississippi NAACP, its Jackson branch and 49 individual African Americans filed a lawsuit seeking to get rid of the Mississippi state flag, arguing it promotes racial disharmony with its symbols of the Confederacy.

The flag, designed in 1894, includes a copy of the the Confederate Battle Flag.

The Confederate flag itself flies above the Alabama capitol, and Mississippi and Georgia use it as part of their state flags. South Carolina flies it in its legislative chambers.

State Rep. Aaron Henry, president of the Mississippi state branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, called the Mississippi flag "an insult to African-American citizens."

Gov. Kirk Fordice, named as a defendant in Monday's lawsuit, has said there are more pressing issues facing the state.

Redesigning the state flag may not be the most important issue facing Mississippi. But it is a change whose time is long past.

The American South has many things to be proud of. But the the Confederacy, a rebellion dedicated to ensuring that African Americans would remain enslaved, is not one of them.

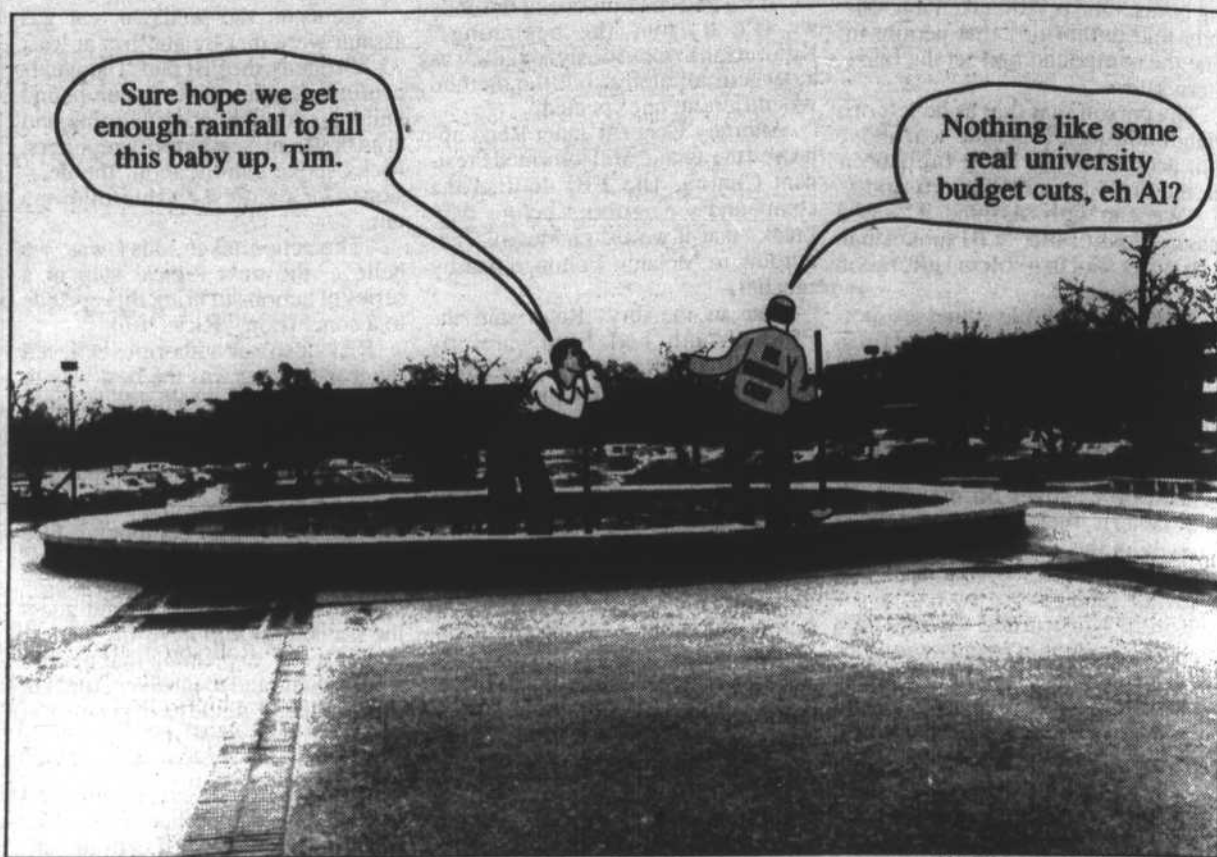
It is time the South finally let the Confederacy die and remove its symbol — which can only be incredibly offensive to African Americans — from their flags and capitols.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1993 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents. Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.

### LETTER POLICY

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others. Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted. Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



MacEd toon by Scott Maurer/DN©

Sure hope we get enough rainfall to fill this baby up, Tim.

Nothing like some real university budget cuts, eh Al?

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Accusation

This accusation is simply false (DN, April 19, 1993). The Senate has a 57-43 Democratic majority and these 43 Republican members are standing up for our "conservative ideology." This ideology is a minority in both houses, but it shouldn't be swept under the rug as most Democrats want.

As a college student, I don't have much money to begin with, but without this opposition I wouldn't have enough to attend school. I applaud Sen. Dole and the other 42 senators for their courage and leadership in liberal times. This stimulus package is bogus in many ways. Socialized medicine is wrong. I agree that the health care industry needs to be overhauled, but not to the extent of socialism.

Efficiency is bred through cooperation. Even though President Clinton's office door is open and the challenge to come up with a different plan is offered, he will not accept any cuts because of a tax and spend ideology in which he believes. "Conservative ideology" tells me that President Clinton's plan, while good intentioned, is a bad solution to a bad problem.

Joshua Daws  
sophomore  
history

disagreement with public policy has dangerous overtones of an attempt to violate our freedom of speech. But then again, if we're just scared conservatives spouting off, maybe you think the first amendment doesn't apply.

Greg Anderson  
freshman



#### 'Daily hypocrite'

Let's all play a game of speculation, OK? Imagine for just a moment that last November's election had turned out differently. George Bush is still president. Dan Quayle is still vice president. Marilyn Quayle is to arrive at UNL for a speech. The Young Democrats, Students for Choice and the Women's Center organize a protest outside the Lied Center in opposition to the Bush administration policies on issues like health care and abortion.

Would the Daily Nebraskan criticize the organizations for being "childish" and "immature" or whatever their language was when they did the exact same thing in the April 16 edition, while chastising the College Republicans for exercising their Constitutional rights in response to Hillary Clinton's appearance? It is rather doubtful the DN would do such a thing in support of free speech, unless they agreed with the free people doing the speaking.

Everyone has the right to protest something they do not support, whether you, I, or anyone else agrees or not. The DN, as a liberal paper, normally in favor of progressive ideas, should recognize and support this. Otherwise, they may just have to change the initials of the paper to the DH, for the Daily Hypocrite.

Andrew Meyer  
senior  
English

#### Abortion

I'd like to respond to Gary Young's column (April 12, 1993) in which he criticizes pro-choice people for failing to address the other side of the abortion issue. Although Young feels he has room to criticize, he, like the people he is being critical of, also fails to approach the conflicting issues.

How will we feed all the people in 50 years when the earth's population is estimated to be at 11 billion people, yet today we are using all our agriculture resources and are barely ahead of caloric demand? How can we cry out "Adoption, not abortion" when only white children are in significant demand for adoption? What about the fact that in China alone there are 70,000 children waiting for homes, as well as thousands of other children worldwide? What about due to poor education and poverty, the poor — who are too often minorities — are the ones who are experiencing excessive unwanted pregnancies? Who's going to adopt these babies of color? Who's going to pay to feed these babies who are being born into poverty? Strange it is that the people who are fighting abortion rights are not only acting as a stumbling block to contraceptive distribution and education, but also strongly objecting to additional taxes.

Yes, Gary is right, pro-choicers should address the fact that this is a life; diplomacy cannot occur with one-sided views, and I believe pro-lifers, as one-sided as their views are, are not fighting just to annoy or suppress pro-choicers. We must all realize that there are two sides to this issue. The truth is, neither side on this issue really knows what kind of life this really is, whether we can really call it human, what its physical awareness is, or whether it thinks or experiences pain the way we do.

If we don't get the population problem under control, millions of fully developed humans will suffer from starvation and disasters, many more than the numbers of questionable lives that will be destroyed through the low number of abortions that occur in a well-educated society given access to protection.

We pro-choicers are fully willing to work together with anti-abortionists to vastly decrease abortions. History shows that abortion laws do not work — the rich can still afford blackmarket abortions, and the poor die in the back alley; however, we know that modern birth control methods prevent pregnancy quite effectively. Laws don't work, but birth control does; let's work together to educate our population so future generations will have a world to live in, too.

Paul Koester  
senior  
agronomy