

Daily Nebraskan  
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

## Take care

### Students should shun churches that prey

Many college freshmen have just left home for the first time, which makes some of them homesick and quite vulnerable.

That is exactly the reason why all students, but especially freshmen, need to be aware that cults exist, even in Lincoln, and they need to be careful.

Cults can be inviting because they offer structure for college students who may be feeling lost at a university as large as the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The Rev. Ron Gholston, a former sector leader of the Boston Church of Christ, said cults were also attractive because members seem moral, caring and sincere.

But some cults, such as the church Gholston once belonged to, may have "discipler" relationships between church members and new members. The new members must submit to anything the discipler wants. Obviously this relationship is extremely dangerous.

Any action like this in a church should be an immediate signal that the church is suspicious. This example may be extreme, but any place that believes one person has the right to control another's decisions is questionable.

Some cults, Gholston said, restrict members from questioning orders and leaders. But the right to inquire about church and religion should be a fundamental one because asking questions is a way of learning about one's faith.

A church is for worship, not for following other church members' ideas and practices. Any church that does not allow questions and forces some to follow the orders of others is shady. All students should be warned of the danger of cults and watch out for these warning signs.

## Enough's enough

### Tourist killings expose gun control need

Margaret Ann Jagger had been in Florida for less than a week when she discovered the lack of strict gun control laws in the United States.

Jagger, 35, is from England. She was wounded and her boyfriend, Gary Colley, was killed Tuesday when they pulled into a Florida rest stop for a nap.

Two youths approached their car, knocked on the windows and demanded money. Jefferson County Sheriff Ken Fortune said Jagger and Colley were shot when they tried to back their car away.

Jagger called the police from a booth nearby. Her call was recorded and played on CNN. "He's dying! He's really dying! ... Please help!"

Colley was the ninth foreign tourist to be killed in Florida since October. Thursday, a German tourist was shot to death on the ride from the Miami airport to his hotel.

Violent death has become commonplace in the United States, but this is not true in other Western democracies. The difference is frequently the lack of strict gun control laws in this country.

Each time another human being is murdered, there is public outrage and media attention. Rarely is there concrete and sufficient action from the government to stop the problem.

It is time for comprehensive federal legislation strictly regulating the use of all firearms. Stricter gun control is long overdue.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Equality

I feel I woke up in a nightmare. The Anglo-American is Satan Incarnate. American history is as close to English history as it is to African history.

Go into the bookstore and look at ethnic studies, nothing about the Anglo-Saxon ethnic background. Look in gender studies, not a single book directed toward the male gender. Saunter over to the magazine rack; plenty of magazines to aid women in the "self-fulfillment" search. Men's magazines? Business — succeed or be nothing; sports — succeed or be nothing; music — succeed or be nothing.

As the Anglo-American male fizzes into a minority in the United States, the cry for retribution for past oppression rings loud. But will that ring fall upon understanding ears that will find the line of equality or be perceived as a battle cry to exact vengeance?

Joe Hering  
freshman  
general studies

### 'Important issue'

I take issue with Paul Koester's views. From where I stand, pizza delivery is an important issue. Communes and naming Crayola colors also are important. It all depends on what a writer can do with the particular issue that he or she chooses.

Also, Mr. Koester has to accept editing as a part of the process. A guy writing in more than 20 times a semester should, in fact, expect to be edited.

Todd K. Burger  
senior  
English

### LB110

LB110 is a bill that respects the right of women to be fully informed about what will occur during an abortion. In the course of preparation for other surgeries, the patient is informed fully of the procedure and all complications that could arise no matter how small the odds. The information is given in a session with either the surgeon or an assistant. Following the session, there is a period of time in which the patient can reconsider having the procedure with full knowledge of what is involved. Information is the most important part of LB110. The information given to women includes fetal development and alternatives to abortion, in addition to the possible complications. LB110 places abortions under the same obliga-

tions as other surgeries.

Women do not need to fear that advocates of life go to abortion clinics to take down license plate numbers and harass them. That is not the purpose of right-to-life organizations. These groups focus on protecting the sanctity of life not only in the womb but throughout the cycle of life. These organizations focus on providing help and information to the public.

Cara Catlett  
co-president, UNL Students for Life  
senior  
political science

### Salaries

This is in response to my having read that our "top" administrators have again voted themselves a pay increase while the rest of UNL sits quietly in the wings (DN Sept. 13). Well, not me!



Maybe this is my "angry stage" since having a two-income household cut to one, but it really got to the very core of my well-being when I read that those in the \$100,000 category were going to receive an increase of \$1,100 to \$2,300. What a difference an increase like this would make to those of us in the \$20,000 bracket that are having to scratch to make probably the same kind of house payment that the well-heeled make also. All I can do is meet the mortgage payment and the utilities and keep myself nourished. No need to worry about anything left over, but that's OK. If we need we can always get a second job, huh?

I might bring to your attention that this campus is desperately in need of classrooms. How about spending this "extra" wage money for something that would benefit the entire campus? Chancellor Spanier wishes to make a parking lot into a green park. This is a perfect location for a building that could house multi-purpose classrooms. Let's get real, folks, and put some of these funds to some really

good use. If you can't be fair in salary increases, at least look to those areas on this campus that need real help.

Dorothy McEwen  
department of anthropology

### 'Terrorvangelists'

With the advent in society of a multitude of subcultures including poverty, homelessness, unwed and teen-age parentage, intercultural relationships and homosexuality, the Christian Church has been seeking to advocate a version of Christianity designed to reach these "lost souls." Fortunately, most churches do this in a responsible fashion whereby they try to answer the needs of society.

There is nothing wrong with this approach, as long as the message is in context with scripture and it made aware that the freedom to choose is left to the individual. My problem lies with the new breed of soothsayers, or shall I say doomsayers, that has cropped up as a result — the "terrorvangelists." These people seek to bring judgment and condemnation against anyone who fails to accept their narrow-minded viewpoint. They seek to bring down those elements in our society that they deem to be subversive, in violation of what they term "God's natural order."

The terrorvangelist fails to see that a person has an inviolate right and freedom to believe and behave as he or she sees fit, as long as it does not infringe upon the right of others, and is answerable only to himself or herself and the "being" that person considers a "Higher Authority," be it God, Allah, the Great Earth Mother, or quite simply, none at all. The terrorvangelist uses the public forum to foment this ideal through a fire-and-brimstone, hell-and-damnation preaching that berates and attempts to deny its listeners to the freedoms that being a human being allows. The terrorvangelist must realize that the place for such speaking is in the church, not in a forum that is meant for intelligent, well-reasoned discussions. Otherwise, the ridicule and persecution of such people will persist.

Coming from a Protestant Christian viewpoint, if somebody must insist on inflicting his or her opinions of God on the public, it must be done so it answers the questions, meets the needs and appeals to their search for meaning in life. In public, one must teach rather than preach and speak only in context of Scripture rather than religious doctrine.

If someone needs to know Jesus, do not introduce a biased condemner who only accepts you if you believe and behave in a certain way.

John W. Copeland  
freshman  
criminal justice