

# Students be careful when joining groups

By John Fulwider  
Staff Reporter

Students who choose to join a campus organization need to watch out for cults, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln administrator said. Peg Blake, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs at UNL, has been closely monitoring cult activity on the campus for the past several years.

Much of her attention has been focused on Campus Advance, a group that tried but failed to get recognition as an official UNL student group in 1990.

Members of Campus Advance have been associated with the Lincoln Christian Church, which has been linked to the Boston Church of Christ.

The Boston Church of Christ was labeled a cult by the Cult Awareness Network of Chicago. The Network is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting public awareness of cult activity.

Blake said, "Students, especially entering freshmen, should be careful when considering joining any group, religious or otherwise."

Students should thoroughly investigate a group before joining, she said.

"Make sure you know what it is you're getting into," she said.

To help students make choices about organizations, the UNL Department of Housing has developed

*"Students, especially entering freshmen, should be careful when considering joining any group, religious or otherwise."*

**PEG BLAKE**

Assistant Vice Chancellor  
Student Affairs

a list of student's rights relating to organizations:

- the right to maintain close contact and relationships with friends and family members not involved with the organization.
- the right to disagree with leaders or other group members without being belittled.
- the right to have grievances addressed in a fair manner.
- the right to say "no" or "I need time to think about this," whether it's about expectations of members, costs, purposes, activities, time requirements or inconsistencies.
- the right to ask questions.
- the right to be left alone if you're not interested.
- the right to take your time in deciding about involvement.
- the right to withdraw from the organization at any time without fear.

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