

OPINIONPACKETS

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Our
VIEW

Stopping the drain

Legislation won't make Nebraskan students stay

As thousands of students stream through the gates of academia every semester, they also walk across the state borders for new, promising futures in other cities far, far away.

It is a phenomenon now popularly known as the "brain drain."

But now, Gov. Ben Nelson, Sen. Jon Bruning and the Nebraska Legislature are hoping to pass LB1176, a desperate attempt to lure students into living the good life. About \$2 million would be used to create 200 to 300 scholarships available for Nebraska students to attend accredited Nebraska colleges and universities. The scholarships would pay half the eligible students' tuition or up to \$5,000.

But wait, there's more.

The recipients would then have to complete an internship at a participating Nebraska business, then remain in Nebraska to work for three years after graduation. This new bill is aptly named the "brain gain" bill.

The quintessential question remaining, though, is if there is no place like Nebraska, why does no one want to stay here?

The answer is quite simple: There's nothing here for young people to stay for.

The largest urban center of the state is largely scorned by the rest of the state. Locally owned businesses focus on farming, irrigation, pesticides, beef packing or agriculturally-related concepts. There are no big-name professional sports franchises. We have a small state university system, and the most exciting thing the state can produce is a college football team that regularly duels for supremacy with three teams from Florida alone.

In short, there's nothing that would make a young person want to stay here.

This is a breadbasket state. Nebraska's primary reason for existing is to provide sustenance for the rest of the nation and, unfortunately, it doesn't take too many people to do that with today's technological advancements.

Nelson and Bruning hope to win the hearts and census points of young Nebraskans, but they have to realize most of the students who would apply for these scholarships would be planning on staying in Nebraska anyway. All this plan would do is guarantee a job somewhere other than their hometown's co-op.

The money used in the hopes of retaining students would only be providing another test on which students could milk the government for tuition money.

If the governor and the Legislature want to keep Nebraskans as Nebraskans, they would be wiser spending their money on maintaining Nebraska's unspoiled plains parks, clean air and safe, crime-free towns. Many Nebraskans now tend to be former residents who missed the good life and returned later in life from wherever they had moved to.

That may be a better idea than planning three years of indentured servitude for our college graduates.

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Haney's
VIEW



DN LETTERS

Seeing red

"My name is Katya Ovcharenko, but you may have to take a phonetics course to pronounce it," as she says in her first article.

What? No, actually Katya, I'd hope that just asking would do the trick. In her article she gives us all a culture lesson and informs us that "Soviets" indeed do have writing utensils (History lesson, Wednesday). Most of us assume that much of the former world power. However, it is arrogant to assume that everyone automatically knows everything about Russia (oops! I said it).

The key here is to lose this defensive attitude, probably fostered by some perceived, remaining Cold War sentiment among people our age (who were most likely more interested in "Sesame Street" and Lucky Charms than bomb threats) and answer their questions.

Sure it can be annoying, even appalling, when people ask if Nebraskans still parade around in covered wagons and "are we scared of the Injuns," but taking offense at such things, like a childhood pen pal's honest inquiry, is useless. If they are asking at all, they are, in fact (SHOCK) interested in learning about you and your country. Relax; a little patience is in order.

Sara Hossaini
freshman
broadcasting

In defense of the father ...

I am writing in response to Anthony Colman's editorial "A cross to bear" (Wednesday). The folly of your article lies in the fact that you do not separate the message of Christianity from the people who claim to be its teachers. As humans we have our own view of the world separate from others. Some people try to use the Bible and the messages of Christ as justification for their actions. Of course, you do the same thing with your quote from Peter 1 "Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear." This quote does not deal implicitly or explicitly with slavery, and it is stupid for either side of the issue to use it as such.

I find it hard to believe that people

do not agree with many of the Bible's teachings. How about "Do unto others as you would have done unto you?" Jesus was never about hanging with the rich and famous but instead devoted his time to the lepers, prostitutes and tax collectors. He always brought a message of hope for the downtrodden and a message of wrath for the self-righteous. "The first shall be last and the last shall be first," or maybe this old favorite, "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the Earth."

I would be remiss if I did not point out the hypocrisy that is prevalent in your article: Condemn and stereotype those that you claim condemn and stereotype. That's pretty funny from someone as presumably intelligent as you are. But this is the problem with moral relativism: It excludes just as if it didn't preach against exclusion. It has a built in logical fallacy that leads to hypocrisy.

Don't get me wrong, though. There are those Christians who wrongly use the Bible as a guidebook for the judgment of humanity. To those people and to you, also, Anthony, I say "Judge not lest ye be judged." The golden rule ain't for nothing.

Joe Fraas
sophomore
secondary education and English

... the son ...

I happen to agree that Christianity has made its share of mistakes. However, that does not mean that we should abandon all faith. I have trouble with the line of reasoning that we should end Christianity because of some mistakes in the past. If that line of reasoning holds, then we should end science. How many scientists believed that the world was flat? How about medicine? How many people die on operating tables every year?

To say that we should end an institution because of some mistakes is ridiculous. So, you ask, how do we judge the value of an institution? I think we should look at what they do right. So what does Christianity do right? It provides food for the hungry (Mother Teresa) and clothes for the naked (Salvation Army). Christianity has filled the spiritual need of 1.5 BILLION people around the world. We can

argue until we are all blue in the face, but the fact is that Christianity is filling a need in the world, and is here to stay.

Jeremy Penn
sophomore
secondary education

... and the holy ghost

Another group was attacked today in the DN.

Yes, today's subject of attack were the Christians, in Anthony Colman's column entitled, "A cross to bear." While Colman does make some very good points in the column about organized religion's oppression of certain groups in our society, he somehow fails to see his own generalization of a group which is much too large to even possibly be as homogeneous as he would have us believe.

Colman frequently quotes the Bible. This bothers me because, first of all, the Bible is not a historical document, and second of all, because the Catholic Church and most Protestant churches are not fundamentalists, as they have been throughout history. Everyone knows the colorful history of the Catholic Church; His implication that the past equals the present is somewhat insulting.

I agree that Christianity as an organized religion is unaccepting and oppressive, but those of us who still believe attend church not because we are ready to have beliefs crammed down our throats, but because we hope to gain something, some understanding of ourselves and our actions that goes beyond science. I consider myself a Christian, and yet I am accepting of groups and actions that the church has called wrong. Does that make me a hypocrite?

One last point: Christianity is a broad and varied religion with hundreds of separate denominations with differing belief systems. To group them all together as one and denounce them is to defeat your own point. Your accusations will not cause me to let go of my "timeworn" faith, and I would guess that a lot of others feel the same way.

Dan Rempe
sophomore
computer science and German

P.S. Write Back

Send letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 "R" St., Lincoln, NE 68588, or fax to (402) 472-1761, or e-mail <letters@unlinfo.unl.edu>. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification