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A sense of despair overtook me last Wednesday when I learned of my assigned topic for this week. After my editor pronounced the words university-related issue, my initial reaction was disappointment. As the biggest presidential scandal since Watergate slowly unfolded before the nation's eyes, I was left to pick over the university news dumpster of closing fraternities and embezzling secretaries.

I recently overheard a story that could possibly supply me with a lead, however. This is a story that involved Tom Osborne attempting to access the Campus Recreation Center sometime last week, and subsequently being denied access because his ID card had since expired after his retirement as head coach. (Let me remind you right now that this is a rumored story, and that I have no evidence that it actually took place. But, because of a lack of any journalistic integrity on my part whatsoever, I am willing to assume it did.)

Either the guy at the desk was some kind of football-despising art



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"God is dead! We have killed him, you and I!" said German philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche almost a century ago.

By "killing God" he meant that we do not accept him, we do not believe in him, we do not trust him. He's dead for us - but not all of us. Christianity is alive, and it is this belief that is based on faith in the living God, Jesus Christ, who had changed the history of mankind by rising from the dead.

This great and powerful but defenseless faith was used many times to take political control of whole countries. European history swarms with such sorrowful examples.

Gregory VII in the 11th century organized the well-known Crusades to the holy land. Knights marched and spread bloodshed on their way. These bloody wars were led in the name of Christ, the Lord of Peace!

Another example is the Inquisition. In 1231, Pope Gregory IX established the papal Inquisition because of growing outbreaks of heresy. The Spanish Inquisition (in the 15th and 16th centuries) was particularly terrifying. The most famous parts of it were the punishments and tortures used to gain confessions. The victims even confessed to deeds they'd never done. The church handled trials for spiritual matters. They saved souls and killed people, destroying "sinful flesh."

major, or he thought he was simply doing his job. Whatever the circumstance, a poor decision was (allegedly) made. When arguably the greatest coach in college football history wants to use his university's rec center, you let him in, expired card or not.

The purpose of including the alleged incident in this column? I thought it was exponentially more interesting than anything the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska is currently manipulating, and it also serves as a lead, although an incredibly indirect one, to a university-related issue that is actually worth exposing: the overall greatness that Osborne brought to this school and state.

Now this isn't going to be about football. Anyone with even a passing interest in the sport is already aware of the incredible numbers and numerous records Osborne and his teams have accomplished throughout his 25 years. All of these things are devastatingly impressive, but what may be most impressive about the man are the things he's done off the football field. The things he's done not only as a coach but as a great man.

His record of giving back to the community is particularly impressive. In 1991, he and his wife Nancy

developed the Husker Teammates program, which is a type of big brother program pairing Husker football players and local junior high students. The financing for this program comes from The Osborne Endowment for Youth, a fund established by Osborne that also helps prevent junior high and middle school youths from dropping out of school and encourages them to continue their education.

In 1994, \$250,000 was raised for the endowment during a banquet honoring Osborne for his 200th career win. The former coach annually donates \$10,000 out of his own pocket to the endowment.

In addition, Osborne has been an active member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and has served as a spiritual guide and father figure to so many of his players.

"I believe most of the players look at Coach Osborne as a type of father figure, and he fills that void. ... He treats you like a son, and that means a lot," was former Husker Calvin Jones' description of the retired coach.

The graduation rate for players Osborne coached was never less than 74 percent, continuously the highest in the nation. There have been 44 first-team Academic All-Americans

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who have passed through Osborne's program. This number is especially impressive when you consider that the program second to Nebraska in this category, Notre Dame, has accumulated 38 of these players in 44 years while Osborne coached 44 in 25 years.

In addition to winning 13 conference championships and three national championships, Osborne has won numerous awards recognizing his continuous community service. Just a few of these include the Father Flanagan Award for Service to Youth, the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Distinguished American awards, and the Distinguished Nebraskalander Award.

Tom Osborne served as one of the

greatest representatives a university, community and state could ever ask for. While his job was to win football games, he took it as his responsibility to do much more. He served his God, his players and his community with an excellence that is not often witnessed in this day and age. His career should serve as a model for anyone who wishes to become a strong and honorable leader.

In spite of all of this, Coach Osborne must find a new place to jog. Even if the rumored story is not true, he will not be eligible to enter the recreation center of his own free will once he is officially not a university employee.

Someone at the rec center should be ashamed.

God is good

Despite abuses, Christianity spreads message of love

By taking verses from Bible out of their context and putting them into another context, interpreting them and manipulating them according to others' wishes, some people tended to control others. Seizing political power is only one side. In feudal England, for example, lords used Bible verses (with the help of the church) to maintain a hold upon their peasants obedient:

"Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh," (1 Peter 2:18).

Another aspect - the most scary side - is the possibility of psychological pressure on people, again in Christ's name. In Ukraine about five years ago, a sect called "White Brotherhood" appeared. Its leader claimed to be

Christ himself, who came for the second time. Many young people followed him. They were leaving their families, stealing money and living in poverty. The "Christ" was arrested and is now enjoying himself in a jail, leaving behind broken families and broken hearts of those teenagers whom he fooled.

The blind are leading the blind in reality. False prophets are mentioned often in the Bible: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in

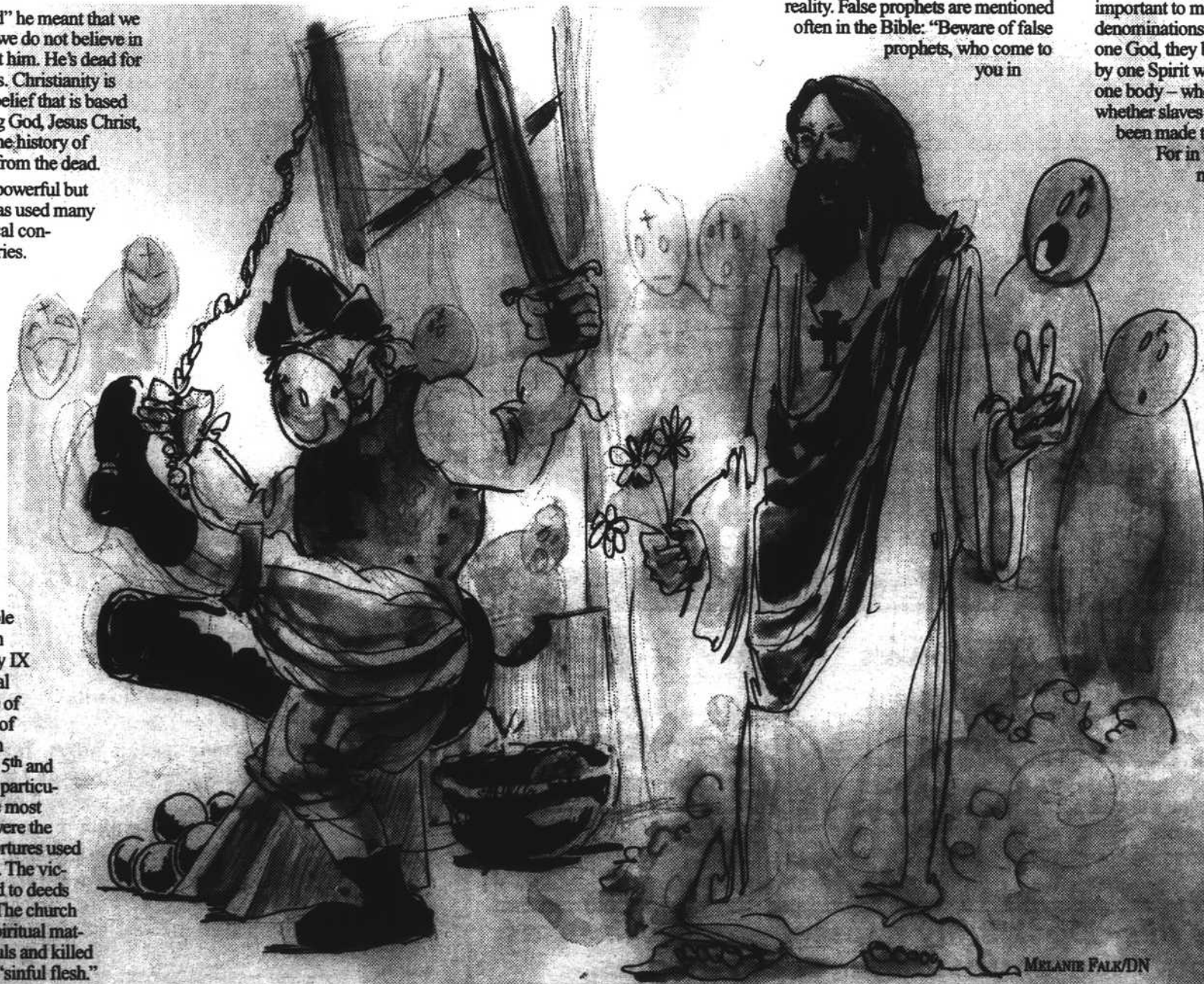
sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves," (Matt 7:15). "The Christian" means "the one, who follows Christ." Christ never told anyone to kill and to hate; he teaches LOVE, and everything that is not done in love by so-called Christians comes not from God, but from ... there's no need to mention him here.

Some people consider it to be so important to make distinctions between denominations! Christians believe in one God, they became one in him. "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink unto one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many," (1

Corinthians 12:13,14). We are one body and there is no need to argue which church is more important, as we have different functions in this one body. Culture differences are also smoothed away by Christianity, because the main landmark for all Christians is the word of God; his laws, not the laws of the societies in which Christianity exists.

God is alive! He speaks to us in his word and in our prayers; he gives the light to our lives; he gives answers on all our questions and solves all our problems: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil 4:12)

True, he speaks to everyone, but unfortunately not everyone listens to him.



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