

Just like grade school

J-Dogg lets you 'choose your own adventure'



JOSH WIMMER is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

I am a handsome and powerful man. Because of this, I can do things no one else can do. I can take risks, I can break ground, I can boldly go where no columnist has gone before.

Which is exactly what I am doing today.

What you are about to read is a potent example of *interactive media*.

What you are about to read is also a potent example of what happens when a writer is two hours past his deadline.

Truth is, there are all sorts of things I'd like to write about, but none of them will fill up a whole half-page. More importantly, I don't know exactly what all y'all would like to read about ...

... so I'm leaving it up to you.

Without further ado, then, I present, for your hypertextual enjoyment, the Daily Nebraskan's first ever *Choose Your Own Adventure* column.

(P.S. Don't cheat!)

1

It's Thursday. You're sitting in your first class of the day. You open the school paper, paging past countless boring stories to get to the good stuff—specifically, the opinion pages.

A veritable feast of debate and discussion, rife with intellect and emotion, awaits you. Two items catch your eye.

Today's editorial looks sickeningly nutritious—there aren't any pictures and it's just going to be about diversity again. Meanwhile, the photo of a handsome and powerful man beckons you to see what he has to say about the sorry state of Western civilization.

If you want to read the editorial, go to Section 5.

If you heed the call of the handsome and powerful columnist, go to Section 7.

2

"Dear Mr. Wimmer:
"Or maybe I shouldn't say 'dear,' since you are obviously an evil man—although handsome and powerful.

"Mike Johanns has served the people of Lincoln admirably as their mayor. Except for the gay community, of course, like when he refused to sign the Diversity Proclamation in June. Who cares, though, as long as our property taxes go down?"

Sincerely,

Your name here

The End

3

Prohibiting abortion protesters from picketing Westminster Church at certain times is unconstitutional? Pah. There are only dozens of precedents.

Sure, it'd be a violation of the First Amendment to tell folks they couldn't protest at all. But there should be nothing illegal about telling 'em they can't stick pictures of fetuses in your kids' faces on Sunday morning.

And, for the record, it's hard to buy that Mayor Mike Johanns vetoed the ordinance because he thought it was unconstitutional. The man has repeatedly displayed an inability to separate church from state. Maybe he should go into missionary work.

To draw your sword and slay Mike Johanns, go to Section 9.

To send off an angry, pro-Johanns letter to the columnist, go to Section 2.

4

It seems like nobody really knows what'll happen if Initiative 413, the proposed tax lid, is passed. Steven Wolf, executive director of Citizens for Nebraska's Future, says it shouldn't hurt UNL financially; university administrators say it will.

If we don't know for sure what this thing's gonna do, why would we slap it into the state constitution? Isn't that a

little like getting a tattoo when you don't know how it'll look? Very painful to remove if you screw up.

If we can't agree on what a piece of legislation is going to do, let's not enact it.

Whew! On a lighter note, join the pachyderms in Section 6.

5

The editorial, as you suspected, is boring. Diversity is important—but considering that racism, sexism and homophobia have been centuries in the making, it's not surprising it's taking us longer than 50 years to wipe them out.

Your professor enters the classroom and begins to lecture. Alas, you must tuck your newspaper beneath your desk.

The End

6

Elephants use their trunks to smell, drink and feed themselves. Elephants also give themselves showers with their trunks. Mama Elephant uses her trunk to guide her young. And elephants grip enemies with their trunks, and then attack those enemies with their tusks.

Of course, you think, that begs the question: Are elephants bigger, stronger and faster than the Husker defensive line?

"No! Go Big Red!!!"

Head for Section 10.

"Well, yeah ... I mean, they're elephants." Go to Section 8.

7

This dude is nuts. To his credit, he is handsome and obviously powerful, but he's still nuts.

Crazy folks aren't necessarily stupid, though. You can't help but wonder what this guy thinks about the hot news items float-

ing around Lincoln.

"I wonder what he thinks about those abortion protesters ..." Go to Section 3.

"I wonder what he thinks about the tax lid amendment ..." Go to Section 4.

"I wonder why elephants have trunks ..." Go to Section 6.

8

Ooh. Trick question, and you've answered wrong. In Nebraska, nobody is tougher than the Huskers.

A rowdy group of good ol' boys, dizzy from too much Busch Light and community service, pound you into the concrete.

The End

9

It's not even difficult. Johanns slips and manages to impale himself on the end of your sword. But then, what did you expect from someone who thought Dan Quayle campaigning for him was a good idea?



MATT HANEY/DN

You are victorious, adventurer. Discover your destiny in Section 11.

10

OK, you know a herd of elephants is, despite local claims to the contrary, bigger and tougher than the Huskers.

But you also know that, in Nebraska, "Go Big Red!!!" is the right answer to any question, no matter how wrong it may seem.

You have chosen wisely. Proceed to Section 11.

11

Your journey is at an end, and everyone is proud of you, particularly a certain handsome and powerful man.

As for your reward—by making it this far, you've earned yourself a date with either Gov. Ben Nelson or ASUN President Sara Russell, depending on your preference.

To show E. Benjamin you just love his doggy-style ...

Know the risks

Contraceptive pill not replacement for responsibility



TASHA KUXHAUSEN is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

Soon women will have a backup method to avoid pregnancy, as well as to limit abortions. The "morning after pill" is to arrive at Planned Parenthood in Lincoln.

The Lincoln Journal Star reported the pill, labeled PREVEN, to have been 75 percent effective at preventing pregnancy up to three days after sex.

As a female, I excitedly support the arrival of the breakthrough pill. I believe that women deserve the right to choose to become pregnant or not.

However, I do not think that either the PREVEN pill or abortions should be used in place of regular birth control.

Sexually active individuals should be intelligent enough to use condoms if a child is not the desired outcome of a sexual encounter. Clinical abortions should be limited, and whenever possible, the PREVEN pill should be the first option.

The PREVEN pill does not terminate a pregnancy, it simply prevents the pregnancy altogether. If the woman is already pregnant when she takes PREVEN, the pregnancy will not be harmed.

Regular contraceptives should be used by all sexually active people. But with the introduction of PREVEN to Lincoln, more people will be able to ward off pregnancy in the case of regular contraceptive mishaps.

Sometimes women forget to take birth control pills daily, or a condom accidentally breaks. In these emergency situations, PREVEN helps prevent later abortion.

Rape victims also will benefit from this "morning after pill." I don't think any woman would want to be reminded of her rapist when gazing at her newborn baby's face.

Despite the obvious benefits of the PREVEN pill, some are angrily opposed to its arrival in Lincoln.

Greg Schleppbach, state director of the Catholic Bishop's pastoral plan for pro-life, told the Lincoln Journal Star, "The availability of this (pill) marks a sad day for our culture, particularly women. It degrades and exploits women. It degrades the sacred gift of sexuality. And it has real potential of destroying a human being."

The point of any abortion is to end a life, before it begins. Clinical abortions usually cannot take place after the woman is three months into her pregnancy; the fetus can hardly be called a baby at this time.

But with PREVEN, a fetus is not terminated. The emergency pill is just a stronger dosage of regular birth control pills. PREVEN prevents the sperm from implanting in the woman's egg, as long as the pill is taken within three days of the sexual encounter.

According to the executive director of Planned Parenthood of Lincoln, Chris Funk, the pill could cut the abortion rate in half in this country.

I would have thought that Schleppbach would approve of this news. The more planned pregnancies, the better.

But sometimes, even with preventive measures, the unwanted happens. The PREVEN pill is another way to reduce the number of unwanted children in this country.

I think it is more horrific to raise a child in a non-loving household or under poverty conditions than to have a doctor abort a fetus. But taking PREVEN to avoid pregnancy is a smarter choice.

There are also some people who shouldn't be allowed to produce children because the effects would be catastrophic.

Unintelligent parents don't often create intellectual children. OK, it has happened before, but I wouldn't want to take any chances.

The cycle of unintelligent people would be endless. Therefore, this pill would be an attempt to stop the procreation of stupid people.

You know who I'm talking about.

All those guests of Jerry Springer who can't keep their pants up. They've

had three children with three different people.

They can't seem to figure out what a condom is, let alone how to use it properly. For those people, PREVEN is a life saver.

And a savior for the taxpayers as well. How could PREVEN be a "sad day for our culture" as Schleppbach put it, when it could reduce the amount of money spent by taxpayers to care for unwanted children?

Not to mention the money spent for people on welfare because they have children whom they can't support.

As far as I'm concerned, there are only benefits resulting from the arrival of this emergency contraceptive.

One of the most important benefits is that parents will be able to admit to their immaturity to raise a child and avoid the pregnancy.

A child should only be born to two loving parents who intend to be responsible for the child's life.

Right to lifers' time would be better spent talking to groups of teen-agers about condoms and sexual responsibility, rather than preaching the avoidance of PREVEN and abortions.

In turn, this effort would hopefully reduce the need for abortion, and reduce the number of unwanted children born every day.

Schleppbach said people have two options, "Either follow God's design for the gift of sexuality ... or you engage in irresponsible sexuality and bear the negative consequences."

He makes a good point—irrespon-

sible sex often brings negative consequences. But PREVEN is intended to help people turn the negative to a positive outcome.

Some people are careful and responsible and still end up having contraceptive failure. When a couple is not ready to become pregnant, the effects can be detrimental.

Planning to be a parent is what Planned Parenthood is all about.

But as I said before, the PREVEN pill is not meant to replace regular use of contraceptives.

Chris Funk, executive director of Lincoln's Planned Parenthood, said to the Lincoln Journal Star, "This isn't the kind of thing you want to take every week. This is not going to be promoted as a regular way to prevent pregnancy."

But the PREVEN pill is a wonderful accomplishment in the field of medicine. It is a woman's right to have this emergency contraceptive available, as long as she and her partner are practicing sexual responsibility by using regular contraceptives.

At \$20 a packet, hopefully PREVEN will be less likely to be taken advantage of as well.

If you have learned anything from my article, please let it be sexual responsibility above all. Understand that sex makes babies.

If you're not ready to be a father or a mother, don't rely on PREVEN every time because it is not effective if a woman is already pregnant. So wear a condom. They are available free from the University Health Center.