

OPINION PAGES

Our VIEW

A dollar, a difference Donating to Habitat can improve lives

On Aug. 17, hundreds of thousands of people lost their homes in a deadly earthquake in Turkey.

The quake devastated housing throughout the northwest part of the country, leaving thousands living in flimsy tents, unsuitable for winter.

Less than a month after the Turkey quake, about 100,000 people — equal to half of Lincoln's residents — were left searching for shelter after a magnitude-5.9 earthquake hit Athens, Greece.

When a quake shook Taiwan just last week, about 80,000 people lost their homes.

The homeless were left camping in open spaces with sanitary conditions worsening by the day.

Not across the seas, but right in our own country, floods continue to ravage eastern North Carolina, where about 2,100 people remain in shelters, their homes swamped with water or simply unsafe.

It has been estimated that eastern North Carolina has suffered about \$70.2 million in housing damage.

That includes more than 3,000 homes destroyed or seriously damaged.

These recent disasters worldwide forced hundreds of thousands of people out of their homes and into the streets.

Millions of people every year are displaced because of war, famine and disasters, and poverty and squalor is endemic in much of the developing world.

It's part of life. But we can help, and an opportunity lies right at our feet.

The UNL chapter of Habitat for Humanity International is raising money to build a house for a Lincoln family in need.

It's simple really. Drop a dollar in the box next to the Shantytown set up on the Nebraska Union plaza. If every person on campus did that this week, the house would be paid for.

This is just one of the many opportunities you have to help people not able to end the day in a nice warm bed after eating a full meal.

One North Carolina woman, who now lives in a government-provided trailer, recently told CNN: "I wish I could go home."

We could help her do that.

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Obermeyer's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Bad Science

Reading Mark Buhrdorf's letter (Monday, DN) should serve as a reminder to everyone to pay attention during basic biology classes.

His quote "Ontology recapitulates phylogeny" should read "Ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny." Ontogeny is the development in stages of an individual organism from fertilization through birth, phylogeny (note spelling — it is important sometimes) is the development in stages of a species from its ancestral forms.

"Recapitulates" does NOT mean the organism in the womb IS whatever developmental stage it looks like, only that it resembles that stage in certain ways (appearance, body parts, certain biochemical functions).

Perhaps Mr. Buhrdorf should repeat Biology 101 and this time try to actually understand the concept before giving his views on this bit of "medieval quackery" that more enlightened people see as modern biological science.

Regardless of your stand on abortion, when you use bad science as a means of attacking the other side, you do no good for anyone and only show your own ignorance.

Jim Cornwall
graduate student
geosciences

Jessica: No (in) Class

I am not, in any way, trying to make a cheap shot at Jessica Flanagan with the following observation:

This semester I am attending a

women's studies class in which Jessica is also enrolled. I also had a class with her this last summer, which invariably was a women's studies course. I've noticed that Jessica hardly ever attends class.

With that in mind, I have a few questions: If one does not attend class, how does one know what is being taught in the class?

I will not question the fact that Jessica negatively targets the women's studies program in her DN columns while continuing to take the classes. I do, however, question her motives for doing this, since she is so outwardly disinterested in the classes themselves.

Since everyone has an agenda, I'd like to know what hers is.

I can honestly say that I have completely disagreed with at least half of my professors, some of whom were teaching women's studies courses.

However, I chalk that up to differences of opinion, or agenda, if you will. I don't see those differences as being valid points of contention with which to wage war on the entire program.

Amanda Lighter
senior
women's studies
English

Everyone's a Critic

In regard to Emily Pyeatt's review of the film "Double Jeopardy" (Monday, DN).

Whoa there, Emily! You shattered the first rule of movie reviewing: Don't give away the plot.

I can't believe you actually outlined, scene by scene, all but the last 15 minutes of the film. What were you thinking?

All you needed to tell us is that it's a film about a woman falsely accused of murdering her husband. Anyone who's seen a trailer or TV commercial for the movie already knew that much anyway.

Everything else you gave away is inappropriate and is going to ruin the film for anyone who read your review.

I agree that the movie is predictable, and your money would be better spent renting "The Fugitive," but still, that's no reason for you to "give away the farm."

Next time write about the actors' performances, the camera work, the quality of the dialogue and the themes or issues raised in the film. If you think the plot is predictable, simply say so. Don't tell us the entire story!

Your review's grade: F.

Curtis Bright
class of '90
former KOLN movie critic

Funny ha ha?

I found it rather funny how the 40 cases of confiscated beer were sold to Mum's. Now this weekend other students will go and buy those cases of beer, and this cycle of cat-and-mouse will start again.

Behrouz Zand
junior
psychology

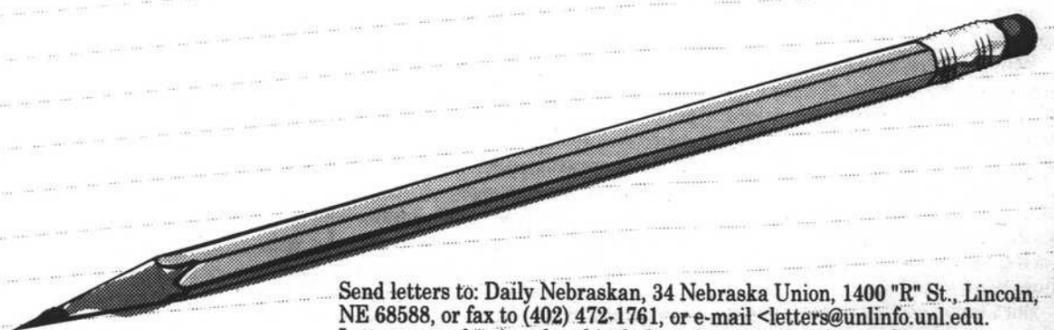
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P.S. Write Back



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