

OPINION PAGES

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Our VIEW

Wrong information

Changes could improve directories

You get what you pay for.

In the case of student directories, students aren't paying anything.

But the product that ends up in their hands by mid-November may not be worth much.

Students on campus typically receive directories in their mailboxes by the first week in November. Off-campus students pick up their copies in Room 135 of the Nebraska Union.

By the time students actually have access to the important information the directories contain, the semester is more than half over.

Because college students are so mobile, their information often changes each semester, rendering much of the information in the directory useless.

Of course, putting the directory together is not an easy task.

The university has to document the names, telephone numbers, local and permanent addresses, majors and years of more than 20,000 students.

It also has to update the names and phone numbers of the personnel in offices across campus, such as the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, for example.

Then, employees in the registration and records office must go through the records and erase information for those students who request not to have it published.

The process of gathering the information is lengthy. The time to get it printed is even lengthier. It takes as long as a month once it is sent off to the publisher.

By the time some students receive the directory, Thanksgiving is approaching, and students are already planning how they are going to ditch their roommate and move to another address the next semester.

Of course, we can't really complain. We get the directories free of charge. The university even ends up benefiting from the deal with profits that come from advertising in the directory.

But perhaps students want the information bad enough to pay to get it sooner.

A fee could be added on to a student's housing bill to pay for what it would cost to speed up the printing process.

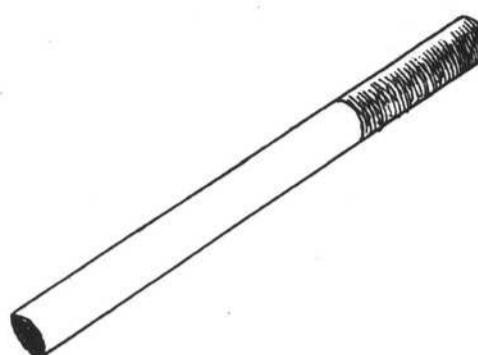
Off-campus students could pay a couple of dollars to get their copy.

We know everyone involved in the process of putting together and publishing the student directory is doing their best to get the most current, most comprehensive information out to students.

Perhaps we just need to think of better ways of doing it so the directory isn't outdated just weeks after the students finally get it.

Obermeyer's VIEW

TODAY IS THE GREAT AMERICAN SMOKE-OUT.
DOESN'T THIS LOOK YUMMY?



In case of emergency, smoke this cartoon.

DN LETTERS

Blind Optimism

In all of the construction going on in downtown Lincoln, a major oversight was made.

No temporary sidewalks were put in. In at least two spots, 11th and 13th streets, this mistake was made.

This may not seem like a big deal, as there are sidewalks on the east sides of the street. However, an event I witnessed the other day made it a big deal for me.

On the corner of 11th and P streets there was a visually impaired man trying to walk north towards Q Street.

The construction site left him with approximately three feet to maneuver through. On one side of him was oncoming traffic separated from him by flimsy orange cones, and on the other was a chain-linked fence.

As he attempted to use his stick to guide himself down the street, he kept getting caught in the chain link. It didn't take much to realize how scared he was trying to get down a street that was supposed to have a sidewalk to protect him and not being able to see to get himself out of what became a trap.

He couldn't figure out how to get across the street. He couldn't figure out how to get down the street. He couldn't get back to where he started from.

Something needs to be done to prevent this from happening again. I am asking that everyone write to Mayor Wesely (555 S. 10th St., Lincoln, Neb. 68508) and Governor Johanns (Capitol Building, Lincoln, Neb. 68509) to insure that they take the steps necessary to put in temporary sidewalks on construction sites to prevent this from happening again.

Jennifer Allen
Lincoln resident

Know God
In regards to "Hell Hath No Fury"

(DN, Monday), Samuel McKewon paints a beautiful picture.

I once believed as he does, that everyone gets to go to heaven because God is full of grace.

Unfortunately, this type of thinking was only based on what seemed most appealing to me.

I didn't ask God for his thoughts on the matter until two years ago. His answer changed my life for eternity.

We can choose what to believe, but believing something doesn't make it true.

So before any of you "bank on everybody getting a free pass," why don't you sincerely ask God to reveal to you what is true? There's nothing to lose — except illusions.

Betsy Severin
sophomore
broadcasting

No God

There are several objectively observable reasons why Christianity (or any other religion that purports to be "true") is "wrong."

How can any one religion be right when there is always another religion that claims it is wrong?

The diversity of religions in the world, each of which claim to have found a model of "truth" pertaining to the existence of the universe, suggests that religions are nothing more than social constructs used to facilitate social conditioning.

Look at how many mathematical and astronomical discoveries were in common across the world in ancient times — each in fundamentally different cultures — and then look at the religions of the respective cultures. How can a religion be an observation of an objective truth when independent observers make completely different conclusions?

I don't see why or how an omniscient and omnipotent God would create a world that can easily be

understood by preachers and faith-believers who are far less intelligent than I.

The world isn't simple, and when you describe it in terms of God/Devil, good/evil, you must ignore a vast continuum of circumstances and histories that don't directly pertain to your world view.

The best thing that can happen for our society right now is to get our heads on straight and to reject religious thinking.

We must establish ethics that stand on the foundation of selfish needs, such as the rights of property and of personal freedom, that are irrefutable by rational people.

We must learn to idealize reason and rationality. Otherwise, we'll just keep running around in circles like we have been for the past 2,000 years.

Jake Glazek
music/math
senior

Von Mouth

Once again, Ms. Flanagan opened her mouth and had absolutely nothing intelligent to say. I am writing in response to "Discounting Christmas" (DN Nov. 11).

Did you ever think that there could be such a thing as non-Christians?

Could you think for a moment that they may get tired of being bombarded with Christian music at every other store they visit?

No, of course you didn't, because once again you only thought of yourself and your simle-minded views. Please, Ms. Flanagan, find something worthwhile to write about or do us all a favor and just don't write at all.

Jill Hickman
sophomore
marketing

P.S. Write Back



Send letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 "R" St., Lincoln, NE 68588, or fax to (402) 472-1761, or e-mail letters@unl.edu. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification.