

Sex offender list on Web

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of them have been classified as Level III, said Colonel Tom Nesbitt.

"This is a tool to help us protect our families," Nesbitt said. "I trust the citizens to use this information."

The service is supposed to aid families in preparing safety plans for their children, including using the buddy system and refusing rides from strangers, Nesbitt said.

Mario Scalora, University of Nebraska-Lincoln assistant professor of psychology, said factors such as criminal history, level of violence, age and sex of victims and the area in which the crimes were committed were considered in the classification.

Scalora estimated about two-thirds of the sex offenders are classified as Level III.

Nesbitt said the list is not supposed to be used to harass anyone on it.

In other states with similar services already available, citizens have harassed offenders, and he wanted to avoid that, he said.

Level III offenders have their names, dates of birth, addresses, possible aliases and convictions posted next

to their photos on the Web site.

Of the 10 Level III offenders, three are living in Lincoln.

Though none of the offenders listed could be reached, neighbors have mixed feelings about living near a convicted sex offender.

Letitia Payne, a Lincoln neighbor of registered offender Louise Morris-Dougherty, said she was surprised the woman who lived in the same building was a sex offender.

"Are you sure you have the right building?" Payne asked. "She's a nice lady. She's married, and her husband's really nice. They have kids. She babysits."

Morris-Dougherty has been convicted on two counts of sexual assault, but Payne wasn't worried.

Daniel Dillard, the next-door neighbor of Michael Landis, who is also on the list, agreed.

"I know Mike, and I like him," Dillard said. "He hasn't done anything to me or my kids."

Dillard was not concerned for his family about Landis' having been convicted of sexual assault of a child.

"I know what he did, and I don't agree with it," Dillard said. "He made a

mistake, went to jail and paid his time.

"Everybody makes mistakes; some people are worse than others. I wouldn't want anyone to make these guys' lives more miserable than they are. They're the ones that are going to have to live with it the rest of their lives."

Another neighbor, Jason Terrell, a neighbor of Daniel Zegers, was not as accepting of living next door to a sex offender.

Terrell, who just moved into the house next door to Zegers' apartment, said he was concerned for the safety of his live-in girlfriend's 2-year-old child.

It was not the first time he had moved into an area with a sex offender living in the neighborhood, Terrell said.

The same thing happened in a north Lincoln neighborhood where he previously lived.

Terrell was upset, but there was nothing he could do.

"At least we know about it now," he said.

Information about sex offenders can be found through a link on the State Patrol's Web site: www.nebraska-state-patrol.org.

Ethicist urges action in end-of-life plans

By Margaret Behm

Staff writer

A crowd was asked Thursday night how they wanted to die.

Quickly, peacefully, at home, free of pain and not now, were the answers shouted back.

No one said that they wanted to be hooked up to a feeding tube, have a catheter or be in a hospital bed.

Dr. Cynthia Stolman, ethicist and assistant professor of pediatrics at New Jersey Medical School, spoke Thursday night about medical ethics and end-of-life decisions.

Stolman encouraged people to think about how they want to die.

Stolman also encouraged people to have advance directives or living wills.

However, one study found that 23 percent of doctors ignore advance directives, so patients need to find doctors who will respect them, Stolman said.

This paperwork also is not valuable unless it is available in an emergency,

so people should distribute it, Stolman said.

It is also important to give power of attorney to someone who will do what you want without letting their own emotions get in the way, Stolman said.

There are two main viewpoints on whether to end life, Stolman said.

One is the sanctity-of-life principle, which says it is better to possess a minimal degree of life than to be dead. The second is the quality-of-life principle, which balances the benefits and burdens of a life in deciding what to do.

James Thorson, UNO professor and chairman of gerontology who didn't attend the speech, said he teaches a class on medical ethics.

One day, a student mentioned that she had given six hours worth of morphine in 20 minutes to a patient who was dying.

Thorson said he then asked the class if they knew of situations where that happened. Half the hands went up.

"You could say this is first-degree murder, euthanasia or you could say it's the better part of mercy," he said.

Johanns cites goal for fiscal stability in vetoes

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override."

There are two weeks left in this legislative session, and Johanns said he would veto any bill the body passes in the remaining seven days that would cost the state more money.

The minority scholarship program will be expanded by \$1 million because of the bill, LB1379, that Johanns signed. The money will be divided between the University of Nebraska, state colleges and community colleges.

Despite cutting some of his other programs Thursday, Johanns signed into law a \$55 million property tax relief plan.

This is \$10 million less than what the governor proposed in his State of the State address in January.

"(Property tax relief) is the number one tax policy in the state of Nebraska,"

Johanns said.

The property tax relief plan will give \$30 million to community colleges, so they can reduce their property tax levy, and \$25 million will go to a direct property tax credit program.

Johanns did not approve funding for a few of his own program ideas, such as his mentoring and school-to-work programs. The governor said senators need to adopt the same mentality about some of their proposals.

"Today I am asking members of the Legislature to join with me in exercising spending restraint," Johanns said. "The more spending the Legislature passes, the more I will veto."

Johanns said he knew there were people who were upset with his decisions Thursday.

"We can't be all things to all people," he said. "I needed to identify the priorities and fund those priorities."

Professor recognized with research award

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I convey to my students the excitement of learning something new because that's what a lot of research is all about.

I hope that's what my teaching does, so that even if a student never becomes a researcher, they'll at least get a glimpse of what it's like to do research on such exciting things.

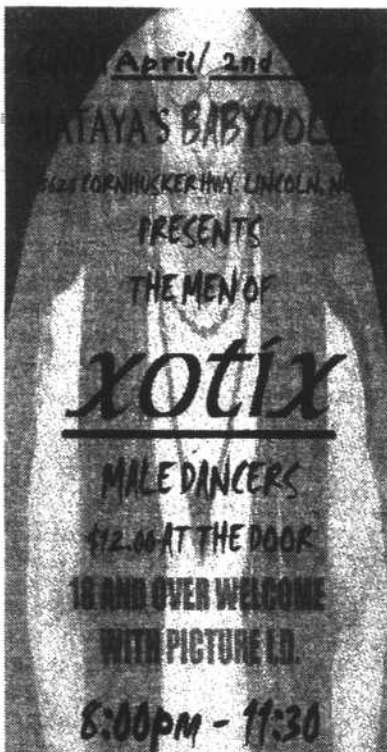
I really do believe that good research and good teaching go together. A lot of the passion that you feel for your research can contribute to that passion you feel as a teacher.

Q. What does it mean to you to receive this award?

A. It's a great honor. Past recipients of this award have been among the most distinguished faculty in the university system, so I think it's humbling to be in this group.

I guess I would throw in one other thing, too - it's wonderful that a university seeks to recognize faculty in this way, but when a faculty member is recognized, it's also wonderful to think of all the people who've contributed to your work.

So, part of what this award does is make me appreciate students who have been part of my research and other faculty who have been collaborators and people at other universities, too.



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