

# d.n. soapbox

ralph by ron wheeler



## letters to the editor

Dear editor:

Reasonable men may differ on the question of abortion. Still, the belief that abortion is murder finds support in both the Graeco-Roman and the Judaeo-Christian tradition and this belief has been reinforced by the discoveries of modern biology, especially genetics. It is therefore quite outrageous and unfair for Dr. Weston to characterize anti-abortionists as "ill-advised, ill-informed and close-minded people incapable of being dynamic" and to lump them together with the opponents of sex education (Jan. 21).

The pro-abortionists are certainly as guilty of trying to impose their personal moral (or amoral) views on the public as the anti-abortionists, and it is high time their own "undynamic" attitudes (with respect to the nature and the rights of the fetus) be exposed. I note, however, that in the four pages devoted to this subject, the Daily Nebraska has not seen fit to present the other side.  
R.D. Stock

Dear editor:

In reference to Michael Lang's guest opinion, (D. N. Soapbox, Thurs., Jan. 22), may I say the question "Is abortion the taking of human life?" is one which may never be answered since the absolute definitions of what is "human" and what is "life" are continually questioned by philosophers, scientists, theologians and the general populace in all nations, all cultures.

The morality of abortion may not be a matter of legislation. It belongs to the realm of the individual conscience. If abortions are made illegal, then many are forced to shape their philosophy and religion to the dictates of others. If abortions are legal, not one woman is forced to go against her beliefs. No one is forced into having an abortion. I strongly feel that it must remain a choice.

Debra Hulbert

Dear editor:

Friday, while in the Union, I signed a petition to keep Dr. Boyd and Dr. Wenburg, of the Speech Department, at UNL. It seems they didn't get tenure and unless they are successful in appealing the decision, they will have to leave. The rationale for not giving these men tenure is that they haven't written enough published papers.

You don't have to write a paper to be a good teacher, and these men are good teachers.

Students should be encouraged to sign the petition.  
Name Withheld

## Residence hall tenants caged

Consider the dilemma of legions of patient UNL residence hall dwellers.

Five years ago, just after former Chancellor James Zumberge took over, he was faced with a prolonged dispute over visitation in residence halls.

Later that year, Margaret Mead told UNL students that they should spend their time trying to achieve greater things than expanded alcohol and visitation rights.

Since then residence hall visitation has evolved into the current option system, allowing for floors with no visitation hours, zero to eight visitation hours, zero to fourteen hours and 24-hours a day for graduate students.

In those five years, coeducational living was expanded and the Associated Living program at Abel Hall was developed.

Not bad for five years.  
Or is it?

The latest round of proposed changes for residence hall life emerged last week from Housing Policy Committee (HPC) and Council on Student Life (CSL) perusal, now somewhat scarred but ready to be kicked up the university bureaucratic ladder to the regents.

How did it finally look? A proposal supporting 24-hour visitation was passed but a plan for alternate room co-ed living was mixed.

Alcohol consumption and possession was again put on the drawing board and passed by both groups. As always, these proposals give wide latitude for those who demand a more conservative lifestyle.

It's too bad that UNL students and faculty groups didn't give their wholehearted support to all the proposals of the Differentiated Housing Task Force.

Careful study and long hours had gone into that report and the objections raised, ranging from questioning the need for coeducational floors to citing invasion of privacy under 24-hour visitation, were beside the point.

There is no need. But there is room for a choice.

Choice of living arrangements comes to responsible adults. Adults who choose to attend college should have the same choice regarding living accommodations as adults anywhere else.

And that is what university students are—adults, both legally and socially.

One CSL member pointed to this very fact when he said: "This is not an abstract right. The university ought to be offering to students the rights and responsibilities of adults, as an option."

It seems inconsequential to quibble about invasion of privacy for someone who wants to live in an environment with 24-hour visitation.

Social realities demand that students be given the choice they deserve or they will bend the rules to accommodate their lifestyles. Unenforceable rules become meaningless.

Too much time for too many years has been given over to arguing about student rights in residence halls.

Decisions allowing the choice for all, from most restricted to most open, is the choice that responsible students deserve.

Vince Boucher

## word unheard | Legislature merits praise for anti-abortion resolution

By Del Gustafson

On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court discovered that "meaningful life" begins in the American fetus six- or seven-months after conception.

Last Thursday, the national debate over abortion reached the Nebraska Legislature in the form of a resolution urging the U.S. Congress to propose the "Right-to-Life" constitutional amendment. It safely can be inferred from discussion on the resolution that the logical imperatives of the abortion question soar over the heads of a few Nebraska legislators.

It seems obvious that the abortion debate should revolve around one question and *one question alone*—Is the fetus a human life? If it is a human life, it is entitled to the protection of the state, regardless of the mental anguish, physical pain, or economic strain development of the fetus may put upon the mother. A civilized man hardly would argue that parents be allowed to terminate their baby's life when facing the most extreme hardship. Likewise, if the fetus differs from the baby only in development and not in kind, it should not be abused. If, however, the fetus is not human (for it cannot be denied that it possesses life) then it may not be accorded the protection of the state.

## innocent bystander | Nice guy Ford soaks poor with new bone-dry budget

By Arthur Hoppe

The prestigious National Union for Tax Sanity is wildly enthusiastic about Mr. Ford's lean new \$394 billion budget.

"At last a President has openly adopted the wise fiscal policy we have been urging for years," says Executive Director Homer T. Pettibone, "soak the poor."

Pettibone noted that most of the \$28 billion Mr. Ford trimmed from the budget affected only the old, the sick, the young, the hungry, the uneducated, the crippled, the jobless and other undesirable elements of society.

These savings, he said, will allow every decent American to enjoy a tax cut—particularly every decent American who is either a corporation or earns more than \$10,000 a year.

Hasn't worked

"Ever since Congress passed the graduated income tax in 1913," Pettibone said, "political demagogues have been demanding that the government soak the rich. It simply hasn't worked."

"For one thing, the rich can afford tax lawyers and accountants who are twice as smart as the Congressmen who write the tax laws. Therefore, any attempt to soak the rich merely results in more billions of tax dollars that aren't paid. No wonder we have such a budget deficit."

"Secondly, there are far more poor people than rich people and their numbers are increasing every day. If we are hunting for taxpayers, surely we should hunt where the game is most plentiful. And isn't it more equitable to

At the Legislature, however, grossly irrelevant arguments were expounded in defense of abortion. State Sens.

Ernest Chambers of Omaha and Shirley Marsh of Lincoln argued that even if abortion is illegal, abortions will continue—they are "a fact of life"—therefore, abortion should remain legal and the state should not, as Sen. Marsh so eloquently put it, "send abortion underground for the poor."

The utterance of the truism that abortions are a fact of life is wholly irrelevant. It is a fact of life that human beings loot, pillage and rape despite laws to the contrary; but I never realized their continued existence was an argument for legalization. I always leaned toward the opposite conclusion that since such atrocities continued, it would be the state's duty to strengthen its just instruments of repression to end them.

Nevertheless, man does not know if the genetic composition of the mature adult is complete as conception. On the basis of such knowledge, the fetus should, in a society which purports to value human life, be granted a right-to-life until the proponents of abortion can prove the fetus is not a human life.

take a dollar from a million taxpayers rather than a million from one millionaire?

"Thirdly, it would be foolhardy to give more money to the poor in times of recession and unemployment. They would merely fritter it away on food, clothing and shelter. The rich, however, will spend it on cars, swimming pools, croquet sets and the kind of material possessions that create jobs.

"Lastly, do we really wish to penalize success and reward failure? What has poverty ever done for America?"

Rich have made country

"It is the rich and the rich alone who have made this country what it is today. It is the rich who built our railroads, our conglomerates and our defense arsenal. And if they weren't rich when they started, they were when they finished."

"But Mr. Ford has been the first President to see clearly that the old, the sick, the young, the hungry, the uneducated, the crippled and the jobless are a drain on our resources and a burden on our economy. Mr. Ford has wisely acted to reduce that burden by what he rightly described as 'a major turning point for the American people.'"

"There couldn't be a better description of his new policy to soak the poor."

Pettibone seemed surprised when asked if he didn't feel this new policy was perhaps a bit heartless.

"How could it be heartless?" he asked incredulously. "Everyone knows Mr. Ford is a real nice guy."

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