

# daily nebraskan

## DeCamp, Simon: we won't push 'bong bill' change

By Gordon Johnson

Two state senators Monday said they would not push for the adoption of an amendment to make the so-called "ban the bong" bill constitutional.

Sens. John DeCamp of Neligh and Neil Simon of Omaha earlier said they would attempt to amend LB991 so it would be constitutional.

The attorney general's office indicated the bill, if passed in its original form, would be unconstitutional

because the definition applied to "paraphernalia" is too broad.

Committee amendments also will come up for consideration, but the attorney general also has said that even though the amendments more narrowly define paraphernalia, the amendments still would be too broad.

### Narrows definition

The proposed Simon-DeCamp amendment, on the other hand, significantly narrows the definition of paraphernalia and, according to the attorney general's office, would be constitutional. The amendment would make paraphernalia illegal only for minors and require that head

shops be located at least 100 meters from schools, churches and parks.

If passed in its original form, the bill would outlaw scales, all types of pipes, and balloons and bags that could be used for the storage of illegal drugs.

Simon said he would not offer his amendments because of constituent response.

"I had a lot of people call me to ask me to support the original bill," Simon said. "I normally vote my own opinion regardless of public opinion, but on this issue I have had a deluge of public support for the bill."

The bill is now unconstitutional, Simon said, and will not affect head shops for another two years.

### Concern over litigation

"My concern has been all along that while LB991 is tied up in the courts, the head shops will be able to continue 'business as usual,'" Simon said.

The bill "will be tied up in the courts for years in litigation and eventually found unconstitutional," he said. "I state this because no where in the country is this type of legislation being enacted and our own attorney general has stated that the bill has constitutional flaws."

The bill was introduced by the Law Enforcement and Justice Committee at the request of Sen. Patrick Venditte of Omaha.

Venditte has said that if all senators were present in the Legislature he could get 35 votes for the bill.

A poll of senators taken by Simon indicated overwhelming support existed for some kind of anti-paraphernalia legislation, and that the bill would receive overwhelming support in any form.

Simon said the bill will be tied up in the courts for at least two years, but that he is working on a solution to the problem in Omaha.

Simon said he is proposing an ordinance for Omaha that would do about the same thing his amendment was designed to do.

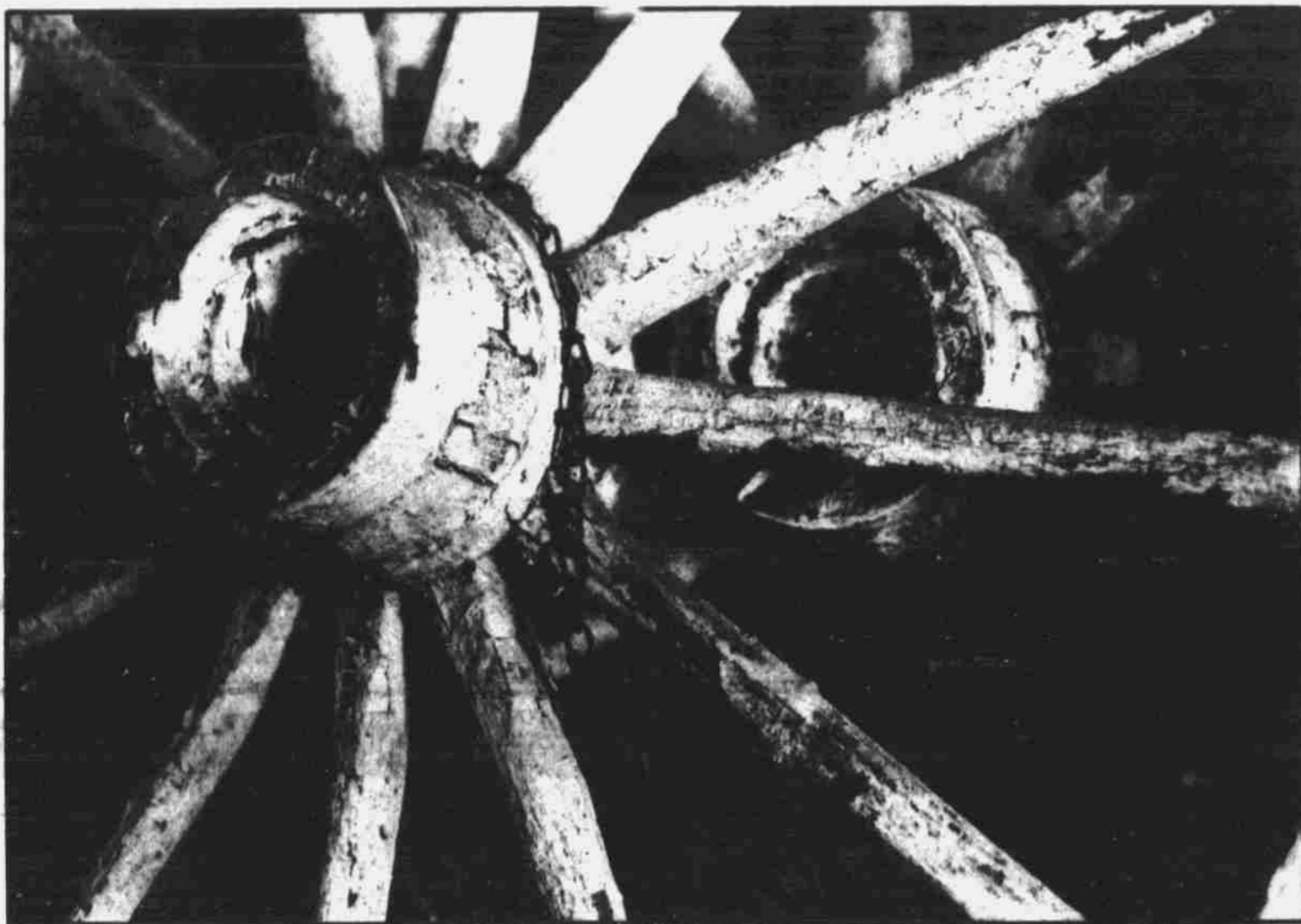


Photo by Tom Gessner

UNL art photography graduate teaching assistant Rob Friedman and 12 UNL students went to Hickman Monday seeking the unusual, and a wagon wheel from the old west caught one student's eye.

## Marriage class 'babies' are tiny bean sprouts

By Betsy Miller

Every student in UNL instructor Mary Jane Visser's Marriage and the Family course is now a parent.

Visser last week, gave each of her students a bean seed in a styrofoam cup to watch over.

"This is a simulated parenting experiment," Visser said.

Visser said she hopes to make her students understand the responsibilities of parenthood without actually going through it by caring for a bean plant.

When the beans were first handed out she explained that since they hadn't sprouted yet the plants were like unborn children. As soon as they sprout, the students are to treat them like babies.

According to Visser, the students can't leave the bean sprout unattended because they would be child neglect. If the student is going somewhere and can't take the bean, he or she must pay a baby sitter Visser said.

### Pairing off

To start the experiment, Visser had the class pair off as married couples. Those students who had boyfriends or girlfriends not enrolled in the course could pair off with them, she said.

"They got a cup and a bean and planted it right there in class," Visser said.

According to some of the students, the experiment is unique—especially the idea of not leaving the bean unattended.

Dawn Bedlan, a sophomore, has taken her bean to the rodeo and to the hospital. She and her fiancée, Matt Swantek, a junior, are the bean's parents and have named it Stacy.

Bedlan admits she is starting to worry, "because it hasn't sprouted yet."

"When she (Visser) first assigned it, we thought she was totally crazy," Bedlan said. However, Bedlan said she's found the idea to be really interesting.

### Bean in a bar

Mary Beth Hoffmann, a junior, has taken her bean to some interesting places, too.

"I went to a formal banquet and put it right on the table," she said. Hoffman also took her bean to a bar. "I sat it on the piano next to its daddy," she said.

Hoffmann's partner in the experiment is junior Dave Fergus, a member of the band "Shootin' From the Hip."

The Hoffmann-Fergus bean, like Bedlan and Swantek's has not sprouted yet so it has not been given a formal name.

For now Hoffmann said she and Fergus are calling the bean "Boo-Boo" because its arrival was not planned.

"At first I laughed and through it (Visser's bean idea) was a joke, but it's been kind of fun explaining it to everyone," Hoffmann said.

Visser said she got the idea for the parenting experience from a friend who teaches at Lincoln Southeast High School. The Southeast students used raw eggs instead of bean plants.

### Parenting rated

Visser said the students will be graded on a pass/fail basis. They are required to keep a journal of their daily activities with the plant and will also rate their partner's effectiveness as parents.

Visser conducted the experiment five years ago when she had a fairly even split of males and females in her class.

She remembers one event which happened then to a "parent" who left the bean plant alone in a dorm room while she went to the laundry room. Someone kidnapped the bean, and ransomed it for several sacks of potato chips and a few bottles of pop, Visser said.

Visser says it is interesting to watch the students react when they see each other's bean plants.

"As soon as they sprout, everyone compares their beans just like people compare children," she said.

When the experiment ends this week, Visser said the students are free to do whatever they wish with their plants.

"Some may let the plant grow, collect seeds from it and grow grandchildren," she said.

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