

# Daily Nebraskan

Tuesday

**Weather:** Tuesday, 40 percent chance of light snow in the morning, high in the mid 40s with winds out of the NW at 15-20 mph. Tuesday night, mostly cloudy, low in the mid 20s. Wednesday, mostly sunny and warmer, high in the mid 50s.

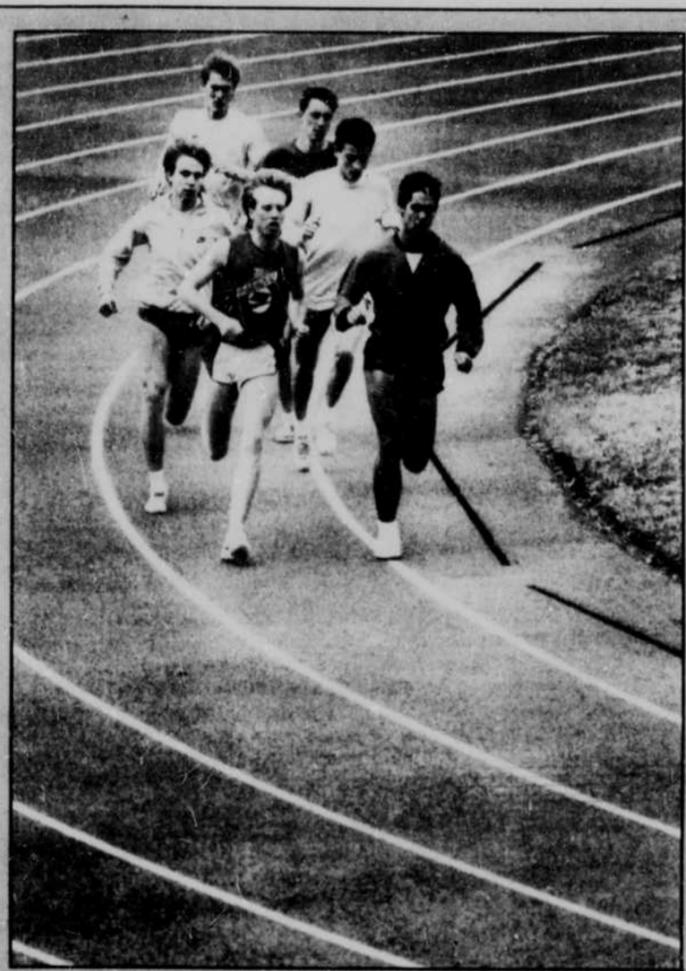
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Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

## Spring training

Members of the Nebraska track team run around the Ed Weir Track Monday afternoon during practice.

## 'Living will' bill advanced

### Legislation would give rights to terminally ill

By Ryan Steeves  
Staff Reporter

After adding five amendments, Nebraska state senators advanced the Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill Monday by a 25 to 17 vote.

### legislature NEBRASKA

If passed, LB88 would allow Nebraskans to sign a written declaration, known as a "living will," stating they do not want life support to be used in case they become comatose and are determined terminally ill. The written declaration also would give Nebraskans the right to transfer their life support decisions to another person.

The amendments added Monday:

- prohibit insurance companies from charging rates that discriminate against Nebraskans who sign a living will declaration.
- prohibit physicians from allowing a person to die from dehydration or starvation rather than the underlying terminal condition.
- require life support to continue for pregnant women even if a living will declaration was signed.
- require two co-signers of a living will declaration and restricting who can co-sign.

• change some basic language of the bill.

Sen. James McFarland of Lincoln introduced the amendment prohibiting insurance companies from changing rates of living will signers. McFarland said he feared that insurance companies would force living will signers to agree to special rates. "(Living will signers) should not be penalized nor should they be rewarded for making that choice."

Sens. David Landis and Shirley Marsh of Lincoln and Pat Morehead of Beatrice, co-sponsors of the bill, all supported the amendment. It passed on a 26 to 1 vote.

Sen. Tim Hall of Omaha introduced the amendment prohibiting physicians from allowing a terminally ill person who has signed a living will to die from dehydration or starvation. Instead, the disease which has caused a person to be terminally ill should take the life, the amendment said.

Sen. Bernice Labeledz of Omaha supported the amendment, saying it provided important safeguards for patients.

"This is an important safeguard because patients are not allowed to die from (anything) other than the terminal illness," Labeledz said.

But Marsh opposed the amendment. She said it could be used to take

away a physician's medical authority. The decision of nutrition and dehydration should be left to physicians, she said.

Hall's amendment passed on a 27 to 9 vote.

Labeledz introduced the amendment prohibiting physicians to discontinue life support for pregnant women, even if a living will was signed. It passed on a 26 to 0 vote.

McFarland introduced the amendment requiring two co-signers on a living will statement. The amendment stated that co-signers cannot be relatives, persons that would be financially responsible for the signer, beneficiaries of or people with claims against the signer's estate or an employee of the hospital caring for the signer.

Two proposed amendments failed.

One, introduced by Hall, would have required living will signers to review their living will declaration every five years. It failed to meet the 25 votes needed to advance an amendment. The vote was 22 to 21.

McFarland introduced the other failed amendment that would have killed the provision of the bill that allows Nebraskans to transfer life-support decisions.

## Cyclists' coalition won't fight helmet law

By Amy Edwards  
Senior Reporter

Members of the Nebraska Motorcyclists Coalition said Monday they will not attempt to repeal the mandatory helmet law, but will vote for senators who support their concerns.

Terry Schulz said the coalition will actively support those senators "who have supported freedom of choice for Nebraska motorcyclists." Schulz spoke at a press conference at Frontier Harley-Davidson, 2801 N. 27th St.

Schulz, secretary-treasurer of the coalition, said coalition members decided that repealing the law would not get programs the group supports implemented.

Mandatory helmet laws are not the only issues, she said. Safety education and public awareness programs would help save lives, she said.

Motorcycle registration fees pay for rider education in Nebraska. Schulz said this money should be

used for billboards and television ads to educate the public as well as the riders themselves.

Most motorcycle accidents are caused by uneducated riders and drivers who don't look for motorcyclists, she said.

**'The helmet law is a Band-Aid over the real issue of motorcycle accidents.'**

—Schulz

"The helmet law is a Band-Aid over the real issue of motorcycle accidents," Schulz said.

The coalition earlier this year lobbied unsuccessfully to defeat the

mandatory helmet law, which will go into effect Jan. 1, 1989.

Sen. Jacklyn Smith of Hastings and Sen. Scott Moore of Stromsburg introduced an amendment to LB428, the helmet bill, that would have required only people 19 years old and under to wear a helmet. The amendment also would have required motorcycle safety education for riders age 19 and under.

Schulz said the coalition supported the amendment and if the entire Legislature had been present to vote in final reading, the amendment would have passed.

The Nebraska Motorcyclists Coalition represents 17 organized motorcycle groups and nine businesses in Nebraska.

The organization was formed last September in response to LB428 and other issues important to motorcyclists.

Schulz said members of the coalition do not oppose the use of helmets, but the mandatory regulation of helmets.

## Fewer parties, equal complaints

By Lee Rood  
Senior Reporter

Although five fewer parties are campaigning for the Association of Students at the University of Nebraska this year, the same number of complaints have been filed with its electoral commission, an ASUN executive said Monday.

Shawn Boldt, ASUN first vice president, said most of the 30 complaints filed by VOICE and ACTION parties are for poster violations.

There are about 25 complaints of too many party posters being in one area or students tearing down an opposing party's poster, he said.

He said there have also been complaints of unreported expenses and wearing party T-shirts in illegal areas, such as the ASUN office.

If a party has violated election rules, Boldt said, it's fined and the

money is deducted from its spending account.

ACTION party has been fined \$35, and VOICE has been charged \$50.

ACTION was fined \$10 for poster violations and \$25 for a party member wearing an ACTION T-shirt at a Government Liaison Committee booth in the Nebraska Union.

VOICE was fined \$15 for poster violations and \$25 for unreported advertising expenses in the Daily Nebraskan.

Boldt said this year's race for ASUN has been more vicious than in the past. Party members have been "fighting it out in the trenches" this year, he said, especially for residence hall student votes.

There have been complaints of door-to-door campaigning in the residence halls, he said. But the complaints have been unfounded.

## Student government apathy common at Big 8 schools

By Lee Rood  
Senior Reporter

Andy Pollock walks into the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska's weekly meeting. As president of ASUN, Pollock glances around the room to see who is in the audience.

But like other student leaders in the Big Eight, Pollock rarely sees anyone new at the student government meetings.

Instead, there are the few dedicated or obligated in attendance: James Griesen, vice chancellor of student affairs; a reporter; Jeff Petersen, chairman of the Government Liaison Committee; and two representatives from other committees on campus.

Apathy toward student government is not new to Pollock. Pollock said he notices it at every ASUN meeting, with every issue the

group tries to confront.

Pollock's frustration with apathy is not unique. Student leaders from six of the Big Eight schools said they also have problems with apathy.

Student representatives from Oklahoma and Oklahoma State were unavailable for comment because of spring vacation.

All student government leaders interviewed said apathy on university campuses is a definite problem and has become a national trend.

They say students don't have time for activities, don't understand student government or don't know how to become involved.

About 15 percent of the student body votes in government elections at Big Eight schools. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's average is 15.6 percent.

All but one student leader interviewed said students complain about Greek house members

dominating student government. Most said students criticize how the governments are set up.

Most of the leaders said they are tired of students who complain and give excuses instead of getting involved.

Julianne Marley, president of the student body of Iowa State, said there has been a long-standing problem with apathy on her campus.

It wasn't until Marley got arrested at a sit-in that students started taking an interest in student government.

Marley was later acquitted for sitting in a hallway protesting CIA recruitment on her campus, but several students voiced their opinion on what the role of a student leader should be, she said.

Marley said because she has been politically outspoken, students tend to take some interest in student government.

But there are never enough people to do things, she said. Most students stay on the sidelines, Marley said, and only speak out if an issue is especially controversial.

Pollock said students rarely speak out at UNL even if an issue is controversial.

Pollock said now is the only time he has heard more than one or two opinions on what ASUN has done all year.

Only four students asked questions about tuition increases for faculty salaries, two had questions about improvements within the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, two were curious about night busing and one had a complaint about a business course.

Pollock said with ASUN elections Wednesday he is hearing more complaints than ever, but said he wants to know where his critics were.

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