

Daily  
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## Halls of poison ivy

Senator harms Roskens' effort at Capitol

Sen. Tim Hall of Omaha seems to have missed something.

Hall, speaking on the floor of the Nebraska Legislature, said he would like to strike \$4 million in research money from the University of Nebraska budget bill now before the Legislature. His rationale is that the university's central administration has yet to prioritize and focus a direction for the proposed funding.

Three days earlier, NU President Ronald Roskens specifically outlined areas of research for the \$4 million at the monthly NU Board of Regents meeting.

Roskens dissected the proposed funding into four major categories, gave exact dollar figures to be allocated to those areas and proceeded to explain specific projects to be researched within those fields.

Roskens said \$1.95 million will be allocated to biotechnology; \$1.55 million to engineering, physical sciences and computer sciences; \$200,000 to water quality research; and \$300,000 to decision sciences.

In biotechnology, Roskens targeted study in the control of infectious diseases through the production of vaccines, the application of monoclonal antibodies and the use of molecular probes for viruses. In engineering, Roskens pointed to re-

search in the area of aerosols, laser scattering, laser metrology and super-fast cameras.

In his presentation, Roskens said, "Please note that we intend to target specific areas, rather than allocate these dollars to a large number of programs."

Hall said of the central administration Tuesday: "They need to sit down and say, 'Here's what we want to be and here's what we want to do.'"

Roskens' proposals are not an example of failure to focus or prioritize. They are, instead, specific and far-reaching research goals that would dramatically improve both learning and the possibility of securing corporate research centers in Nebraska. Lack of research funding loomed large when Nebraska lost the multimillion-dollar US West research and development center to Colorado. This cannot happen again.

Hall has done more than spout misguided untruths. He has damaged the university's funding opportunity with an attempt to please penny-pinching constituents. This kind of attack appears on the wire service and is sent across the state riding on the integrity of Hall's senatorial title. Hall has damaged a well-planned effort to lift the University of Nebraska to academic superiority.



## Sennett defeats Mickey Mouse

Two write-in votes put columnist into ASUN office as senator

I have ventured into the political arena twice in my life. When I was 16, I ran in a special election to fill a vacancy on my high school's student council. I was soundly defeated by Terri Waters — a teeny-bopping cheerleader with braces who could only put a sentence of more than three words together if it began, "Two, four, six, eight."

Four years later, I found myself drafted to run for president of my student government in college. A small caucus of concerned constituents saw the election being handed on the proverbial silver platter to a yuppie 10 years ahead of his time — the college-aged male counterpart to Terri. They asked me to mount some kind of competition. I did. I won. I spent most of the next year regretting it.

Two experiences, covering the only two bases to be covered, right? You run; you lose. You run; you win. Certainly, if you do not run, you cannot lose. And, as Sybil told Harold in that greatest of all movies, "Chariots of Fire," "If you don't run, you can't win." Right? Not, apparently, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Imagine my surprise when I found out last Thursday that I had been elected to the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska as a Graduate College senator. I did not run. I did not think about running. I didn't (and, please believe me, this is unusual for me) even vote. But Gustaf, a friend and fellow grad student with an office down the hall, knocked on my door, pulled me away from the slumbers of my dissertation research and said, "Congratulations, Senator."

I quipped, with all the non-interest I could muster, "That's Sennett, Gus, and why should I be congratulated for falling asleep in Plantinga's 'Nature of Necessity?'"

"That's Senator, Jimmy, and I don't give a rip about your sedated studies. You have been elected by your peers to represent them in that monolithic bastion of students' rights and suntan-consumer protection

agency — ASUN."

It seems that there are six seats in ASUN for Graduate College senators. A whopping one-third of those were claimed by people who managed to muster enough concern to get their names on the ballot. Three more went to other exuberant individuals who orchestrated write-in campaigns. One spot was left. Out of all the extra write-in votes amassed — such as Mickey Mouse, Mike Dukakis, Gerardo Rivera and Pat Paulsen — I apparently received more than anyone else. I got two. There are two people out there in university land who, with their joint and apparently independent efforts, managed to land me in a seat of prestige and power.

other vote. I figure the three of us need to get together so the winning candidate can be treated to the gourmet meal of his choice. If you are my mystery backer, please drop me a line here at the Daily Nebraskan so you can get invited to the celebration. Gus is buying.

There are so many details to attend to now. I suppose I should call a news conference to accept victory and say nice things about my defeated rivals. "I hope that Mickey and Gerardo will not be discouraged but will continue to pursue public service through whatever opportunities they might have. I understand that Mike is already involved in another, albeit less prestigious, political campaign."

I also need to make sure my closets are clean. I am, after all, an ordained minister named "Jimmy." But, believe me, I don't even know how to spell "prostitute," and my wife has never been inside T.J. Maxx. I may have lusted in my heart, but that only makes me as bad as St. Augustine, and I think I can live with that.

Finally and, I understand, this one is for real, I must file a financial disclosure statement for my campaign. That ought to be loads of fun. "I spent no money at all on this campaign. Enclosed please find receipts to document these figures." Robert Dole spent millions in the South and came away with nothing on Super Tuesday. I didn't even buy Gus a cup of coffee, and I ride a tidal trickle of support to victory. I wonder if I qualify for matching funds.

It was William Tecumseh Sherman who said, "If nominated I will not run; if elected I will not serve." I was not nominated and I did not run. I have been elected, but I don't know whether I'll serve. I admire Sherman's resolve, but he didn't have Gus breathing down his neck, wanting to be appointed press secretary.

Sennett is now a politician as well as a graduate student in philosophy and campus minister with College-Career Christian Fellowship.



James Sennett

It's a little frightening, isn't it? Because of a fluke and, most likely, a couple of jokes, I can become a duly ordained law-making official of the largest institution of higher education in the state of Nebraska. Of course, this is not the most spectacular feat of its kind in political history. It did, after all, take two more votes to put me into ASUN than it did to put Gerald Ford into the White House. Nonetheless, I feel kind of special. I'd like to know if anyone has ever gotten in on one vote, or if I have set some kind of record here. Maybe I will ask to be director of ASUN archives, so I can dig back and find out.

I know who one of my supporters is. Good ol' Gus, who only went to vote because some friends of his were among the aforementioned candidates, pulled my name out of fat air and filled in the blank. He also insists that he is the one who put me over the top, since he voted late in the day. But I would like to know who cast the

### Letter

#### Senator defends support of helmet law

It was our intention when I co-introduced LB404 in 1985 to mandate that vehicle operators who drive on Nebraska highways or streets carry liability insurance for their own protection and as an indication of their responsibility for their own actions.

Unfortunately, after the bill went into effect, we had only 33,000 registered motorcycles in Nebraska as compared to more than 50,000 prior to LB404. That was an obvious indication that motorcycle riders did not intend to be responsible as they used the public streets and highways. Because of this irresponsibility and lack of concern for the public good, LB428 was introduced.

LB428 requires that any operator or passenger on motorcycle or moped should wear a protective helmet. Because of the serious head injuries and fatalities occurring from these injuries, this bill has been introduced. Within 60 days after the effective date of this act (approximately Sept. 10) the Department of Motor Vehicles is to publish minimum standards for protective helmets. The design of the helmet will reduce injuries to the user resulting from head impacts. A helmet purchased prior to the effective date of this act must conform to federal motor-vehicle safety standards. Any person who violates this law will be guilty of a traffic infraction and fined \$50.

The serious nature of head injuries occurring in motorcycle accidents was the reason for the introduction of this bill. Studies show that unhelmeted riders are twice as likely to receive a head injury of any type as

are helmeted riders and are at least three times more likely to receive a fatal head injury. More costs become incurred from motorcycle accidents. These costs include the costs to society as a whole. Often society must be burdened with the cost of lifetime care for injuries received in motorcycle accidents, since many people involved in serious motorcycle accidents do not have health insurance. These costs include:

- increased insurance costs spread among all of us who pay insurance premiums.
- increased welfare costs paid for by the taxpayer.
- increased welfare costs to support spouse and children left behind.
- other indirect costs occasioned by removing a productive member from society.

The costs of motorcycle injuries are numerous. LB428 is intended to protect motorcyclists and moped riders from head injuries. Most deaths from motorcycle accidents are related to head injuries, and these deaths are related to the lack of helmet use. LB428 requires the use of helmets and will hopefully aid in the elimination of motorcycle head injuries.

I appreciate hearing your point of view and even though you may disagree with mine, I hope you understand that my concern for your life and the life of others outweighed any political consequences resulting from my support for LB428.

Sen. Dan Lynch  
District 13  
Nebraska Legislature

### Letter Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letter should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.