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## Biker enjoying summer trek

By Victoria Ayotte  
Staff Reporter

Traveling across the country by bike is a trying experience at times, but it's the only way to go for Scott McMahon.

"There are some days where it's kind of lonely, but then you meet some people, and it's fun again," said McMahon, a 31-year-old chemical engineer.

McMahon, from California, has traveled over 2,900 miles on his way to Boston from Eureka, Calif. on a horizontal bike. Called a recumbent bike, it has a larger back wheel and is more like sitting in a car, he said.

But you don't get as much exercise sitting in a car, McMahon said.

"I just like traveling by bike," he said. "You get your exercise and when I get there I feel better about myself."

"It's the only way to go."

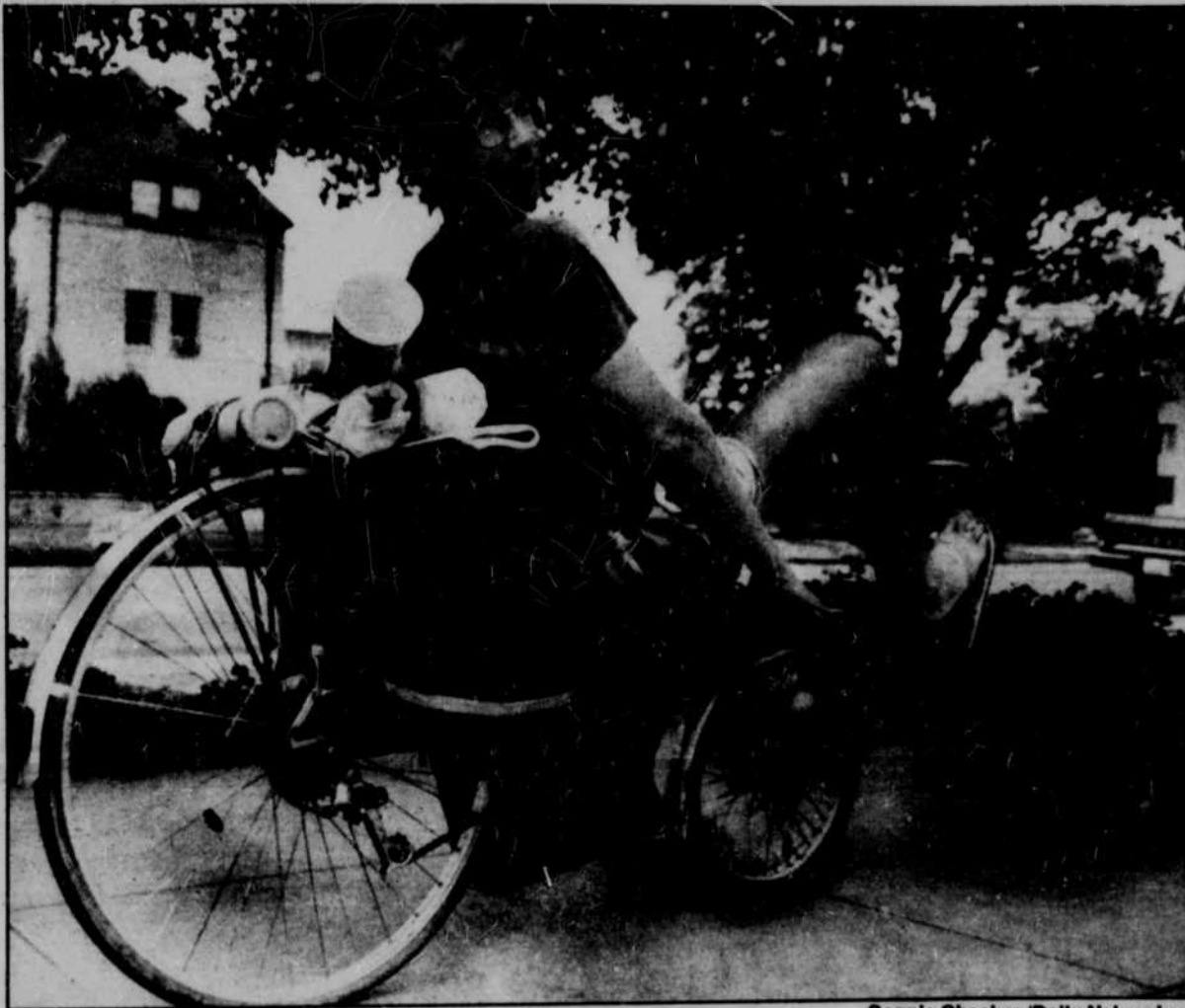
A regular bike can give riders "saddle sores" and cause their hands to fall asleep, but this doesn't happen on the horizontal bike, he said.

"It just takes a while," to travel by bike, he said.

Fifteen varieties of the 18-gear horizontal bike are sold in California, he said.

McMahon has been on his bicycle trek since May 17. He stopped in Lincoln Tuesday before leaving this morning. He plans to go to Sioux City, Iowa, spend a month in Washington D.C., before arriving in Boston Oct. 2.

McMahon said his first trip across the country isn't what he thought it would be.



Connie Sheehan/Daily Nebraskan

### McMahon

"I thought it would be like a long camping trip," he said. "I haven't met as many cyclists as I thought I would."

But, McMahon said, he has met a lot of interesting people along the way "who've shared their houses and their barbecues."

McMahon usually camps out nights or stays in a youth hostel before taking off early on another day's journey. At first, he said, the hard part of the trip was finding a shower and a place to stay at night.

"I have an idea where I'm going," he said, but he doesn't map it out exactly.

While on his daily 70-mile ride, he said, people often stop to ask him what his bike is, but he doesn't mind. It's an unusual object on the side of the road that makes it easy for cars to see, and McMahon said he feels pretty safe traveling.

McMahon listens to the radio while biking, and "I try to think about ways to redesign bikes," he said.

He said the weather on the trip has been good, except for some rain in Idaho. McMahon said the weather in Nebraska is "enough to kill you."

Although he ran over his glasses yesterday, McMahon said the trip has been fun for the most part.

"I'm trying to eat and sleep on \$10 a day," he said.

He said he plans to fly back to his home of Red Bluff, Calif., from Boston.

## UNL dean takes Florida position

Gerhard Meisels, University of Nebraska-Lincoln dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has accepted the position of chief academic officer at the University of South Florida, Tampa.

Meisels' appointment as USF Provost will be effective Sept. 16.

John Peters, associate to UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale, said an interim dean should be selected by August.



Meisels

Meisels was appointed interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1981 and accepted permanent appointment in 1982.

Meisels' work in radiation chemistry and mass spectrometry has earned him international recognition.

In 1978, Meisels served as advisory board chairman of UNL's National Science Foundation Instrumentation Facility in Mass Spectrometry. He was elected to a two-year term as president of the American Society of Mass Spectrometry in 1986, and has been chairman of the American Chemical Society's Committee on Economic Status and director for the Council for Chemical Research.

Meisels was born in Vienna in 1931. He studied at the University of Vienna and earned his M.S. and Ph.D. from Notre Dame.

Before coming to UNL in 1975 as professor and chair of the Chemistry Department, Meisels taught at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa., and the University of Houston. He was also a chemist for Gulf Research and Development Corp. and Union Carbide Corp.

# Professor: Iran may have planned incident

By Victoria Ayotte  
Staff Reporter

In the wake of the debate following a U.S. warship's shooting down an Iranian civilian plane, one University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor said it's possible that Iran purposely made the plane resemble a military jet during its flight.

David Forsythe, professor of political science, said questions remain whether "this indeed was a civilian aircraft shot down" and why the plane was radioing on a military frequency.

"It is possible this aircraft was rigged by the Iranian government," he said. "You cannot rule out that they were willing to sacrifice 290

people to embarrass the United States.

"A government like that would certainly regard 290 martyrs as a small price to pay to embarrass the United States," he said.

The Iranian A300 Airbus was shot down Sunday by the USS Vincennes, killing 290 Iranian civilians.

The plane was radioing on two frequencies, one normally used for Iranian F-14's in the area, leading the captain of the USS Vincennes to believe the plane might be hostile. The plane was allegedly operating out of the normal commercial air corridor toward the ship, U.S. Navy officials reported.

After repeated warnings, the captain ordered the plane shot down.

Forsythe said the captain probably acted

correctly, although the facts will tell the story.

"It appears he was going to be under attack and to defend his men and his ship, he had to fire," Forsythe said. "This is understandable as an accident."

Col. Charles Barnett, chairman of naval science at UNL, said that he thinks the captain had justification for shooting.

"It was an unfortunate situation," he said. "I'm sure in the heat of the conflict — and it was deemed that it was perhaps a hostile aircraft — you have to make a split-second decision."

"If you delay sometimes just a matter of seconds, you may lose some people under your command on that ship," he said.

Both Barnett and Forsythe said the

captain's actions were probably influenced by the 1987 attack on the USS Stark by an Iraqi aircraft, which killed several American servicemen.

Forsythe said the U.S. response should depend on what comes out of the investigating committee reports.

A six-member investigating team landed Tuesday aboard the warship to sort through computer records.

The Navy is conducting an inquiry, but Forsythe said U.S. action should depend on what the results of the International Civil Aviation Organization's investigation are, since it is impartial.

"There are quite a few unanswered ques-

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