

Daily  
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## Dispensers needed

Condom machines would promote safe sex

University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Division of Housing needs to jump on the safe sex bandwagon by installing condom dispensers in residence halls.

Director of Housing Doug Zatechka said he has no plans to install the machines because students would not become educated about sex.

Readily available condoms, although not educating students about sex, would educate them about health risks while promoting safe sex. With the increased number of AIDS cases and unplanned pregnancies across the nation, all areas of university, local, state and national governments must work for that education.

Zatechka said that students should continue to go to the University Health Center to get condoms, because doctors can give them guidance on matters of both physical and mental health.

But students do not need to consult a health center doctor before getting condoms. Condoms are placed on the counter at the pharmacy, and students leave payment by the honor system.

Besides, if a student takes the time to purchase a condom, then apparently that student is educated enough about sex to practice safe sex.

And there are ways to educate students without requiring the presence of a doctor.

UNL could place educational pamphlets next to the machines, like the University of Iowa in Iowa City does. UNL could send informational brochures to each hall resident at the beginning of the year and package the condoms with detailed instructions, as the University of Wisconsin-Madison does. UNL's housing division could sponsor special educational events, like UWM's "Condom Olympics."

And as Zatechka has said, expense would not be a factor in the decision to install the machines because vendors would cover installation costs.

The value of condom machines in the residence halls is indisputable. As long as the machines are present, the chances of a condom being used grows.

If the presence of a condom machine stops one unwanted pregnancy, or one case of AIDS, then it is worth it.

-- Curt Wagner  
for the Daily Nebraskan



## Industry dumps 'maturing' figure

Ex-pinboy Royko says Retton exemplifies typical bowler image

When I started hanging around bowling alleys, it was obvious that nobody was giving much thought to the public image of this ancient game.

I was one of the pinboys, a scruffy mix of neighborhood kids, winos and drifters. We worked the pits, scooping up the ball and speeding it back on twin-rails to the bowler, then tossing the pins into the rack and slamming it down for a reset.

The air was usually heavy with cigarette and cigar smoke. The bowlers' language could be even heavier, especially when they left themselves a tough split in a money game.

Most places had a memorable aroma: a blend of beer, sweat and smoke. This was before the days of air conditioning and armpit sprays. Today's health vigilantes would call in a federal agency.

Not that there was anything disreputable about bowlers. To the contrary. They were working people, and bowling league night was a major part of their social lives.

But most bowling alleys were no-frill joints. A bar, a short order grill, and maybe a few pool tables. The paint on the walls might be faded or peeling and neighborhood idlers might be hanging around the pinballs, but as long as the alleys were properly oiled, the drinks honestly poured and priced, and the pinboy didn't get his head in the way of the ball too often, the customers were satisfied.

Of course, this was long before the bowling industry tried to gentrify itself. It was before bowling alleys became known as bowling lanes or family recreational centers. It was before automation replaced the pinboy, forcing thousands of youths out of the pits, where they developed agility and strong backs, and into McDonald's burger assembly lines, where they develop high cholesterol.

There's no question that today's bowling centers are cleaner and more comfortable than in the past. And I can't quarrel with the business motives of the bowling proprietors. They now compete with racquet sports, fitness clubs, jogging, VCRs, video games and dozens of other recrea-

tions that didn't exist a couple of generations ago. Just prying the potato off of his couch is a challenge.

But I think they may be carrying their image consciousness a bit too far.

I say that because of the legal flap between Mary Lou Retton, the former Olympics darling, and a couple of national bowling organizations.

last place you would look for lean and mean athletes is in a bowling alley.

You burn off more calories having a dirty thought than by bowling a line or two. The office cleaning lady gets more exercise than a bowler.

So if the bowling industry had any sense, it would welcome the new, broader-beamed Mary Lou. They would have her make a commercial in which she says:

"Hi, remember me, the famous Olympic athlete? Of course you don't. I've been eating a lot of Quarter Pounders with fries."

"But, hey, don't worry. Do what I've done. Forget the back flips. Forget pumping iron and eating tofu. Just go bowling. There's nothing to it. Roll the ball a couple of times, then sit down. And if that tires you, let someone else keep score while you eat pizza."

The bowling industry doesn't realize that it is going to drive away its traditional constituency -- the overweight, out-of-shape majority.

If they're determined to drop Mary Lou as their spokesperson, then they should get someone like my friend Slat Grobnik, who was elected to the Pinboy Hall of Fame for having been simultaneously hit in the head with a ball and pin, and not missing a rack.

Slat could articulate the three things that make bowling unique among all participation sports.

"Hi, I'm Slat and I'm a bowler. Why do I bowl? Because it is a great sport. You spend 99 percent of your time sittin' down."

"More than that, it's the only sport where the arena of competition provides the players with ashtrays. You ever see an ashtray in an aerobics class?"

"But best of all, it's the only sport where you push a button and a waitress brings you all the beer you want. Billy Martin should have been a bowler."

My guess is that Mary Lou will win her lawsuit. All she has to do is set up the cameras in a few bowling alleys and film the athletes.

And not their faces.

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Mike Royko

After Mary Lou bounced into America's consciousness, she signed a lucrative contract to hype the bowling industry. That's the American Dream: You devote your formative years to perfecting the world's greatest back flip for your country's honor and glory. Then you become a TV salesperson. If Thomas Edison were alive today, he'd be on TV pitching appliances. Alexander Graham Bell would be telling us to let our fingers do the walking.

Although Mary Lou was not known for her bowling, that industry rented her image of good, youthful, wholesome athleticism. But now they've dumped her, and she's suing.

The bowling moguls argue that she is no longer a suitable spokesperson because her body has been "maturing."

They won't come right out and say it, but it has been reported that she's been maturing too much from east to west. In other words, she's become kind of a pudgy young lady.

That's an image the bowling industry wants to shake. They want us to think of bowlers as lean and slinky. Sort of like pro golfers with greasy haircuts.

It's their industry, so I won't give them advice, other than to say that they are kind of stupid.

They overlook the polls that say the vast majority of Americans either weigh too much or think they do.

They also ignore the fact that the

## letter

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 to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

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

Anonymous submissions will not

be considered for publication. Letters 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.

## opinion

READER

### Reader concerned by review

The headline of Jim Hanna's review of "Mississippi Burning" (Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 18), notes that the movie may arouse anger in some viewers. But Hanna failed to address a very real anger that the movie is evoking. The film fictionalizes a real event, and its mis- or re-interpretation of that event may delude many viewers into believing that the FBI played a supportive role in the cause of blacks during the Civil Rights Movement.

Unfortunately, this isn't true. The FBI did as little as possible to support the black cause during that period, and in many instances played the role of oppressor and persecutor. It appears that the primary involvement the FBI had with the Civil Rights Movement was in their campaign against Martin Luther King Jr.

Last Tuesday Lela Shanks spoke at a Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration in Lincoln. She recounted her experiences during the Civil Rights Movement, which included having FBI agents harass her at home and her husband at work for refusing to send their children out of their neighborhood to a segregated school for blacks.

As Shanks noted, it is not that there were not whites who supported

the movement, but to portray the FBI as an agency as being supportive of the movement is dangerous. People need to know the truth about the Civil Rights Movement, even (or especially) if it makes them feel uncomfortable.

To fictionalize and reinterpret the Mississippi summer into a vehicle for an actor to get an Academy Award is reprehensible, and (in the words of last week's Time magazine), "downplay(s) the roles of black and white visionaries who risked, and sometimes lost, their lives to help fashion a free America."

Hanna suggests that the "only" flaw in the movie is the graphic and frequent violence. I disagree. I think we need to know that people were beaten, tortured and violently killed because of the color of their skin, or because of their support of people whose skin color differed from theirs.

As the Time magazine article pointed out, "It is bad enough that most Americans know next to nothing about the true story of the Civil Rights Movement. It would be even worse for them to embrace the fabrications in 'Mississippi Burning.'"

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