

Daily Nebraskan  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Curt Wagner, Editor, 472-1766  
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## Quibbles and bits

*Helmet rule should apply to none or all*

● If the Nebraska Legislature is going to require motorcyclists to wear helmets, it should enforce the rule on all motorcyclists, not just those under age 19.

LB690 has sparked new interest in the mandatory helmet law, which went into effect two months ago. But LB690, instead of requiring all motorcyclists to wear helmets, would require only those under age 19 to wear them.

This is hardly fair and definitely not smart.

LB690 has been called a compromise bill between enforcing the mandatory helmet law or not enforcing it. But what a silly compromise, enforcing the law on one group of people who apparently don't have as many motorcycle accidents in Nebraska. Only two of the 19 motorcycle fatalities in the state in 1988 were under age 19, according to state Sen. Dan Lynch of Omaha.

● ASUN Sen. Jill Durbin finally has said something that makes sense.

The arts and sciences senator spoke in open forum at an ASUN meeting last night about her feelings on the passing of Senate Bill 65, which shows ASUN's support of LB340 in the Nebraska Legislature.

LB340 asks for the return of Indian remains and burial goods to the Pawnee Indians of Oklahoma, who were originally from Nebraska. Durbin questioned whether the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska overstepped its bounds when supporting LB340.

"Why stop on that?" she asked.

Why, indeed?

Durbin said that some UNL students ride motorcycles, so ASUN should voice its opinion on state legislation concerning the helmet law. She also mentioned students who have children and could use day-care services, saying that ASUN should tell legislators how the student body feels about that issue. She brought up other issues the Legislature is concerned with that would affect students, saying ASUN should speak out on those.

Yes, ASUN should address student issues so legislators know what students want.

Durbin then reiterated that she feels ASUN oversteps its bounds when telling the Legislature how students feel.

What? ASUN's job is to improve the quality of life at UNL. Part of that job, it seems, would be to let Nebraska legislators know how students feel through ASUN's legislation.

So, by all means, overstep any bounds to accomplish that task.

— Curt Wagner  
for the Daily Nebraskan

## Student says people shouldn't walk on eggs

"Americans are ignorant of Islam" (Daily Nebraskan, March 1) was an important step in educating the "bibleocentric" masses about a major world religion that is largely misunderstood.

However, I disagree with the notion that we should all walk on eggshells when we are expressing our ideas. The guest columnist wrote: "Islam is not a religion in the narrow sense... It is a way of life."

In a very subtle way, this seems to be claiming that Islam is more important than the belief systems of the other four-fifths of the world. Christians protesting "The Last Temptation of Christ" also claimed that the film was insensitive to their beliefs, but for some reason, I still envision screaming hoards of fundamentalists enjoying a Jimmy "Secular Humanists are Slime" Swaggart telecast -- without feeling the slightest pangs of guilt.

It doesn't seem that these people are worried about religious intolerance in general; they are simply send-

ing a message directly to Martin Scorsese and Salman Rushdie: "My beliefs run deeper than your beliefs! Pblft!"

By doing so, they are trampling on my feelings. To get revenge, I could put a price on Charlton Heston's head for starring in "The Ten Commandments" I could demand that Shirley MacClaine's "Out on a Limb" be removed from the shelves of book stores across the nation. I could demand that the Bible be moved closer to the J.R.R. Tolkien section. I could even try to remove The UNL Good News' right to publish their anti-humanist propaganda, but I won't.

Not because there aren't any "screaming hoards" of free-thinkers to back me up, but because real religious tolerance is taking what they say with a grain of salt.

Pohl Longsine  
junior  
mathematics and computer science

# BULL SHORTS

Have you ever been bored and read a pop can? Did you know there are two servings in a 12 Oz. can of Diet Pepsi? I don't know of too many people who go looking for a partner when they open up a can. This also means that when you drink a whole can of Diet Pepsi, you are actually getting two calories, not one. What do you think that would do to their advertising? Two calorie Diet Pepsi. Heavens, Coca-cola would prevail in the cola wars.

I read a can of Campbell's Chicken Noodle soup too. The label states that there are two and three fourths servings after you add a can of water. I may be a pig, but I usually eat a whole can myself. Even so, when my wife and I have lunch together and have soup, we always have a hard time coming up with that three fourths person.

I have not been able to find a serving size on any beer cans or, for that matter, a six-pack, twelve-pack or case. You don't suppose the answer could be one serving... in each instance.

Speaking of serving sizes, I went to one of those "All-You-Can-Eat" places the other day. I finished my first helping and went up to get another. Unfortunately the owner was standing there with a big man named Wally, who told me that was all I could eat.



## Issues fill the last few weeks

*Potpourri of controversies include COLAGE, abortion, Tower*

These last few weeks have been ripe with controversy here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. With the Committee Offering Lesbian and Gay Events and abortion being the main highlights, and a smattering of other issues thrown in.

"The Satanic Verses," John Tower, Oliver North and George Bush in Asia... the list goes on.

The reason for the potpourri of issues is that no one thing has really grabbed my attention. Well, some topics have, but those don't really deserve an entire column devoted to them. So here they are, the things going on in the world that interest, bother or simply amuse me.

Oliver North and his attorney Brendan Sullivan. This would fall into the amuse category. It seems that North will most likely evade any serious charges against him. It seems that his attorney Sullivan has succeeded in convincing the judge the documents he needs to defend North are those which are classified secret and cannot be introduced into the courtroom.

Whenever the prosecution has tried to introduce material that could prove harmful, Sullivan has cried "we need secret documents to defend ourselves." The judge has then sent the jury home and tried to figure out what to do. This is not illegal but merely being a good lawyer, I imagine. Sullivan has found a weak spot in the prosecution and is using it to his best ability.

The funny thing is the special prosecutor has had a good idea that this would happen. He has wasted millions of dollars in tax money and has dropped the major charges against North. What this means is Oliver North, even if found guilty, will serve little if any jail time and I imagine any possible fine will be minor.

Say what you want about the man, good or bad, but when he does something he doesn't mess around. Whether it be illegal arms sales and the disappearance of \$10 million or going to court, he does it big -- not with style, just big.

Another unstylish guy is John Tower. As James Sennett wrote in his column Tuesday, Tower exhibits signs of an alcoholic. Whether or not the charges are true doesn't seem to matter anymore. What has become important is the fight between the U.S. Senate and Bush. Bush has chosen to go to bat for Tower. If he loses, his credibility and influence in Congress will be much reduced.

He should take a clue from his predecessor Ronald Reagan -- cut your losses before they become an issue. The Reagan administration perfected the "spin" technique. Do what the public wants, if they don't notice, it's OK.



Craig Heckman

Speaking of Bush, he has recently returned from a trip to Asia. It appears that he has taken a very real concern with Asia -- especially China. It is good to see that he has. With over a billion people, China cannot be ignored.

This success abroad has been shadowed by his lack of any at home. Besides the Tower issue, Bush faces other problems. He has yet to fill most of the middle-level administrative positions. These are the positions that no one hears about, where most of the work is done. By not filling these positions he is, by default, giving the edge to Congress.

This, combined with his other

problems, may signal a long four years for Bush. Facing an unfriendly Congress, not having the wheels of government in place -- much less moving smoothly -- a budget deficit, trade deficit and a \$120 billion price tag on Savings and Loans, Bush is in trouble early.

Closer to home the COLAGE problem and abortion continue to reign. You all know how I feel about COLAGE-- give them the money and let them choose. Many letters against funding COLAGE mention morality. To me, morality is not something anyone else can dictate to another. Everyone must find their own. To say someone is without morals is to say their morals don't coincide with yours. It does not mean they are wrong.

I am rather surprised that many people find the time to gripe about a mere \$750. This is nothing. Very few have said anything about the comparably huge increases in student fees for the Campus Recreation Center. How many will actually use it? You're going to pay for it. If you don't use it, aren't you just throwing your money away? This will cost everyone more than COLAGE will -- why don't you complain about it?

Just briefly will I touch abortion. It's a hot topic and one we'll not resolve here. I was overjoyed this weekend with something I saw. Saturday morning I was driving on O Street and noticed a large group of people picketing the Lincoln Clinic. They were pro-choice people -- mainly women -- who were protesting the clinic's decision about abortions. The pro-choice group has not given up the fight.

Well, I feel better now. It's a real relief to get all of this off my chest.

Heckman is a senior international affairs major and a Daily Nebraskan editorial columnist.