

**Daily Nebraskan**  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## LB769 not realistic

Senators putting political concerns first

Once again some members of the Nebraska Legislature are putting political considerations ahead of good policy considerations.

Currently senators are debating LB769, a bill that would require parental notification before a woman under the age of 19 could have an abortion.

Proponents of the bill argue that they are keeping the best interests of the pregnant minor in mind by attempting to improve family communication. If proponents really believe that, they must be living in a dream world.

Welcome to the real world. In the real world, not every family is middle-class, two-parent and supportive of its children. In the real world there is abuse. In the real world there is incest. In the real world parents don't like to discuss difficult topics with their children and children don't want to burden their parents with their problems. In the real world, pregnant teenagers would rather confide in others than confide in abusive parents.

LB769 won't work in the real world. Proponents of LB769 also argue that a judicial bypass provided in the bill gives an adequate opportunity for victims of abuse to escape the parental notification requirement. The judicial bypass would allow a pregnant minor to go to court and ask a judge who doesn't know her to declare her mature enough for an abortion. But studies done at the University of Minnesota, a state which has legislation similar to LB769, show that the judicial bypass can be as stressful or more stressful for the pregnant woman than having an abortion.

Another provision of LB769 allows the woman to have an abortion if she declares that she is a victim of incest. But the provision also states that "Notice of such declaration shall be made to the proper authorities." Naturally, an investigation of the incident will follow. The thought of an investigation could be enough to keep an incest victim, afraid of more abuse, away from any authorities. And would such an investigation really promote communication in an already troubled family? Probably not.

Obviously, the real intent of LB769 is not to promote communication but to prevent abortions. If that is the case, will the Legislature be as willing to pay for the societal consequences that the bill will produce? No.

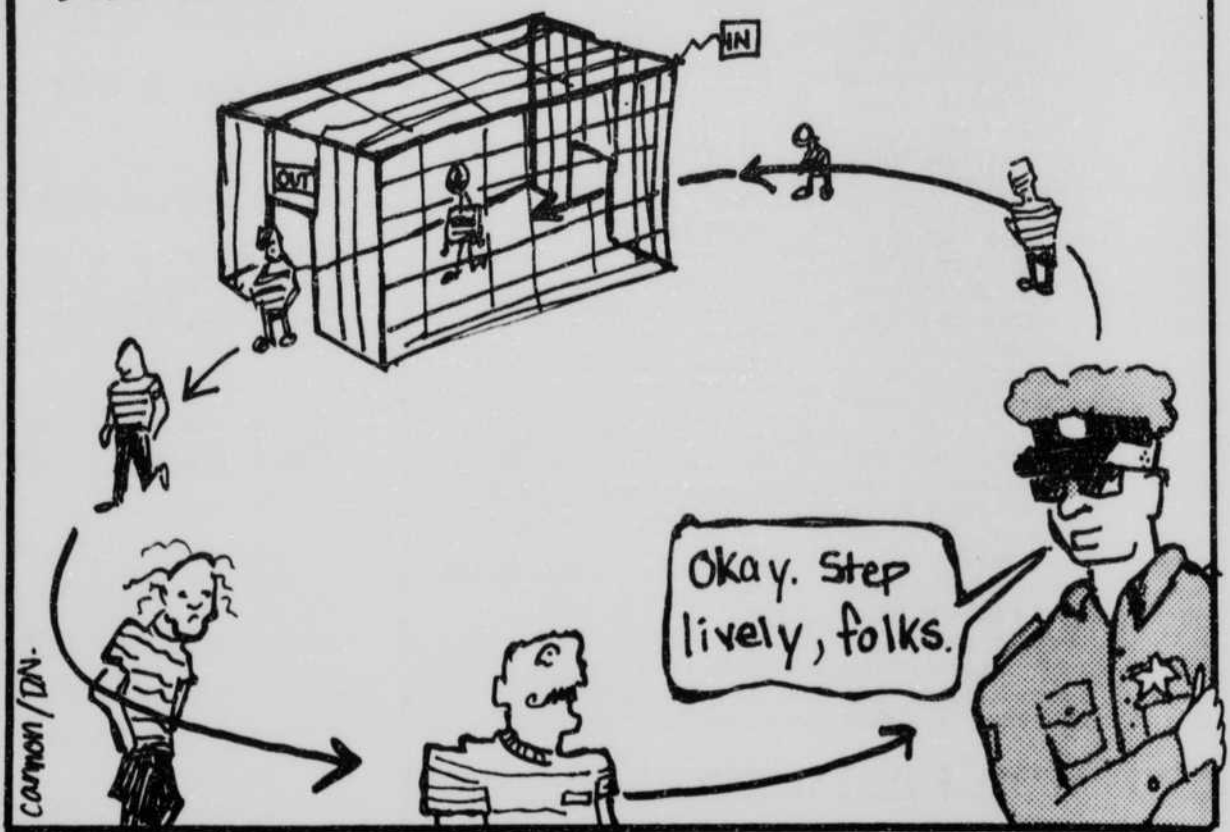
Sens. David Bernard-Stevens of North Platte and DiAnna Schimek of Lincoln proposed an amendment to LB769 that would have appropriated funds to pay for day care for children of mothers who are still in high school. If senators are willing to keep minors from having abortions, naturally resulting in more live births, they also should be willing to pay for some of the costs of these new lives. But senators wouldn't even consider such an amendment.

If LB769 passes, it will have devastating effects in the real world. Pregnant teenagers will invent their own ways to get by the parental notification requirement. They will falsify identification. They will obtain illegal abortions. They will run away. They will commit suicide.

Even if senators don't agree with abortion, they should not pass a bill that will not only discriminate against minors, but will give teenagers who already are in trouble more problems.

-- Jana Pedersen  
for the Daily Nebraskan

## The U.S. Correctional System: A Model



## So where are the Christians?

Nels Forde's seemingly laughable attacks may not be so funny

Sometimes it's difficult to be mean to one's fellow man.

Sure, calling someone a toad is a little mean, but nonetheless meant in good fun. It's when someone's a real monster that sarcasm bleeds you, makes you righteous, makes you stink a little.

I can blame my upbringing for my fear of hurting others. I sat through enough Methodist sermons to paint me moral.

As a kid, I would have rather kissed Darla Adams than go to Sunday morning church services. Darla was a large, affectionate girl who chased boys in fifth grade, but that's certainly a different story. You see, our pastor was a cold, spent man who repeated sermons from his younger, more fervent days of ministry. Even a kid could tell he was tired. His message was flat: nothing more than quotes, nothing more than second nature.

During a typical sermon, my pastor spoke like a butler, the two old ladies in the front row nursed their asinine church smiles, a few old men snored, one baby cried and I designed a scenario whereby I saved the congregation from a group of terrorists, most of whom looked like Gene Simmons -- who as you well know is the bass player for Kiss.

During most of each sermon I would pray for my pastor to stop talking; which never happened, giving me early question marks on the power of prayer. I also prayed that angels would sing better than Mrs. Davis, the choir's first soprano who single-handedly crucified Handel's Messiah.

What I've taken so long to get at is that I'm not, and never have been, a model Christian. However, I feel guilty about hurting people, lying, stealing and most of the other nasties: virtues which at least make me a decent citizen.

Whether my morality is intrinsic or learned doesn't matter. I'll accept my brain as a tabula rasa scribbled on by a burned-out preacher because buried somewhere in his stale sermons were the gems of Christianity.

Now, unlike my pastor who disfigured religion through indifference, some people have learned to better mutate the teachings of Christ through fervency. These are the people who, unlike the indifferent, do infinitely more damage than good.

And on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus we have our own superstar of mutated Christianity, Nels W. Forde, publisher of the UNL Good News.

Admittedly, Forde's "newspaper" is too easy a target for sarcasm. The paper has been a good joke for most, a chance to read true lunacy. The paper is fun to ridicule. Forde is fun to mock.



Bob Nelson

In the latest issue of Good News, Forde accused the Daily Nebraskan editors of sacrilege for supporting the installation of condom machines in the residence halls. He said, "As Christians, we criticize the Daily Nebraskan's advocacy of condom distribution as encouraging fornication, which is sin against God. It is the result of a 'reprobate mind' in Romans 1:28, and the chapter goes on to say, '... who, knowing the judgment of God, that they who do such things are worthy of death...'"

First of all, Forde is saying that the majority of the campus population is worthy of death. I also can say that of the minority he doesn't say are worthy of death, most of those have been trying pretty hard to become worthy.

Also, he accuses DN editors of being sacrilegious for supporting the machines and he accuses us of supporting sins against God. Now being called sacrilegious, being accused of slandering God and being told you're worthy of death can test anyone's sense of humor. But no, I don't hate him. Being called names I can

handle. What I can't handle is a man alienating real Christians by calling his band the only true Christians.

Forde said, "When the Daily Nebraskan calls someone 'ever-righteous' it is cause for rejoicing, though the comment was meant to be snide and demeaning -- an all too common tactic against Christians."

In this quote from the most recent Good News, Forde was categorizing Christians as those who come under fire from what he calls "liberals." He even called us the "leftist editors of the Daily Nebraskan," an interesting slap in the face for me -- a registered Republican.

Forde has labeled the far-right as Christians. If you are not reactionary, you are not Christian. With this definition, Forde has blasted most every great reformer or humanist of history, both Christian and secular. He has blasted Christians by saying they're not Christians and he has blasted non-Christians for being non-Christians.

This is the dark and frightening side of Forde -- he and others like him have made a joke of Christianity. As easily as I learned morality from sermons I cared little about, it seems just as easy for Forde's Good News to covertly delegitimize Christianity.

By laughing at Forde and his twisting of scripture, people are forced inadvertently -- and I stress inadvertently -- to laugh at the teachings of Christ. Forde has sowed mockery of Christianity.

So Forde, your most disgusting crime is the possible effect you could have on good human beings whose opinions have yet to be set in stone. Your newspaper is a sin to God because you mask the teachings of Christ, you're sacrilegious because you revolt people from Christianity and you're worthy of death because you have stopped thinking.

But my bored minister and I still love you Forde, even though we're not real Christians.

Nelson is a junior news-editorial major and a DN associate news editor and editorial columnist.

## opinion READER

### Reader protests DN joke issue

I was shocked to read the Daily Half-asskin insert (May 1). It is a rape of journalism integrity, based on freedom of the press. I had no idea that we have regressed to the point that we need to use vulgar and outright deplorable journalism in the name of humor and fun.

Chuck Green addressed an issue in a forthright manner, but what was the issue being addressed in the Daily Half-asskin? I protest against the use of vulgar sexual cartoons and Satanic symbolism in the name of humor.

I will use the headline over Green's column, "God save the Daily Nebraskan," because we do need help. Are our funds really used to publish material like this?

George Kerr  
graduate assistant and  
graduate student  
Physical Education

Editor's note: The DN prints 165 issues per year.

After Fund A student fee refunds, the DN receives about \$38,500 -- 94 cents per student per semester.

Printing costs for this year's joke issue were \$460.20.

Student fee money is a lump sum that is not allocated to a specific

issue or project. It is only allocated to pay for a portion of the DN's printing costs. It could be allocated different ways, however the DN sees fit.

One way is to allocate student fees to the first issues published until money runs out. Advertising revenue would then take over. Using this method, student fee support would have run out first semester, therefore no fee money would have been used for the joke issue.

Student fees could also be allocated per issue. This works out to \$233 an issue. Since that amount would have already been allocated before the joke issue, the addition of a joke issue would not add to student fees.

If student fees are allocated by the number of pages the DN prints, then the joke issue would have used about \$96 in student fees, or about four-tenths of a cent per student.

In all, except the last case, no student fee money was used. The DN receives less than 1 percent of the total student fees collected. In the last case, the joke issue used 0.2 percent of that 1 percent of student fees.

## letter

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.

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.