

Daily Nebraskan  
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## What others think

### Harassment clause will cause problems

**"H**ey baby! Wanna tango this Friday night?" Are these the words of a lascivious sophomore leaning out the window of his 10th-floor dormitory room, or perhaps the twisted rantings of a student soon to come up on criminal charges?

You make the sexual harassment call.

But as you do, consider that the university is also playing this game. Friday, the University Council's Executive Committee approved a new paragraph to the Student Handbook that would make harassment -- sexual, religious or racial -- a punishable offense.

The new paragraph would prohibit "threatening, intimidating, verbally abusing, impeding, telephoning, following or persistently bothering or annoying" people on the basis of sex, race, religion or national origin.

Violations of this paragraph's spirit would presumably mean a hearing with the Student Judiciary.

The executive council's intentions are certainly good. No organization can condone the harassment of any of its employees. But in practice the paragraph would create a guessing game that's worth avoiding.

Claude-Leonard Davis, University Equal Opportunity Office director, said the language of the paragraph is extremely broad, such that it would be difficult to determine what is and isn't harassment. What might be one person's constitutionally protected free speech could possibly be construed as "annoying" to a person because of his or her race or religion.

And the paragraph isn't in response to rampant harassment at the university. To the contrary, harassment isn't a problem said Bill Bracewell, Student Judiciary director.

If it might circumscribe free speech, if its language might be too broad, if it really isn't needed at the university, why don't we forget about this paragraph? Then we could forget all the attendant problems it would create.

-- The Red and Black  
University of Georgia

## Lobbying group exists at UNL

I am writing in response to Eric Kaldahl's letter (DN, Oct 27).

I would first like to address Eric's concerns about the constitutionality of a student regent vote, in particular relating to the "one man, one vote" concept. This is a common misconception that arises when the topic of a student regent vote is raised. Nebraska Attorney General Robert Spire issued an opinion on Feb. 6, 1986, on the constitutionality of a student regent vote. In regards to the "one man, one vote" principle it stated:

"The U.S. Supreme Court has held that the 'one man, one vote' principle is irrelevant where an election is not involved nor required. *Sailors v. Kent Board of Education*, 387 U.S. 105 (1967). Student members are not elected to the Board of Regents. Article VII Section 10 of the Nebraska Constitution in effect appoints the student body presidents to the board by operation of law. A combination of elected and appointed members is permissible for nonlegislative state agencies. The Board of Regents is essentially administrative. Therefore the 'one man, one vote' principle does not apply."

Secondly, I was very glad to read that Eric would have two willing hands to offer as a volunteer to a student lobbying group. There is such a group on campus. It's called the Government Liaison Committee and it has an open membership policy. All an interested student such as Eric has to do is come to the next meeting -- today at 6:15 p.m. in the Nebraska

Union. GLC has lobbied effectively in the past for issues such as the approval of a student recreation center, higher faculty salaries, increased funding for the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, and adjustment of a formula for distributing state grant funds. Last year GLC also lobbied to obtain funding for the replacement of instructional equipment, especially for the College of Engineering and Technology. The funding was approved by the Nebraska Legislature, yet was vetoed by Gov. Kay Orr. GLC plans to once again lobby state legislators and the governor for funding of this vital issue.

If Eric, or any other student, is particularly interested in the idea of a student regent vote, a group has been formed this fall in support of this idea. It is called Students for the Right to Vote and is chaired by Russ Johnson. The group will be working with the Government Liaison Committee to lobby state senators and other members of the state for the adoption of an official student regent vote.

I'm glad that Eric was concerned enough to write his letter and I would like to invite him to the next GLC meeting. Like him, I hope that other students are willing to get involved and would extend the same invitation to them.

Deb Fiddelke  
chairman of the Government  
Liaison Committee  
senior  
advertising/political science



## COVERT OPERATIONS AT UNL..?

### Potential makes risk worthwhile

#### Environmental project could benefit the farmer and the land

**E**nvironmental concerns and the almighty dollar were pitted against each other at an agricultural forum on East Campus Thursday.

And the environment was winning.

At issue was a proposed move in farming, from heavy reliance on pesticides and fertilizers to promote high yields, to the use of crop rotation to add nutrients to the soil and other methods that draw upon nature for answers rather than chemicals.

Scientists and a representative from the U.S. Department of Agriculture were advocating spending money to research the environment and how it works, rather than just exploiting nature to meet the demands of society.

Incredible.

It is apparent that left-wing environmentalists are no longer the only people on this planet working for a cleaner, safer earth.

But, advocates of these "new" farming techniques, referred to as Low-Input Sustainable Agriculture, risk losing both political and professional face.

Politically, they are stepping on the toes of the fertilizer and pesticide industries. Talk of groundwater contaminated by nitrates, which are present in fertilizers, amounts to bad press, as do suggestions that a better way to farm is on the research horizon.

Gary Myers, president of the Fertilizer Institute in Washington D.C., was quick to point out that fertilizer is used today to produce half of the world's food supply. He then alluded to the uproar that would result if proven technology is exchanged for

the unknown and then fails to produce comparable yields at prices affordable to farmers.

Myers summarized the dilemma facing low-input researchers and advocates succinctly during the "From Plows to Politics" forum.

If researchers succeed in bringing the world environmentally sound farming techniques at an affordable price, they will be heralded as visionaries who care about the earth. If they

more research was pointed out frequently.

The research will evaluate the use of alternatives to commercial fertilizer, including animal wastes and if these also contaminate groundwater. Although it is argued that crop rotation can inhibit weed growth, this needs to be proven, according to Glen Helmers, UNL professor of agricultural economics. The ability of crop rotation to control insects also will be studied, he said.

Separate from these field studies, low-input researchers will determine if new farming techniques save farmers money. Some money may be saved by eliminating fertilizer and pesticide purchases, but more could be lost if satisfactory yields fail to result with new techniques.

Basically, advocates admitted not knowing all the answers. They told farmers, industry representatives and the media that the answers on how to farm with fewer fertilizers and pesticides are coming, but it's going to take some time.

This request, for a little breathing room to create and substantiate innovative techniques, is more honest than wishy-washy. Often, researchers on the "verge" of something new jump the gun and make claims that later prove unfounded.

For all the successful scientific breakthroughs publicized, there are certainly as many that fail to pan out.

Dollars are being risked on research that could benefit both the farmer and the environment.

That's a risk worth taking.

Carroll is a senior news-editorial major and Daily Nebraskan columnist and supplements editor.



Chris Carroll

fail, the low-input advocates will be roughly tossed aside as dreamers who wanted to resurrect farming strategies that failed in the past.

No doubt, the low-input advocates know what is at stake. But the odds of succeeding must be plausible enough to warrant further low-input research.

The defensive stance of representatives in the fertilizer and pesticide industries almost did more to promote low-input research than did the optimistic speeches made by advocates Thursday.

If the industry leaders are scared, then the low-input researchers are on to something.

Specifics on these "new" techniques and how they differ from those practiced by farmers long ago were sparse Thursday. Successful test crops that used these new techniques were mentioned, but the need for

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

Anonymous submissions will not

be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any.

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

## editorial

POLICY

Signed staff editorials represent the official policy of the fall 1989 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Amy Edwards, editor; Lee Rood, editorial page editor; Jane Hirt, managing editor; Brandon Loomis, associate news editor; Bob

Nelson, columnist; Jerry Guenther, senior reporter; Brian Svoboda, columnist.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

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According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.