

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

Later last call

Proposed law good for business, safety

For a state senator in Lincoln, it is easy to ignore the potential benefits of LB287. The state's capitol is too far from the real problem that the bill is intended to address. LB287, proposed by Sen. Tim Hall of Omaha, would allow bars in Nebraska to remain open until 2 a.m.

Of course, not everyone in Lincoln is blind to the benefits of the bill. University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who go to the bars will obviously see the advantage in having an extra hour to spend at the bars.

That, however, is trivial when weighed against the bill's true intent. The benefits to business and safety should be even more clear to bar owners and patrons across the state. For them, the bill simply makes sense.

South Dakota is Nebraska's only bordering state where the bars close at 1 a.m. That means Nebraskans are making a run for the border — and the bars — of Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming.

That costs bars anywhere near the border — especially in Omaha — a great deal of business. LB287 would keep those patrons and their business at home.

But most importantly, the bill will cut down on the number of people driving after drinking. Nebraskans will have no reason to drive across the border and attempt driving home drunk. And everyone should see the benefit in that.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"It's a helluva lot better than state-sponsored atheism."

— ASUN senator Ronald Schmidt on a proposed committee to decide whether UNL should have prayer in its graduation ceremonies.

"What about it? The skies are a lot safer today for our pilots."

— President Bush in response to a question about half the targets being missed during the raid on Iraq Wednesday.

"Other than Jesus Christ, Elvis is the most recognized individual in the entire world. That puts him in some pretty good company."

— Kevin Bartholomew, Elvis Presley impersonator.

"Since we have almost a year to go before the current president steps down, I think any talk of this is now premature."

— NU Board of Regents Chairman John Payne on beginning the search for a new NU president.

"It takes a lot of shoe leather, but not a lot of money."

— ASUN first vice presidential candidate Trent Steele on the costs of campaigning.

"We're just trying to take it off the Mercedes and put it on the station wagon."

— Harry Thomason, co-chairman of the Presidential Inaugural Committee, on new inaugural events.

"They could literally spit on you anywhere you are on the court, and I'm not so sure they haven't tried."

— Nebraska basketball player Bruce Chubick on Oklahoma State's Gallagher-Iba Arena and OSU fans.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1992 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents. Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.

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 or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. 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. 68588-0488.



ALAN PHELPS

'Vital' legislation faces senators

The Legislature is back in town. Rejoice, fellow members of the masses!

Our leaders walk among us once again, and I'm probably about as excited as I get. Bam.

Senators say they expect more than 1,000 bills to be introduced this year — a record. All of them are gems of democracy, a testament to the American belief that the people can govern themselves.

Buried among the "change provision for this" and "provide for this and that" are a few that shine perhaps a bit more brightly than their neighbors, however. Every season, a few bills stand out from the rest, giving us hope for the future.

LB17, for example, would change provisions relating to apprentice electricians. Take that, apprentice electricians! The power of the people cannot be denied.

LB45 seeks to eliminate provisions relating to photoelectric tube devices for elevators. You know the kind of trouble brewing with those puppies. Legislature to the rescue!

If LB135 went through, inspections would be required of tattoo establishments. This is probably a good idea.

"I see you have only 267 flaming skull tattoo patterns on your wall," a hard-nosed inspector might say, "and only 143 mystical ladies with large, exposed breasts. I'm afraid that will cost you."

One of the most important bills this year must be LB125, which would prohibit interference with a person engaged in hunting, trapping or fishing. I don't know how many times I've been hunting, trapping or fishing and had to put up with all manner of bothersome interference.

But if LB125 passes — and what



My favorite bill of all is LB341, which would prohibit the buying and selling of motor vehicles on Sundays. Most of us agree, I think, that this has been a problem that must be addressed.

senator would vote against it? — then I'll be able to set my traps in peace. Actually, the only traps I ever set are for mice; but I need a steady hand and no distractions.

"Shove off!" I'd say to whomever had the gall to interfere. "As per Nebraska State Law! A pox on you, lawbreaker!"

A seemingly related bill, LB132, would redefine fur-bearing animals. I'm not sure what "fur-bearing animals" might be redefined to. One might guess the term refers to "animals bearing fur," which is fine with me. But I don't suppose I'd mind if it were changed to, say, "big ol' hairy, smelly critters."

Another bill aiming to mess with the dictionary is LB146, which would redefine "Veteran of the Vietnam War." I'm sure the real reason for

such a measure is steeped in legalese. But that's why we have those crazy senators running around that big building for us: to keep track of what everything means.

My favorite bill of all is LB341, which would prohibit the buying and selling of motor vehicles on Sundays. Most of us agree, I think, that this has been a problem that must be addressed.

Because this bill was my favorite, I called its sponsor, Sen. Dan Lynch of Omaha, and asked him what the deal was.

Lynch said he didn't introduce the bill from a religious standpoint, and added he didn't care if I drank or smoked on Sundays.

"If you're a sinner, you might be dressed up more on Sunday, but you're still a sinner on Monday," he said.

It seems some car dealers Lynch has talked to back in his district don't like to be open on Sundays, which can be very slow business-wise. But dealers stay open anyway, because of competition from the other pesky dealers.

Lynch said some dealers said it would be nice to have the day off. The senator said he wasn't hot on the matter one way or the other, but he thought he'd introduce the bill and see if the industry wanted such a measure.

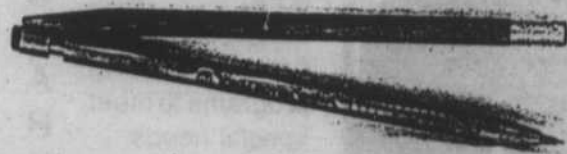
I suppose that is state government at work. Cotton candy for all! Everybody gets a day off!

If we're going to worry about the auto dealers, I'd like to see a bill prohibiting annoying Park Place commercials.

Or maybe we could just find a senator to introduce a bill requiring everyone to smile and be nice to each other all day.

Phelps is a junior news-editorial major, the Daily Nebraskan managing editor and a columnist.

P.S. Write back.



The Daily Nebraskan wants to hear from you. If you want to voice your opinion about an article that appears in the newspaper, let us know. Just write a brief letter to the editor, sign it (don't forget your student ID number) and mail it to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 'R' St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0488, or stop by the office in the basement of the Nebraska Union and visit with us. We're all ears.