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Nebraskan  
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EDITORIAL

## It ain't easy

Being green better for UNL in long run

UNL has an obvious parking problem. There are not enough parking places available for a university with more than 20,000 students.

At the same time, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has a pavement problem. There is too much of it on campus.

UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier has recognized both problems and is moving in the right direction with his decision to eliminate one of the parking lots north of the Nebraska Union and replacing it with an open, green space.

The faculty spaces in the lot would be replaced in an area away from the center of campus. No spots would be eliminated, Spanier said, until others have been found to replace them.

Spanier said the proposal to replace the lot with green space was part of a larger plan to improve campus aesthetics while planning parking solutions for the next decade.

"It's not just about one lot," he said. "It's really very broad."

Opposition to the plan has been raised in student government. It has been attacked because it would push some parking farther away from campus. Issues such as safety and Nebraska's cold winters have been raised.

There are legitimate criticisms of moving parking off campus that need to be addressed. But they do not mean UNL should back away from trying to improve campus aesthetics.

UNL's appearance does matter. Spanier deserves credit for his willingness to take an unpopular stand that is ultimately in the best interest of UNL.

Parking is a problem for many students. But the answer is long-term planning to solve the problem, not paving over UNL with a parking lot.

## Shut out

UNL Policy unfair to same-sex couples

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln claims that it does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. But its housing policy does.

UNL's housing policy does not allow same-sex couples to live in any of its 70 family housing units. Students must be married to live in the housing units, and Nebraska law does not recognize same-sex marriages.

Doug Zatechka, UNL housing director, said it had not been determined if UNL's rules violate non-discrimination policies.

"That's not an issue that has been subject to review," he said. "It's never been reviewed."

Other schools such as Iowa State University and the University of Wisconsin at Madison have housing policies that make provisions for same-sex marriages. The University of Colorado also has a policy, but it is in conflict with Colorado state law.

As a university, UNL should be on the leading edge of reform on this issue.

It would not be necessary to violate state law to bring UNL in line with its non-discrimination policy. UNL could resolve the issue by changing its housing policy to recognize same-sex couples.

Granting same-sex couples the right to university housing would not be a popular move. But it would be the right thing to do. Homosexual students should not be given special privileges or rights not granted to other students. They should be treated the same as everyone else.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1993 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. 68588-0448.



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ALAN PHELPS

## Deep thinkers keep on truckin'

Driving over the lonely highways of Nebraska on my way to Lincoln Sunday, I mused upon the huge rigs with which I share the road.

"Hmmmmm," I mused, musing. Thinking of the long hours truckers must spend out in the open country, I thought they could perhaps be the philosophers of the Modern Age. With all that free time, they must be thinking of something.

Back in the 1700s, so-called Renaissance Men were able to philosophize usually because they were rich and had lots of time to ponder while servants sloped hogs. But these days, most new-money people are busy making money, and those who have inherited money are often too stupid, probably from inbreeding. Example: Tori Spelling?

These days, a new kind of person has picked up the mantle of Thinking for Everyone — people who have all sorts of free time, as long as they're not avoiding huge motor homes driven by crazy old retirees.

These days, the human race must rely on truckers. Eighteen wheels of deep thought, Peterbilt Voltaires, screaming across the country, spreading knowledge and big loads of butter.

Eager to tap into this wealth of ponderment, I flipped on my citizens band radio. My previous experiments talking to truckers taught me that they don't exactly like "four-wheelers," as they call them. This time, I wanted to pose, as it were, to meld with the truckers as ONE OF THEM, tooling down the highway, linked across the miles by CB.

"I'm too busy tryin' to keep my doggone eyes open, I didn't see the sign," my CB squawked. This wasn't a perfect beginning to my experiment. But then, not every trucker can be a philosopher. And, contrary to what one used to see in trucker movies of the late 1970s, CBs can't reach every truck in the country. Range is a factor.

After a few more miles, a new group of trucks appeared. I decided to inject thoughts into the Electromagnetic Radiation Brain.



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"How about Clinton's health plan?" I ventured.

"They want to tax all your sins," a woman trucker told me. "Cigarettes, liquor ..."

This is going somewhere, I thought. By taxing sins, the government was perhaps trying to make us into more religious citizens. What does this mean for separation of church and state, I wondered. Then another trucker/philosophizer spoke up.

"It'll turn ya into a liar, a cheat and a thief," he said. I wasn't sure what that meant. The truckers' minds were already racing past mine, just as their rigs were racing past my car at 80 miles an hour.

I tried a new approach.

"How about that Mideast peace plan?" I asked. But alas, I received only static.

Frantic, I wondered what to do next. Had they found out I was a mere four-wheeler and were now exiling me from Road Thought? I needed to let them know I was a real trucker, just like them.

"You know," I began, tentatively, "I really hate it when my trailer comes off my rig."

"Are you sleepy or you just want someone to talk to?" the woman driver asked me. Was she accepting me as an Over-the-Road Driver? Trying to clinch my place in the order of the highway, I broadcast another truck-like thought.

"What would you guys say," I asked, "if I told you I was hauling the failed Mars Observer spacecraft in my trailer?"

"I'd believe what you say," a man answered. "I've carried about everything in 27 years." Before I could talk to this man some more, static carried

his wispy voice from me.

From the radio I heard nothing for some time. I thought myself ostracized, cut off from Civilized Discourse, hearing only snatches of conversation now and then.

"... some of dem security guards don't know how to sign their own names ..."

"... I'm goin' to Sacramento to pick up my son's car ..."

Somewhat depressed, I turned the FM radio back on. I stopped at the Seward rest area. There was a tall man in the bathroom wearing a strange brown vest. Was he a trucker? What did he think of the meaning of life? Would it seem odd to ask him such a question in the men's room?

On the final stretch into town, I flipped to the CB again for one last time. Out of the magical medium came a question that made my heart skip a beat.

"I just wondered if I could get an opinion on Clinton's economic plan," someone said. Finally! Philosophers discussing our society!

"I hear it's forecast the U.S. economy will completely bust in four years," another said. Incredible. I shook my head. Four years! Not much time!

But at least I knew the end was coming. I had listened to the philosophers, and I knew what they thought of Clinton's plan. They must be right, I thought. Then another spoke up.

"I wish somebody would just shoot 'im," my radio fuzzed.

Well, maybe not all truckers spend their idle hours in deep thought.

Phelps is a senior news-editorial major, a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and a columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Green space

The space just north of the Nebraska Union would undoubtedly be more attractive if that pesky parking lot wasn't there. However, is replacing this already developed area with pretty trees and green grass really very practical?

I won't bother to mention the eventual loss of numerous student parking space to satisfy displaced faculty. Students have to fight for parking a mile from campus anyway, what's a few

more blocks to walk on a sub-zero January day?

Nor will I mention the fact that the project's proposed cost of a mere \$100,000 could be better spent on Richards or Bancroft halls, which by all right should be condemned.

What concerns me is the importance of parking to the night visitors to campus. Am I to understand that after leaving Love Library, Nebraska Union or one of the computer labs after 10 p.m., I am expected to walk in the

dark, by myself, all the way across campus to my car? Of course Chancellor Spanier wouldn't worry about this. His parking space is right outside his office. He also doesn't have to worry about Mace, rapists and various other unpleasanties on campus.

Fixing old buildings isn't as fun as making pretty parks, but we should consider the students' study environment and safety above everything else.

Anne Marie Dobbs  
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history