

Seatbelt use increasing Religious faith under strain

By Kelli Bamsey
Staff Reporter

The number of college students buckling up has increased since the new seatbelt law went into effect, said Ian Newman, professor of health education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

A survey conducted in 1993 indicated that up to 76 percent of all college students in Nebraska wear their safety belts, he said.

A 1992 study indicated 58 percent of all university undergraduate students almost always wore seat belts, he said. That number was up from 45 percent in 1990.

Two safety belt laws have been implemented in Nebraska. Each time the laws went into effect the number of safety belt users increased, Newman

said.

The latest Nebraska seat belt law went into effect Jan. 1, 1993. The law requires that passengers in the front seats of vehicles wear safety belts at all times.

If a police officer stops a vehicle for a traffic violation and the front seat passengers are not buckled up, the driver can be fined.

Studies indicate the seat belt law was encouraging more people of all ages to buckle up, he said.

Newman said that although the increase was encouraging, more education was needed.

"The full benefit of safety belt use in reduced death and disability will not be achieved until 90 percent or more are using their safety belts all of the time," Newman said.

By Julie Sobczyk
Staff Reporter

For some UNL students, finding new freedom on campus can mean losing touch with religion.

"Statistically, 80 percent of kids will stop going (to church) if they had been going before," said Scott Pixter, campus minister of Christian Fellowship.

Several campus ministries are available for students who want to keep up with their faiths. Many ministries offer worship services and other programs aimed at college students.

Tiffany Christensen, a freshman speech pathology major, said she regularly attended church services when she lived at home.

But since she has been away from home, Christensen said she hadn't been attending and probably wouldn't.

"I'm still trying to adjust here," she said. "I have to take it upon myself to go. I guess I'm just one of those lazy people."

Jim Pennington, pastor of the University Lutheran Chapel, said students often became relaxed in their faith once they came to campus.

"Once they get away and get out of the home, they might not have any motivation," he said. "They might not see Christianity to be relevant in their lives."

Various campus ministries plan special worship services and activi-

ties aimed at college students to keep students interested in their faith.

Pennington said his church planned many efforts to reach students.

"We do a lot of outreach. We make visits during the first couple weeks of school," he said.

Aside from Sunday worship, Pennington said games and activities were offered every night of the week. Bible studies in the residence halls and apartments are available to keep students in touch with religion, even if they choose not to attend services, he said.

Pennington said the program's effectiveness depended upon the individual student.

"Some students are receptive and some aren't. It just depends on where they are at spiritually," he said.

Non-Christian groups also try to influence students to get involved in worship.

Mohamed Nassir, president of the Islamic Foundation of Lincoln, said groups like UNL's Muslim Student Association helped students maintain active worship.

Another group called Du,ah contacts Muslim students and reminds them about worship when they come to campus, Nassir said.

He said Muslim students regularly attended prayer services at the Islamic mosques.

"When some people come here, they find themselves shocked, and find themselves not going," he said. "But after awhile, they will go."

Some ministries have problems finding college students to participate in their services.

Larry Doerr, a campus pastor at Cornerstone Campus Ministry, said one problem was finding the names and addresses of students who were affiliated with his denomination.

A second problem is getting students interested in programs, he said.

"There is a small percentage of those we contact that have an active interest in our programs," he said.

"There is so much competition for students' time and energy."

Campus ministries must follow certain guidelines when approaching students in the halls.

Lyn Jakobsen, assistant director of housing for residential education, said door-to-door promotions are not allowed. Every student is asked to fill out a religious preference card before school begins for the semester, she said. The ministries obtain students' names through the cards and can visit students in their rooms by appointment. Religious groups must also abide by each hall's floor visitation hours, she said.

But with cults remaining a concern, Christensen said she worried about religious groups' methods of contact.

"I'd probably be a little leery if any group just came up to my door," Christensen said. "I'm from a small town, and I've heard of these stereotypes. If they contacted me by mail, it might be different."

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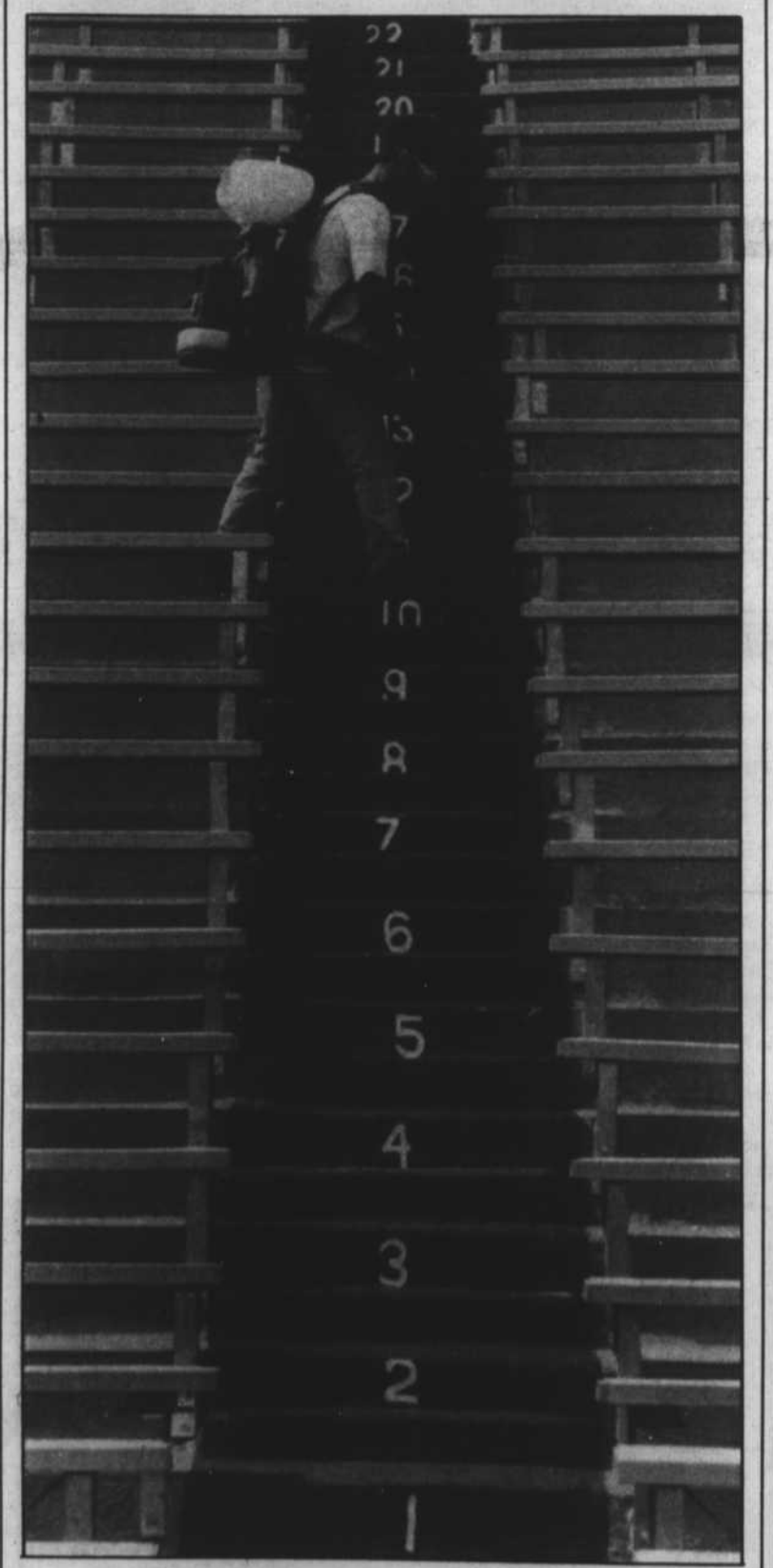


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Travis Heying/DN
Troy Asta, an undeclared sophomore, blows dust from the bleachers Thursday on the west side of Memorial Stadium in preparation for Saturday's home opener. The west side just received a face lift, and crews are just finishing with construction.

Apple fest hits Nebraska City

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Apples, apples everywhere!
It's harvest time in Nebraska City as the town celebrates its 26th Annual Applejack Celebration this weekend. "Nebraska City ... As American as Apple Pie," will feature parades, bands, go-kart races and a variety of other events.

Cindy Meyer, executive vice president of the Nebraska City Chamber of Commerce, said the festival drew 30,000 to 40,000 people each year. "It really changes our town of 6,500 people for a couple of days," she said. "Our entire town looks forward to it. We roll out the red carpet."

The town's six orchards start turning a deep shade of red around the middle of September, she said. People from all over the nation come to Nebraska City to purchase apples.

The Applejack Celebration was formed 26 years ago when two local businessmen decided to take advantage of the traffic and planned a harvest time celebration.

The celebration begins Saturday at Nebraska City's new airport. From 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. the local fire-rescue complex will host a pancake feed.

At 1 p.m. the annual Applejack Parade and Marching Band Competition will begin, featuring more than 120 entries. The Apple Jam Fest will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the Lied Conference Center. The festival features bluegrass music, country dance competitions and a variety of apple-oriented contests.


Water barrel fights will begin at 3 p.m. in the City Hall parking lot. The annual Apple Bowl Football game between Dana College and Peru State College will begin at 6 p.m. at the Nebraska City High School field.

The evening will end with the Apple Jack Street Dance, featuring The Rumbles at 9 p.m. in the parking lot of the Lied Conference Center.

Sunday's highlight is the go-cart races at 1 p.m.

Throughout the entire festival, Nebraska City's historical landmarks such as the Morton Orchard, Arbor Lodge and John Brown's Cave will be open to the public.

For more information contact the Nebraska City Chamber of Commerce.



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