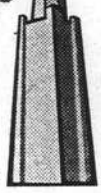


# Bill makes defaulting costly

By Ted Taylor  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska lawmakers advanced a bill Monday making post-secondary education institutions more responsible for student loan default fees.

Legislature '96



Warner's bill stems from legislation enacted by Congress two years ago that punished institutions with

default fees of 20 percent or higher. That bill holds the state responsible for the funds needed to reimburse the government. The state would then have to take the money from its general fund to pay the defaults.

The congressional bill is stalled with rules and regulations debate, however, and has not yet been enacted.

"This puts a process in place should Congress proceed with the process they enacted," Warner said.

An amendment was added to the bill that said the institution that had the 20 percent default fee would be forced to pay its share back to the government, plus 200 percent as a

penalty.

The amendment said the institution also would be subject to a hearing that could result in the revocation or suspension of the school's license.

"This encourages institutions to be a little more guarded with the distribution of their student loan programs," Warner said.

Before the bill advanced, an amendment was added calling for the reimbursement to be taken from state funds given to the particular institution that had the high rate.

Warner contended that student scholarship funds would ultimately be taken away.

# Playboy

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woman can contribute to society," Berens said.

Seeing the problems with pornography is easy, said Judith Kriss, director of UNL's Women's Center. Knowing what to do about it is not, she said.

"There are some issues of free speech and censorship I don't particularly want to get into," Kriss said. "I certainly believe a woman has the right to do this if she sees it as some sort of honor or achievement."

But one small step for woman could mean one giant leap backward for womankind, Kriss said.

That's why she and other staff at the Women's Center have offered to help any students who would like to stage a protest.

"At the risk of giving the magazine more exposure, we want to create some tension," she said. "We want to create a situation where anyone who purchases the magazine has to think about it and ask, 'Am I going to buy into something that may contribute to the degradation of women?'"

Along with photos, Playboy will run biographies of the women who appear in its pages, Ring Borgstrom said. Those biographies will include each woman's major in school, hobbies, hometown, interests, ambitions and measurements.

"It's not just skin," Ring Borgstrom said.

But the biographies aren't what sells the magazine, Berens said.

"I think it's a token," she said. "It says, 'Oh my gosh, look! She goes to college! She's got a brain!'"

Rather than insulting women's in-

telligence, Ring Borgstrom said, the college conference issue would give readers a new perspective on beautiful women.

"Instead of 'I'll never see women like that around here,' it's 'Gee, look, she's sitting right there next to you in history class,'" she said.

But finding "women like that" in history class just might be part of the problem, Berens said.

"This stuff appeals to men's sexual instinct," she said. "Not to their minds. Not to their sensitivity. There's a lot more to men than that."

Not all men view women as objects to be ogled, Berens said.

"I don't think either men or women are well-served by stereotypical role images," she said.

Posing for Playboy probably will not help serious students reach their serious goals, Berens said.

But the women who choose to model for the magazine probably will have no regrets, Ring Borgstrom said.

"If someone wants to be president of the United States, they shouldn't pose for any magazine, nude or semi-nude," she said.

According to Berens and Kriss, however, the damage is already done. The detrimental effects of such things as pornography are not always easily identifiable, they said.

"Change is not going to occur until people start questioning these things," Berens said. "If women want to be treated equally, they have to be taken seriously."

Kriss agreed.

"The only way to change cultural attitudes that objectify, degrade and exploit women — and to a certain extent, that's what Playboy is all about — is to stop the demand," she said.

# Registration

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Abboud said if an individual had been convicted of any of the above crimes two or more times, he or she will have a lifetime obligation to be registered.

Registration would occur when the individual attempts to obtain a Nebraska residency driver's license. Failure to register would result in a Class IV felony, which carries a possible five-year jail term, a \$10,000 fine or both.

Abboud said the information would be held by the local county sheriff and would not be made public.

Tuesday's passage of the bill

also guarantees Nebraska will not lose 10 percent of the state's federal crime control money — which totals more than \$350,000.

States who do not pass such legislation by 1997 are subject to such a penalty. Currently Vermont and Massachusetts are the only two states who do not have some sort of sex offender measure.

While Abboud's bill will require all sex offenders to register with the state, its main focus was monitoring those who have sexually abused children.

"This legislation is meant to protect the youngest people in our society who cannot protect themselves," Abboud said in a statement.

"This is a very important piece

of legislation," the statement read. "We are talking about bringing to justice people who victimize the most vulnerable members of our society."

In a related note, Sen. Dan Fisher of Grand Island spent the morning passing out blue ribbons to senators. Fisher asked his colleagues to wear the ribbons during April in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

"It's very important that we passed this bill," Fisher said.

Fisher echoed Abboud in saying the bill was another tool for law enforcement.

"It's important to know who these sex offenders are," Fisher said.

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