

# Bills may stiffen sex crime penalties

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three points for first-degree sexual assault and two points for second-degree sexual assault.

After four or more points are accumulated, mandatory sentences are instated, ranging from a five-year minimum with a maximum of 50 years for a person with four points to a 25-year mandatory minimum, with a maximum of life in prison for a person with six or more points.

Under the point system, offenders must serve the mandatory minimum with no option for early parole.

County attorneys would have the discretion of determining if offenders with four points or more should be labeled habitual sexual offenders under the new point system.

Habitual sexual offenders would be encouraged to undergo treatment in order to get out of prison.

"If charged as a habitual sexual offender, they need to be treated; and if they aren't treated, then they can't get out of jail," Suttle said. "They

also are given longer sentences, regardless of treatment.

"And much longer if no treatment."

LB435, introduced by Malcolm Sen. Carol Hudkins, would require sexual offenders to be evaluated before they are released from prison. If sexual offenders are deemed dangerous or likely to commit a sexual crime again, they would be recommended to the county attorney for further treatment.

Hudkins said sexual offenders in Nebraska do not always receive treatment, which puts them back into society virtually unchanged.

"What we are trying to do is protect the public," Hudkins said.

The bill is also supported by Attorney General Don Stenberg.

Both bills are geared at preventing people such as David Burdette, a convicted multiple rapist arrested in Omaha, from re-entering society too soon, Suttle said.

Burdette was arrested in November after raping two women

and attempting to rape a third, shortly after being released from prison for a series of rapes in 1982.

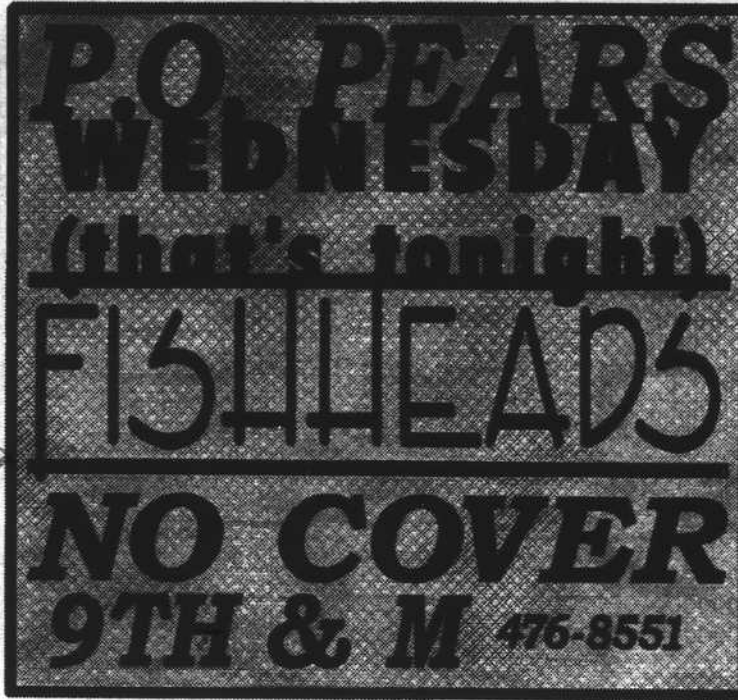
"They get out regardless of treatment; that's what happened with Burdette," Suttle said. "He refused treatment and got out and promptly went and raped someone else."

Suttle said treatment involves habitual sexual offenders changing their behavior patterns, much in the way alcoholics do to become sober.

Suttle said lawmakers have been working on getting a sexual offender bill passed since 1994.

Wesely proposed a sexual-predator bill in 1994 and 1995, but later a similar Washington state bill was found unconstitutional. The Nebraska bill was reworked and introduced in 1996 but died in the Judiciary Committee because members felt it needed more work.

Suttle said she was optimistic about the passage of LB467, which possibly could be combined with Hudkin's LB435 later in the legislative session.



# Increase in '98 burglaries worries police

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nience store clerk was shot.

Part of the problem may be an increase in the number of places for criminals to rob, he said.

Casady said when he began working as a police officer, the number of businesses that stayed open late was significantly lower.

"You could count the number of 24-hour businesses we had on one hand and still have three fingers left," he said.

Police have put more and more officers on night shifts, Casady said, and the officers try to stay in touch with business owners.

"I think if you'll stop by late-night businesses, you'll find the police are frequent visitors," he said.

Lincoln also had nine homicides, the highest number this decade. Most of them occurred during the first half of the year, Casady said. Compared to other cities its size, though, Lincoln's

violent crime rates are still relatively low.

Police are concerned about a rise in residential burglaries, he said. Residential burglaries were up 17.3 percent in 1998. He said many of those could have been prevented by simply locking garages and homes.

"I don't think citizens in Lincoln are as cognizant of the crimes that are going on in town as they should be," he said.

Commercial burglaries, however, were down by 3.6 percent. For the first time in years, Casady said, Lincoln had no bank robberies. That statistic compared favorably with figures from the Omaha metro area.

Omaha had 78 bank and credit union robberies in 1998, more than triple the previous year's total.

"We're doing an awful lot of work with our banks here in Lincoln," Casady said.

Meanwhile, arrests increased by 8.6 percent, including a 23.2 percent

increase in DWI arrests. Casady said officers worked hard to crack down on drunken drivers.

Nationally, the latest FBI reports indicate a 1 percent drop in serious crime in the Midwest, and a 2 percent decline nationwide.

Casady said Lincoln's figures are in line with national trends, but decreases may not be as large because of Lincoln's growth.

Other figures presented at the press conference include:

- Official traffic citations increased by 11.7 percent. A total of 47,563 were issued.

- Auto theft decreased by 14.2 percent.

- Lincoln's population grew by 1 percent from 209,192 to 211,284. Part I violent crimes — murder, rape, robbery and felony assault — per 100,000 people increased by 3.0 percent. Part I property crimes — burglary, larceny and auto theft — per 100,000 people decreased by 1.8 percent.

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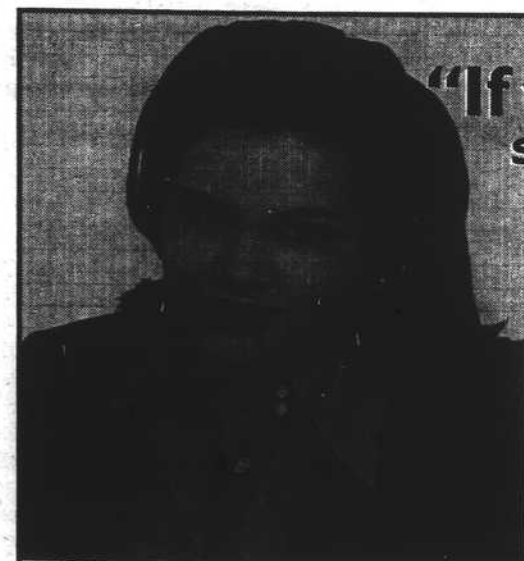


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**"If you take any reasonably smart person and tell them to spend a year researching an industry, they can become an expert if they work at it."** Christy Haubegger

Paid advertisement.

approached, she couldn't shake the magazine idea from her head, so she decided to devote a year to chasing her dream. "My friends thought I was crazy," she recalls. "But I figured the worst thing that could happen would be that the business wouldn't fly and I'd end up being a lawyer after all."

As President of her class at law school, Christy already possessed the leadership skills that entrepreneurs need. Her publishing experience, however, was limited to editing the Stanford Law Review. Still,

of your contacts, you should," she says. Turns out that Christy's classmate's aunt's neighbor (follow that?) knew the editor of *Essence*, a women's magazine aimed at African-Americans. Christy convinced the magazine's president to meet with her, and his company agreed to help fund her start-up. Christy launched *Latina* magazine in 1996, and it was an immediate hit. Today, it has an impressive circulation of almost 200,000, but it wasn't easy getting there. One of the hardest things about being a young entrepreneur is simply the fact that you are young. Potential business partners often assume you are inexperienced. "Nobody saw me walk into a meeting and thought they were looking at a magazine publisher. But I persevered. You have to be prepared to get over your pride and fake your confidence when you need to."

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For someone who is only 30 years old, magazine magnate Christy Haubegger has already put together a pretty impressive resume. She's won an award from the Ms. Foundation (also

**Name:** Christy Haubegger  
**Age:** 30  
**Career:** Entrepreneur-Founder & Publisher *Latina Magazine*

given to Oprah Winfrey and Madeleine Albright), and Tom Brokaw named her one of the "most influential people of the year" in 1996.

So how did she end up in company like that? Turns out it all started with one simple question. "I took a few business classes in school with some great professors, and they always talked about the search for that mythical big idea," she recalls. "As a Mexican-American, I'd always wondered why no one had ever produced a magazine for Latina women. Then I wondered if I could do it myself."

Christy graduated from the University of Texas in 1989 with a philosophy degree and immediately headed off to Stanford University Law School. But as law school graduation

she figured she could learn what she needed to know pretty quickly. "If you take any reasonably smart person and tell them to spend a year researching an industry, they can become an expert if they work at it," she says. "All the data I needed was in the public library. Census data, information about the magazine industry, books on how to write a business plan. It was all there." In the meantime, she lived on the cheap in San Francisco's Mission District and did legal research to pay the bills.

Once Christy's business plan was done, she started to show it to people who might be willing to invest the millions of dollars she would need to launch a glossy publication. "192 people told me no. I counted," she says. "But most of them didn't slam the door in my face, and I was able to learn a lot by asking them how I could improve my business pitch."

Eventually, some good old-fashioned networking led her to her first big investor. "If you don't believe that stuff about using all

While there is a certain glamour associated with being the publisher of a major magazine, Christy still relishes the role of underdog. "Each milestone means so much more when you're a start-up," she says. "A major retailer just advertised with us for the first time. To a larger publication, it wouldn't be such a big deal. But when they agreed to be in our magazine, we jumped up and down and cried and hugged. Then," she laughs, "we ate ice cream."

As an owner of a growing company and Publisher of *Latina*, Christy has continued to nurture her dream magazine into a leading lifestyle publication, read by thousands of dynamic, educated young women just like herself. She says that she hopes to inspire other young women to pursue their dreams as well.



"Strong enough for a Man, But Made for a Woman."