

news digest

Chairman elected

Hastings—Mrs. Anne Batchelder was reelected state chairman of the Republican party Saturday. She was unopposed for what she said will be her last term.

Batchelder, of Omaha, is a former GOP national committeewoman.

"I intend to quit totally in two years, but I intend to quit with a Republican in the governor's mansion," she said. Gov. J. James Exon, a Democrat, is prohibited by the Constitution from seeking a third term.

Art Knox, a Lincoln industrial executive, was elected First Congressional District chairman. He replaced Monroe Usher, Jr. of Lincoln who did not seek reelection.

Roberts McGowen of Ulysses was elected vice chairman of the district.

Work week

Washington—President Jimmy Carter urged private industry and government to switch to a four-day, 40 hour week to cut consumption of dwindling natural gas supplies.

"We could save a great deal of fuel both in government buildings and also in commercial buildings if we could just heat the buildings four days a week," Carter told an emergency session of his Cabinet.

"But so far we are prevented from doing that without extraordinary extra costs and I think there is a legal prohibition," he said. "We are investigating that now."

James Schlesinger, Carter's energy aide, has said unneeded gas in the Northwest could be shifted to the East to aid where it is needed.

Arms sales

Paris—Vice President Walter Mondale Saturday said arms sales had "reached a disgraceful proportion" and won French agreement for international talks to cut back the volume of arms trading in the world.

Mondale met for about three hours with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

"We were not at the point" of discussing an actual limit on arms sales, Mondale said. The United States and France are the number 1 and 2 conventional arms sellers in the world.

Mondale told Giscard the United States is concerned that arms sales are robbing nations of limited resources that those nations need for pressing problems in such areas as money for food, business development and strengthening of internal economies."

Comic dies

Los Angeles—Doctors fought vainly for 33 hours to save comedian Freddie Prinze's life before Prinze died Saturday.

Prinze, 22, starred in NBC's "Chico and the Man" with comedian Jack Albertson. When his vital signs weakened a nurse in the intensive care unit at UCLA Medical Center pounded on his chest and cried, "Hang on, the world needs all the laughter it can get."

Prinze shot himself in the brain early Friday as his horrified manager stood by helplessly. Friends said the young comic was despondent over the breakup of his year-long marriage and the pressures of his hectic career.

Prinze never regained consciousness. Doctors said the bullet passed through his head, causing massive brain damage. Prinze underwent two hours of surgery Friday.

Draft proposal

Washington—Military leaders, alarmed by drop of about 200,000 men in Armed Forces Reserves last year, are studying a proposal to draft young men into the reserves for military training.

The proposal is one of several in a study undertaken by the Pentagon for the Senate Armed Services Committee on ways to revitalize the reserves for mobilization in case of a European war.

The force now stands at 1.6 million men, the lowest level since the early 1950's.

Pentagon sources attribute the decline in reserves to the departure of Vietnam era veterans who finished their commitment, loss of draft-induced volunteers and the lackluster image of some reserve units.

Official reservists are more valuable than the traditional image of a Sunday soldier with two left feet. Sixty per cent of all Air Force tactical airlift capability is in reserve units, and officials say the nation would depend on the manpower pool of the ready reserve as "fillers" for regular units in the early days of a war.

Some crossings still rough despite Boosalis' proposals

Despite Mayor Helen Boosalis' September repair order, some Lincoln railroad crossings have not been fixed, according to Ron Liston, Public Works Dept. construction engineer.

After a Public Works Dept. study last August, Boosalis sent letters to five railroad companies operating in Lincoln asking them to repair crossings, including the one at 19th and Vine streets near campus, by Dec. 1.

Another study is to be completed by the middle of this week, Liston said. It will show temporary and permanent repairs made and proposed major repairs.

In general, the crossings have been somewhat improved, Liston said, but "others are back in the same condition. Most of these in poor condition are on arterial streets."

Some of the railroad companies have indicated to the mayor that they have planned major repairs, he added. Because

frozen earth prevents work, repairs will begin with warm weather.

Jack B. Kidder, road master for Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Co., said his company did not complete the major repairs needed on the crossing near campus because it would have been necessary to close Vine St. during the football and Christmas seasons.

A program to complete work after the arrival of warm weather was worked out in conjunction with the city, Kidder said.

But financial problems of the Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Companies may affect the availability of money and repair work, he said.

Jerry Launer, road master with the Union Pacific Railroad Co., said cold temperatures prevented the completion of repair work at Union Pacific crossings. More extensive repairs have been planned this spring, he said.

UNL Business Week events to include speeches, exhibits

Five business persons will speak Wednesday afternoon as part of UNL's Business Week.

All the speeches will be in the College of Business Administration and the times and room numbers will be posted in CBA, said Mark Buss, B-Week chairman.

Jerry Sellentin, personnel director of Bryan Memorial Hospital, will talk about personnel management.

Ron Goracke, of Goracke Vawter & Associates in Omaha will talk about public accounting as a career.

Harley Charlson, security analyst for the First National Bank of Lincoln will talk about investments.

Lincoln Police Chief George Hansen will speak about police management, and Barbara Peters, director of human resources at Banker's Life Nebraska, will talk about women's opportunities in business.

Buss said representatives from three businesses will conduct a career orientation from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Wednesday to help freshmen and sophomores plan their careers.

B-Week begins Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. with an opening address by Gov. J. James Exon in the Nebraska Union Ballroom. Buss said Exon will stress free enterprise, government's role in business and how government operates like a business.

Representatives from 49 companies will open booths in the Union Centennial Room Tuesday evening. Firms from Lincoln and Omaha and a few national firms such as General Motors will be represented, Buss said. They will hand out brochures, exhibit samples of their products, show slides and answer questions, he said.

The booth gallery is open to the public. The hours are 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday and 9 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday.

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