

Privacy of abortion records, waiting period preserved

By Randy Essex

The Legislature Thursday refused two attempts to amend a controversial abortion measure, but approved technical changes in accord with an Attorney General's

opinion.

One of the amendments refused was Omaha Sen. Patrick Venditte's attempt to make all abortion records in the state public information. Also defeated was Ralston Sen. Gerald Koch's attempt to amend the bill so the pregnant women could waive a 48-hour waiting period contained in the bill.

Under provisions now in LB316, a woman is required to wait 48 hours after receiving informed consent about the procedure before an abortion can be performed. The attending physician may in "sound medical judgment," determine that an emergency exists, and waive the waiting period.

Koch argued that the woman should also be allowed to waive the waiting period in order for the bill to be constitutional.

Lincoln Sen. Steve Fowler, supporting the Koch amendment, said it requires a stretch of logic to consider the waiting period a part of informed consent.

Woman's choice

Fowler said the U.S. Supreme Court has clearly stated that a woman must be allowed to make her own determination, and LB316 does not allow that now.

Koch's attempt to return the bill to select file for consideration of his amendment failed, 18-28.

A similar amendment offered by Neligh Sen. John DeCamp last week also failed. DeCamp said he offered the amendment reluctantly, and urged his fellow senators to vote against it. DeCamp voted in favor of returning the bill for consideration of Koch's amendment.

Venditte, arguing that all surgical records should be public, was accused of wanting to pick on doctors who perform abortions.

Venditte's amendment, which was not returned for consideration on a 12-22 vote, would have made the names of doctors performing abortions public, as well as the age and medical history of the woman.

DeCamp said it was possible that Venditte's amendment would allow a person or group "to find those doctors and get after them."

Identified 'nicely'

Venditte denied that was his intent, and called DeCamp's rhetoric "empty." DeCamp is one of the sponsors of LB316.

Omaha Sen. Peter Hoagland said that making the record public could allow the identification of women receiving abortions in small towns.

Hoagland said U.S. District Judge Warren Urbom, in his ruling that enjoined the present abortion statutes, said such information could allow the woman to be identified "very nicely."

DeCamp was the only senator successful in returning the bill for consideration of amendments.

An attorney general's opinion issued Tuesday said certain terms in the bill were unclear. The term "unemancipated pregnant woman" was used in the bill, but never defined.

The term was replaced with "minor woman under the age of 18." Also changed by DeCamp was the phrase in the best medical judgment of the attending physician, to "in the sound medical judgment..."

DeCamp also won unanimous consent to have the bill read in its final stage before Wednesday when Urbom will make a ruling on the enjoined statutes.

The bill will receive its final reading Monday or Tuesday, according to Speaker Richard Marvel.



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AUF sponsors March plant sale

By Deb Shanahan

AUF is back in the plant business.

The All University Fund, the only agency allowed to solicit on campus, will be sponsoring a plant sale March 12-14 in the Centennial Room of the Nebraska Union, according to Mark Dunbar, the group's president for 1979.

Dunbar said the sale will be similar to last fall's Plantasia, but on a smaller scale.

"We don't expect to raise a lot of money because people are more concerned with moving now than with fixing up their places," Dunbar said.

He added that this is more of a trial run to learn what is needed to make the sale next fall more successful.

Fall drive

Dunbar said the fall drive netted about \$19,400 for the six groups selected to receive money.

In addition to three off-campus charities—the Lincoln chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, United Cerebral Palsy of Nebraska and the Christian Record Braille Foundation—this year three campus organizations will

benefit from the money raised.

The campus organizations are the Political and Ideological Speakers, Student Research Grants and the University Child Care Project.

Dunbar noted that \$16,600 of the total was raised through the Greek drive.

"This year special recognition should go to the Greek houses because they were responsible for an outstanding proportion of the money raised," Dunbar said. "You only read about the snowball fights and the hazing, but here is something they (the Greeks) do really great."

Together

Dunbar said the reason the Greeks continually contribute the bulk of the fund is that there is more continuity in the houses than in the residence halls.

"The dorms have a high turnover and a large percentage of freshmen each year, so no one remembers AUF from year to year," he said. "But we have a strong independent committee this year and they're looking for individuals in each dorm who will still be around next year to get involved."

The independent chairwoman this year is Mary O'Connor. Other 1979 AUF officers include: Rocky Yapp, first vice president; John Kilty, second vice president; John Auers, treasurer; Jodi Fuerst, secretary; and committee chairwomen Julia Wilson, Mary Waring and Kathy Lutz.

Dunbar said the thrust of the spring campaign is directed toward the faculty.

"The faculty drive starts in April and the ballots are going out right now," he said. "They will select one of the six charities suggested by AUF as the most needy and the most applicable to the faculty."

Dunbar said that although the faculty has the option of sponsoring special events to make money, the fund-raising is mainly a contribution drive.

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