

## Second-round approval advances abortion bill

By Patti Gallagher

After five days of debate and numerous amendment attempts, a bill restricting insurance coverage for abortions received second-round approval in the Nebraska Legislature Tuesday.

LB125, sponsored by Sens. Don Dworak of Columbus and Bernice Labeledz and Marge Higgins, both of Omaha, was advanced on a 33-11 vote.

It must be approved a final time before going to Gov. Thone for his signature.

It has been under discussion on the floor since last week. Attempts to amend the bill to exclude rape and incest from the

restricted abortion coverage have failed.

The bill would prohibit the use of public funds for any group insurance policies paying for abortions, except abortions to prevent the death of the pregnant woman. It allows insurance coverage for medical complications arising from abortions to continue.

None of the three sponsors spoke in support of the bill because of the extensive debate already heard.

On Tuesday, three Lincoln senators sponsored an unsuccessful amendment to LB125 to allow Lancaster County elected officials to be excluded from the bill. The

amendment sponsored by Sens. Steve Fowler, Dave Landis and Shirley Marsh, all of Lincoln, failed 15-23.

According to Fowler, the amendment would have been "a statement of confidence that locally-elected officials can handle a matter as sensitive as this without the help of the Legislature."

Landis, speaking against the bill, said the "common thread" of LB125 and all abortion issues is an attempt by anti-abortionists to end all abortions.

"Proponents are saying, 'Let us find any and all means to end abortion; let us find

any and all means to restrict the choice for women,'" Landis said.

He said the heart of the bill tries to answer the question: "What is Life?", which he likened to trying to answer a question like "How many angels dance on the head of a pin?"

The question is philosophical and insoluble, he said.

"There is clear evidence of human suffering and misery that is brought about if there is an end to choice," Landis said. Coat-hanger abortions, battered children and broken homes result when women are forced to bear unwanted children, he said.

## Rutford says SSA vote could influence decision

By Val Swinton

The final decision on whether UNL will support a State Student Association rests with UNL interim Chancellor Robert Rutford, and will be out of the hands of ASUN's Government Liaison Committee after today's election, said GLC Chairperson Nette Nelson.

Nelson called a press conference Tuesday to clear up what she termed misconceptions about the SSA. Nelson

said GLC would probably not continue to support a student association if a majority of students vote against it today.

"The results will be provided to ASUN, which will forward them to Rutford," Nelson said. "It is Rutford's decision."

Students voting for or against SSA in today's election will be providing only an advisory opinion, which will not be binding on Rutford's decision.

Rutford said, though, that the outcome of the vote will influence his decision.

"I'd have to be pretty naive not to consider the vote," he said.

Students would be assessed 50 cents each for each semester's student fees to finance an SSA if it is approved by Rutford. The Committee for Fees Allocation already has recommended \$20,750 for the association.

"In terms of the decision-making process, this will be a substantial increase for Fund A," Rutford said, referring to the university fund from which the money would be drawn.

An overwhelming vote for or against SSA could be influential in Rutford's decision, he said.

"If the students are strong in their support, I'll take that as an indication they want a self-induced fee," he said.

Nelson said that, along with the results of the election, ASUN will forward a recommendation to Rutford. Although GLC members will be available to answer questions from the interim chancellor, they will not promote the SSA to him, she said.

"I don't see us lobbying the chancellor, because we've chosen to go through the ASUN process," she said.

The GLC also will turn in to Rutford the 3,000 signatures it has gathered in support of the SSA, she said.

Rutford said that even if voter turnout is low today, he will seriously consider the students opinions on SSA.

"UNL has not been characterized by having 50 or 60 percent of the students vote in an election," he said.

Nelson also attempted to clear up what she termed misconceptions created by opponents of an SSA during the press conference.

She said the association will not weaken UNL's position in its fight for state money.

"We're not concerned with fighting among or between campuses for dollars," she said.

Nelson also denied rumors that a State Student Association would eventually become part of the United States Student Association.

"We don't have any intention of it," she said. She said the SSA's governing body, called the general assembly, could only approve affiliation with the national association if three-fourths of the members favored the affiliation.

## Polling schedule set for ASUN elections

Polling places for today's ASUN elections are the Nebraska Union from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., the East Union from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., College of Business Administration from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Andrews Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Love Library from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and the food service areas of Abel-Sandoz, Harper-Schramm-Smith and Cather-Pound-Neihardt Residence halls from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 7 p.m.



Photo courtesy of UNL Recreation Department

UNL students Troy Titterington, Brian Lojek and Russell Strauch take part in a rock climbing exercise on Rucu Pinchincha, a mountain just outside of Quito, Ecuador. Six UNL students went on the mountain climbing expedition during Christmas break. The trip was sponsored by the Recreation Department.

## Reagan's trimmed budget to have unknown impact on loan programs

By Betsy Miller

President Ronald Reagan's budget trimming will apparently reach many sectors of the nation and it could affect some financial assistance programs at UNL as well.

Reagan told Congress recently that the Guaranteed Student Loan program and a program that gives financial assistance to students from families with incomes over \$25,000 a year may be revamped.

Don Aripoli, UNL director of scholarships and financial aids, said it is hard to know what impact Reagan's

ideas will have on financial aid at the university because right now these ideas are merely proposals.

The program giving aid to students from higher-income families targeted for elimination by Reagan has many intangibles which must be worked out, Aripoli said. Therefore, he said, he cannot predict how it will affect students until it is passed.

However, the proposal for the guaranteed student loan program is easier to explain, he said.

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