

## Legislature debates killing public radio proposal

By Kim Hachiya

The future of public radio in Nebraska will be debated this morning in the Nebraska Legislature as a vote on killing the proposal comes before the senators.

LB78, sponsored by Sen. Don Dworak of Columbus, would authorize the Nebraska Public Television Commission to establish a public radio system using current television broadcasting stations.

The bill came up for first round approval Thursday and a kill motion was introduced by Sen. Rex Haberman of Imperial. The Legislature adjourned for the day before completing debate and held the bill over until Monday.

Haberman said he opposed the development of the radio system, saying that costs of running public television have risen 18,000 percent since public television was created 20 years ago, and he feared public radio costs also would escalate.

Dworak said, however, that Haberman's statistics were deceiving because Haberman used costs beginning with the initial study costs and compared them with current operating costs.

### Kill motion

Sen. Loran Schmit supported the kill motion, saying public radio would create a controlled and dangerous press.

"I'll take a free press over those paid by taxpayers any day," he said.

Dworak said public radio would not control sources of information but would increase their number.

He said commercial radio is "nothing but pop music and two minute news blurbs on the hour—nothing in depth. Public radio would allow for more in-depth coverage."

He added that existing Nebraska Educational Television towers could be used for radio transmissions.

"It would be relatively inexpensive to tack on radio programs to fully utilize these capital structures," he said.

Dworak also said that many programs now broadcast on public television could be transmitted more cheaply by radio, but still remain effective.

No costs are attached to the bill now, Dworak said. The law would enable NETV to align itself with the national public radio system.

### Costs accrue

He said costs could accrue if Nebraska later decided to locally produce programming.

"If we put in the Cadillac of equipment, went at it 1,000 percent, it could cost us about \$1.2 million," Dworak said.

"But if we crawl before we run and tap into the national line, it will cost about \$250,000.

"It's ironic that those wailing the loudest about costs are supporting the \$30 million veterinary school. They won't look at a quarter of a million for someone's mind though."

Dworak said the bill passed the Education Committee with a 5-2 vote, but he added, "this is not an easy bill in Nebraska because of the near hysteria of commercial broadcasters."

He said broadcasters tell him public radio is not needed because no one listens to it and that it would compete

with commercial stations.

Dworak said these arguments seem contradictory to him.

"If no one listens to it, then why are they worried that it will drive them out by competition?" he said.

Dworak said the bill has been introduced before, and that nearly 40 states already have some sort of public radio system.

"Once again Nebraska is showing its leadership," he said. "Right now it's easier for Nebraskans to find out about the Iowa Legislature (over an Ames, Iowa public station) than our own. I think that's planned."



Photo by Mark Billingsley

An unidentified passerby watches as the porch roof crashes down during the demolition of this two-story frame house at 10th and K streets. The demolition is one of many projects in the area.

## Students stalk human prey for thrill of HUNT

By Margie Honz

"Head-hunting," the latest fad to hit college campuses, has come to UNL. Although it takes many forms, here the game is HUNT—Heartless University of Nebraska Terminators.

Three UNL students, Betty Burch, Diane Elliott and Agri Taurins, organized HUNT after reading about other colleges where similar games were played.

Burch said the game involves stalking a victim with a suction-cup dart gun. She said participants stalk their victims while being hunted at the same time.

Burch said "it takes a little ingenuity" to be a successful "killer" because players are given only a photo, the first name and first initial of the last name of their victims.

Burch outlined several HUNT rules:

Players must pay a \$4.50 entry fee. The three "head-

hunters" provide players with a dart gun and three rubber suction-cup darts, with which to kill their victims.

Shots in the head or the back are prohibited.

Victims cannot be shot in class or at work.

Shots can only be evaded through body movements, and cannot be blocked with other objects.

A killer obtains five points for each kill.

A killer must shoot his victim himself.

After killing the victim, the hunter must obtain a signed and dated card from the victim, and return the card to one of the three "head-hunters" within 48 hours of the kill.

Killers may shoot only at their assigned targets, except in the case of self-defense.

A killed victim must surrender the photo and name of his target to his killer. This becomes the killer's next target.

A player may resign at any time.

Burch said she and her friends started organizing the game about a month ago. At the time, she said, she didn't know that several floors in the residence halls had been playing similar games called "Assassin" and "Hit Man."

HUNT is limited to 50 players, Burch said. The group ran several ads this week, and as of Wednesday, 30 people had signed up.

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Photo by Mitch Hrdlicka

Martin Massengale, NU President Ronald Roskens' selection for UNL chancellor.

## Nebraska candidate appointed chancellor

Nu President Ronald Roskens Friday named the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources vice-chancellor as his choice for chancellor of UNL.

Martin A. Massengale will start June 1, if the NU Board of Regents approves the nomination as expected at the April 18 meeting.

"The position needs strong leadership," Regents Chairman Robert Prokop said at a press conference. "We are looking for Dr. Massengale to take the flagship of the university to a state of academic prominence."

The regents wanted someone who "knows the state," Prokop said. Roskens said Massengale was the only Nebraskan on the search-committee's list of nine candidates.

Massengale said he wanted to "make a special effort to communicate with the citizens the needs of the university."

"I hope to be able to interact effectively with the student leadership."

Interim Chancellor Robert Rutford "is assumed to return to the position from which he came," Roskens said. Rutford was the vice-chancellor for research and graduate studies.

## inside monday

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