

## Kerrey battles Nebraska unemployment

By Terry Hyland

Gov. Bob Kerrey offered tentative plans to counter Nebraska's unemployment rate at a press conference in the state Capitol Wednesday.

Kerrey said the January unemployment rate of 8.1 percent, representing 62,000 out-of-work Nebraskans, was "alarming" and outlined his plans to make more jobs available in the future.

January's unemployment rate is the highest since the State Department of Labor began keeping statewide records in 1950.

Kerrey said it is essential that private business directs money toward job-producing investments. He said most jobs are created by private businesses, but that the federal government has made it more

attractive for businesses to invest in government bonds because of a better return. By doing this, he said, the government is borrowing Nebraska's money to meet its own deficits, and preventing growth in private business that could produce jobs.

"They've (the government) got to realize that they're sitting on recovery and making it hard for our people to survive," he said.

The governor said he would go to Washington, D.C., next week and testify before the Senate Budget Committee in an effort to present Nebraska's economic problems and spur federal action toward the problems.

Kerrey said he will be working with the Nebraska Department of Labor and the Department of Economic Development to

design and implement "tools that will provide jobs." He said he was not prepared to say what these tools are.

Kerrey also said he may consider public works programs as a way to provide jobs. These programs would serve as short-term aid for the unemployed, and the programs would attempt to create meaningful jobs, he said.

He said private funding and organization would be sought for the public works programs if a successful plan could be developed. The program would be applied statewide and administered carefully to meet the needs of the jobless, he said.

No special programs for high school or college students are being considered. Kerrey said local employment programs would work better in those areas.

Ron Sorensen, director of the Nebraska Department of Labor, said Nebraska's unemployment fund could be in serious trouble if the trend of unemployment is not reversed. He said January estimates show that \$8 million will be paid in unemployment benefits, compared to \$6.3 million paid in January 1982.

"At that rate, we will come dangerously close to going in the hole by the end of the year," he said.

Sorensen said the state may borrow money from the federal government to supplement the fund, but he said he was not sure that the state constitution would allow it. He said his department is in the process of contacting the state attorney general has been contacted to study the legality of the plan.

## Study: College women face 'chilly' classroom climate

By Vicki Ruhga

Women experience discrimination in various subtle ways in college classrooms, according to a study, "The Classroom Climate - A Chilly One for Women," conducted by the American Association of Colleges.

In her opening comments for the study, Anne Parkhurst, chair of the UNL Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women, said the study found that on many campuses, women receive less informal feedback from professors than males.

Women are also interrupted more frequently by their male counterparts and women have less eye contact from instructors, Parkhurst said before a large crowd mainly composed of women.

The panel discussion, at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in the main lounge of the Nebraska Union, was sponsored by the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women.

UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale, one of the six panelists, said everyone can probably recall times when women and other people have experienced some discomfort in the classroom, perhaps not only in universities, but also in elementary and high schools.

"By its very nature, UNL or any other university exists to explore ideas and discover the truth," Massengale said. "The idea that it is an unfriendly climate for women or other groups is in itself a chilling thought."

Massengale said the discrimination situation needs to be improved inside as well as outside the classroom. He suggested materials on the subject be distributed, research projects conducted and a feedback system established to obtain suggestions from students, faculty and university staff members.

Linda Pratt, a graduate English professor, reviewed the status of women in terms

of employment for the past 10 years.

Pratt said the university does not give equal pay for equal work. In the 1980-81 school year, women in all categories received \$303 less than males; in full professor positions, women received \$758 less; associate professors receive \$425 less, she said.

UNL also is below the national average in terms of women faculty members. Only 19.8 percent of the UNL staff is female, compared to the 25 percent national average.

According to the 1980 report of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women, women are losing ground in terms of rank, tenure, salary and representation in the decision-making process, Pratt said. She gave UNL a grade of D-plus in terms of its opportunities for women.

Nette Nelson, a UNL undergraduate speech communications major, said changes in discrimination could be encouraged by the awareness that classroom lan-

guage can change behavior, and by actively encouraging affirmative action programs to provide women role models.

Tom Spilker, a graduate engineering instructor, said he believes university policies regarding discrimination need visibility, so faculty members are aware of them and know how to apply the policies.

Spilker said the 1978 text for his engineering class has obvious discrimination, because it portrays women in non-professional roles and men in professional roles in each problem.

Jim Cole, a professor of psychology, said today's culture allows people to accept discriminatory behavior toward others because it has always been that way.

However, when people are extremely sensitive to a problem like this, Cole said, there is a danger that people will react to all problems as if they were caused by sexist orientation.



Staff photos by Joel Sartore



Top: "Want a ride," said sophomore Tom Fletcher, who was out enjoying the warm weather while riding his bicycle; Dave Deery, left, and Kevin Korbel play hacky-sack outside the state Historical Museum.

## SUN! UNL delirious with spring fever

By Bill Allen

It might have been a "chilly climate" for women in the main lounge of the Nebraska Union, but it was warm and sunny outside for the rest of UNL.

While a panel inside was discussing whether women are discriminated against on campus, people outside played basketball, hacky-sack and jogged.

Rob Pearlman, a sophomore psychology major, said he was going to take advantage of the sun and cruise Lincoln on his bicycle. He doesn't ride it much during the winter, he said, because "it's kind of hard to put snow tires on a bicycle."

Wednesday was Dawn Hartung's birthday, and she spent the afternoon studying in the warmth of a long-hidden Nebraska sun outside the union.

"Usually, I'm in the midst of a snowstorm on my birthday," Hartung, a graduate speech communications student, said.

Doug Jump and Nancy Cootrill, both freshmen, sat on the front steps of the Neihardt Residence Complex and "caught some rays."

"The weather's great," said Kathy Dickinson, freshman business education major sitting on a park bench in Centennial Mall. "I'm ready for spring."

Elaine Jenkins, a receptionist in the CAP office, had similar comments.

"I'm getting spring fever. I think I'll bring my typewriter out here," she said sitting by Broyhill Fountain.

But not everyone was pleased to see the sun out. Ed Bennett, a sophomore broadcasting major, and John Jessen, a junior business major, said they wished it would snow again. They were going skiing this weekend.