

Editorial

Overall, Legislature did job well

The second session of the 88th Legislature, which closed its 60-day run Monday evening, shouldn't be a difficult one for most Nebraskans to remember.

Most notable, of course, was the lawmakers' decision last month to begin the impeachment process of a high state official — Attorney General Paul Douglas — for the first time in 91 years. The state Supreme Court has the final say on whether or not Douglas retains his job. It is expected to reach a decision within the next two weeks.

But while the public was preoccupied with the Commonwealth situation, the Legislature discussed many other issues this spring. None of the bills they passed received as much publicity as the Douglas impeachment, but many of them were positive steps toward solving the problems facing the state.

Most encouraging was the overwhelming support senators gave to raising Nebraska's legal drinking age from 20 to 21. It is unfortunate that other states in the region did not do the same, but as deaths related to drunken driving continue to mount, so will the pressure on lawmakers to do something about it. Other states may soon follow Nebraska's lead.

Also encouraging was the Legislature's passage of a bill that shifts the burden of proof in insanity plea cases from the prosecution to the defense. It's about time someone started worrying less about the rights of criminals and more about the rights of victims and potential victims.

Senators also apparently realized the necessity of improving university faculty salaries. They finally

gave UNL enough money to help make significant pay increases a reality.

Not everything that went on in the legislative chamber was positive, however. Despite front page stories on the fiscal state of Nebraska's farmers, senators continue to spend money as though the state's economy were booming.

The Legislature overrode far too many of the governor's spending-issue vetoes. Some of the overrides were justifiable, but the overwhelming number of them seems to indicate that senators have no concern about income and sales tax rates.

Senators also failed, once again, to provide any kind of major property tax relief. Session after session, they put it off as though, if they ignore the problem, it will eventually go away on its own. They may soon regret that. Support seems to be growing for a petition drive that would put a property tax limit on the ballot. If it's there, you can bet an overwhelming majority of the voters will approve of it.

How does the 1984 Legislature rate? Give 'em a B-plus. Senators are to be commended for taking on some difficult problems and developing workable solutions. That is especially commendable, considering they had the Commonwealth issue hanging over them throughout the session.

But, at times, lawmakers showed a lack of concern for the state's citizens. With special interest groups increasing their lobbying at the Legislature, senators must remember who it is that put them in office and pays their salaries and expenses.



Soviets may bid 'do svidanya' to Olympics

Democracy finishes last in 1984 Games

Something of a controversy has been brewing regarding Soviet participation in the Los Angeles Olympics. The Soviets claim their Olympic team being harassed as well as being denied access to certain Olympic sites within Los Angeles.

Evidently, the whole thing started when a member of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee visited with a Soviet Olympic representative.



Mike Frost

"Good afternoon," the Olympic representative said.

"Dobri den," the Russian official responded.

"Wait a minute. That's not English."

"That's right," the Soviet official said. "It is the native tongue of the mother country."

"No, no, no, this won't do," the Olympic official said. "English is the official language of the 1984 Summer Olympics."

"What's this?"

"That's right. Olympic sponsorship used to be the exclusive domain of fruit juices, deodorants, and

washing machines. But now, everyone's getting into the act. And, I'm afraid, English paid the money and now they're the official language."

The Soviet official sputtered. (Those commies never understand free enterprise.) "Official language. Why, I am outraged!"

"I'm sorry again, but serenity is the official emotion of the 1984 Summer Olympics. I'm afraid you'll have to be serene."

"This is the most unfair thing I have ever heard of!"

"Oh, I'm sorry to disappoint you yet again, but the bombing of Pearl Harbor is the official most unfair thing ever during the 1984 Summer Olympics."

"I can't believe what I'm hearing. Let me ask you a question."

"OK, but remember, 'What came first, the chicken or the egg?' is the official question of the 1984 Summer Olympics."

"Well, let me ask it unofficially then. Who decided all of this?"

"Well, it all started one evening on *Nightline*, the official news show of the 1984 Summer Olympics. They did one of those viewer phone-in polls — the official means of survey for the 1984 Summer Olympics, incidentally — and the American people — the



Letters

Recruit program hurt

I read, with disgust, the editorial bad-mouthing the Nebraska basketball program (Daily Nebraskan, April 6). After completing the article, I was even more disgusted to find that the author of this negative piece of journalism didn't even have the courage to sign his name.

This is just the kind of negative attitude that perpetuates the myth that Nebraska will never have a strong basketball program. To print this type of article five days before national letters of intent can be signed by recruits is inexcusable. Not only is it damaging to the recruiting effort which is the lifeblood of any program, but it is insulting to the coaches and players already committed to the program.

We are all entitled to voice our own opinions. I believe the Nebraska basketball program is determined to put forth the effort necessary to become a power. I think it has taken major steps in that direction in recent years. The real, true fans are asking themselves what they can do to help, not writing editorials saying they feel sorry for any recruit who signs.

Dale Zimmerman
senior
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Editor's Note: The Daily Nebraskan's editorial policy, which appears frequently on this page, clearly states that all unsigned editorials represent official policy of the newspaper and are written by this semester's editor in chief, Larry Sparks.

Article 'ugly criticism'

The editorial on the UNL basketball team (Daily Nebraskan, April 6) was illogical, irresponsible and quite fashionably negative. Many other readers and I were much chagrined by the ignorance and ugly criticism illustrated.

Nebraska's "mediocrity," which in fact is a record of consistency of respectability unmatched in the conference, is attributable to a lack of great player. Tom Osborne complains about his difficulty in drawing top players to UNL. How much more difficult it must be, then, for Moe Iba to attract top basketball players. Nebraska produces few blue chip high school basketball players. Nebraska lacks a great basketball tradition. Incredibly, then, people think we "deserve" a great basketball team. This is impossible without great players.

The editorial was a serious disservice to the team and its fans, and it reflected very badly the intelligence of the Daily Nebraskan's editor.

Greg Dawson
freshman
undeclared

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