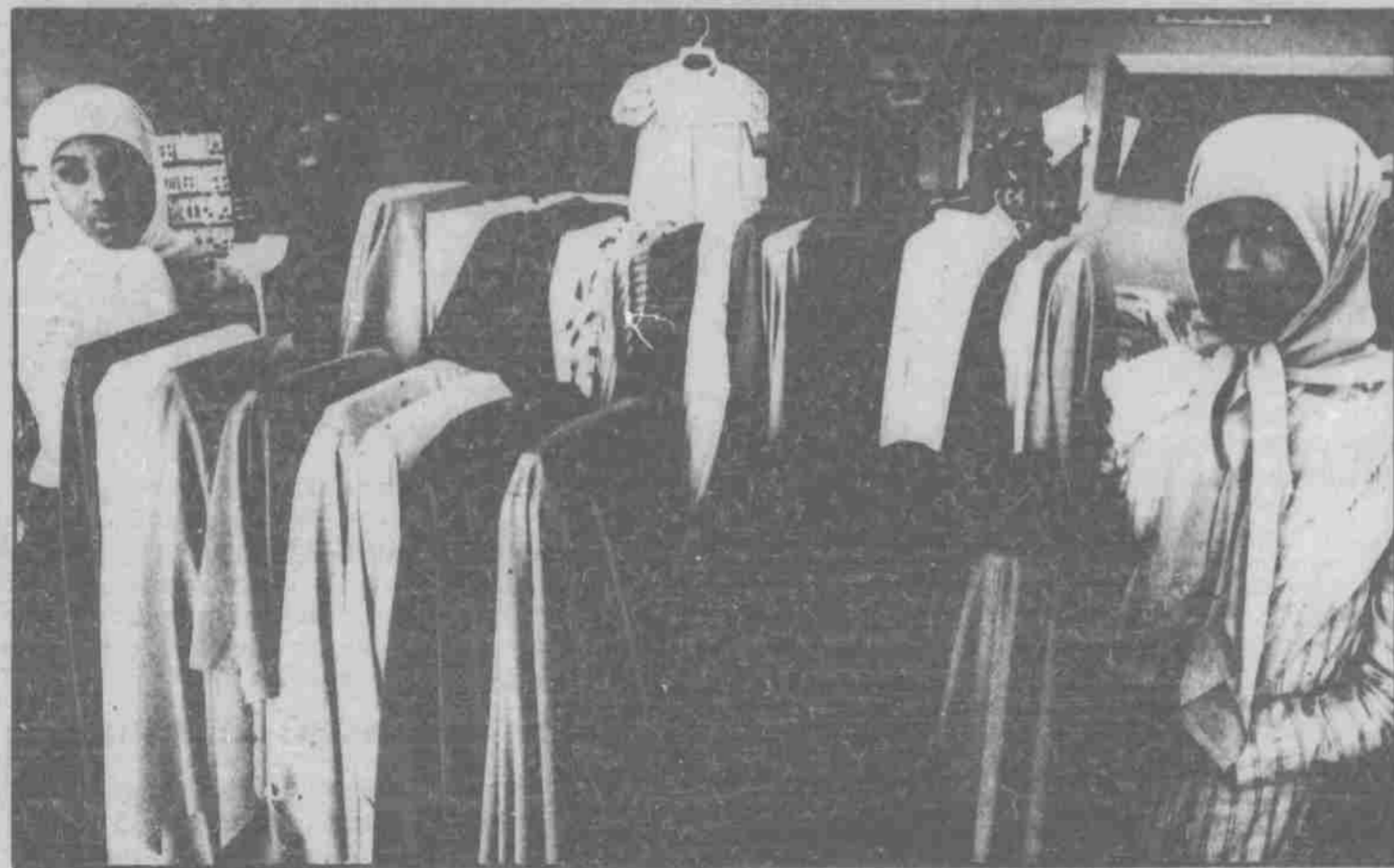


# Daily Nebraskan

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David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

American-born Moslem students Rashidah, left, and Aneesah Abdullah pose near two rows of colored fabrics available at the Halal Food Mart, an Islamic store in Lincoln owned by their parents. Story on Page 2.

## Kerrey defends drinking age, property taxes

By John Meissner

Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter  
Gov. Bob Kerrey, true to his pharmacy degree, prescribed remedies Thursday for a flagging university and a failed banking institution.

In an interview, the governor also defended the state's property tax system and disputed the value of raising the drinking age.

Kerrey said questions about what UNL freshmen could expect in the next four years merit a "doctoral thesis."

Budgeting is done from year to year, he said, explaining why he couldn't project in advance. "The principal budget decisions, particularly how the money's going to be allocated internally, are made by the (NU) Board of Regents, not by myself or the Legislature," Kerrey said.

However, he said, "We are going to continue to pursue excellence in that institution, and we are going to continue to put pressure on the university to manage the resources that we give them better."

Kerrey said the state faces two constraints in its educational efforts: the need to try to get superior education and the personal incomes of Nebraskans.

New technology, computers and basic research equipment must be used for the next four or five years to prepare students for the future, Kerrey said.

"I would expect to see us constantly struggling against the need to provide superior education for our people and the need as well to make certain we're developing our economy," he said.

Kerrey said he is concerned about the rash of "bad news" bothering Lincolnites — industrial loan and investment company closings, retail store departures and the trials of Paul Douglas. But he said he doesn't think Nebraskans' confidence is shaken.

"I think we've got a fairly significant group of people who had money in Commonwealth whose confidence unquestionably has been shattered," he said.

But, Kerrey said, many people still have great confidence in

Nebraska.

Kerrey said the banking department did a "pretty poor job" of regulating Commonwealth and called the insurance program set up to protect depositors a "sham."

Although the Legislature and District Court have shunted Kerrey's efforts to resurrect the institution or return some of the depositors' money, he said he will continue to try the same approach.

"In the meantime," Kerrey said, "we will liquidate the assets of that institution or set it up so they can be liquidated."

Kerrey correctly predicted the passage of the farmland valuations bill, LB2. Senators voted 32-16 in favor of its identical twin LB7 later in the day, ending the special session.

Kerrey also dismissed talk about restructuring the state property tax system.

"The state, in 1975 or 1976, began the process of developing a manual which gives us some basis by which we can tax property uniformly," Kerrey said.

Kerrey allowed that property tax supported too much of government, particularly education, and that the state should shift some of the burden over to sales and income tax. But, he said, by "enforcing the manual and updating the assessments, we will be in reasonably good shape."

The governor took exception to a statement that he had been opposed to raising the drinking age in 1983. He signed a bill raising the legal drinking age to 21 earlier this year.

"I've never been opposed to raising the drinking age," Kerrey said. "But the fact is, the drinking age is an arbitrary age." There is no evidence to indicate that the incidence of traffic-related fatalities is a function of the drinking age, he said, or that we will decrease the use of alcohol by grade school or junior high school students through limitations. "What I've said is, 'Don't raise the drinking age and think that you're going to solve those two problems.'"

"I don't think they're going to accomplish anything by raising it," Kerrey said.

## Specialty grocery markets cater to Lincoln's diverse ethnic tastes

By John Meissner

Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter  
"Lee Chong's grocery, while not a model of neatness, was a miracle of supply. It was small and crowded but within its single room a man could find everything he needed or wanted to live and to be happy."

— John Steinbeck, "Cannery Row"

In a world with entire supermarket aisles devoted to dish-washing soap, it's heartening to find a store where dried beans nestle comfortably between almond cookies and artichoke hearts. King Tut's, 1642 O St., is such a place.

King Tut's, like A-Dong Foods,

Oriental Market and Asian House of Lincoln, is a specialty grocery store catering to ethnic groups. "Specialty" may be a misnomer for a grocery store that stocks dried fruit, good luck charms, fresh spices, papyrus, instant noodles, fresh-baked baklava and honey manufactured on the spot.

Basim Metry, the manager, stocker, checker and sacker at King Tut's (his sister does the baking) arrived in Lincoln in 1982 after spending eight years in the business administration department at Assiout University in Egypt. His brother-in-law, Yosry Bishay, the owner and a technician in UNL's agricultural engi-

neering department, thought a store would help foreign students and families, especially the 40 to 50 Greek families in Lincoln who were having trouble supplying their needs.

Today, his clientele includes 25 percent "good, regular American customers" — a percentage Metry "didn't expect." People with roots in the Middle East, India and the Orient make up the other 75 to 80 percent of his customers.

A-Dong, 107 N. 27th St., offers a taste of home for Lincoln's Vietnamese population. Diep Nguyen said he carries Chinese, Japanese and Thai foodstuffs as well. Nguyen started A-Dong (in English, "half sun") after leaving Vietnam in 1979. Along with a variety of popular Vietnamese music, the store handles dried and canned goods and bulk rice. Tofu, tempura batter and lychees, familiar words to American devotees of Oriental food, are available here and at the other Far Eastern groceries.

Sirirat and Aram Ruenprom run the Oriental Market out of their home at 611 N. 27th St. The market specializes in goods from Thailand. The owners attributed less than 1 percent of their business to Americans. "Probably because most Americans don't know how to cook Oriental food," they said.

By far the largest of the specialty stores, Asian House, 700 N. 27th St., boasts a gift shop and grocery with fresh fish and produce. As with the other stores, their imported goods come from Chicago or the coasts.

Store hours:  
King Tut's — 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday.  
A-Dong Foods — 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday.  
Oriental Market — 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.  
Asian House — 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

## Horse-raising a family affair

By Brad Kuhn

Daily Nebraskan Staff Editor

Carousel ponies, frozen in midleap, await tonight's "Sneak-a-peak" festivities. Air-brushed castles and concession stands sleep for the long night ahead.

But in the horse barn, John Roby and his family from Rockwell, Iowa, are feeding their team — six golden Belgian draft horses.

"I used to race cars, now I raise horses. I think I like this better," says Roby, a retired farmer. "There's not much else to do in Rockwell."

The small Iowa farm community that the Robys call home is better known among Iowans as the former site of the state women's correctional facility. Roby says he shows his Belgians "just for fun."

"I think golf would be a lot of work," he says.

For the Robys, raising draft horses is a family affair. Last night Roby's granddaughter 7-year-old Jamie Roby, competed in the youth cart class against riders as old as 18. She skipped two days of school to travel with mom, dad, grandpa, grandmas and her 4-year-old sister, Justin.

She says the cart race is exciting, but like any 7-year-old she prefers the rides on the midway.

"If we weren't here, we'd probably be water skiing, but there's our boat," says Jamie's mom, Vicky, gesturing toward one of the bulky horses, scratching on a stable wall. The Robys have sunk more than \$20,000 into their hobby.

Outside, Bob Roby, 30, soaped from head to toe, lathers up a horse, while grandma washes hooves and hindquarters. He too used to race cars, but gave it up when he got married. He says papa John wasn't too pleased with his son's first purchase in horse-flesh, but grandpa admits now that he may have been wrong. Bob's horse is the only horse remaining from the family's original six-horse team. But John probably won't ever concede defeat.

"We still cuss that horse," he says, grinning.

Today's John's 50th birthday. He hopes to take home a first-place trophy in the big event, the six-horse team competition. Last year he rode away with third.

## Friday

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