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Republican groups use creative financing

By Kevin Dugan
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

The campaign for republican senatorial candidate Nancy Hoch has reached its limit on the amount of money that can be contributed from the national committee to an individual campaign.

Yet, the funds keep coming in.

The Federal Election Commission sets a limit on the amount of money that can be contributed from the national committee to individual campaigns.

But in order to channel unlimited funds into campaigns, Mitch Daniels, director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, is using "conduit giving" to maintain the supply of money to state candidates.

Daniels is encouraging regular donors to write checks directly to candidates, as opposed to donating to the National Committee.

Barry Kennedy, campaign manager for Nancy Hoch, said some conduit contributions have been received, but he did not have an exact dollar figure.

Kennedy said some of the contributions arrived shortly after Hoch's appearances at the National Convention in Dallas.

According to a Sept. 13 Wall Street Journal article, the senatorial committee also uses another "loophole" which has poured nearly \$1 million into state Senate races for "party building" purposes.

Nebraska Republican Committee Chairman Kermit Brashear said it is wrong to

characterize conduit contributions as a loophole.

"If a law doesn't prohibit something, it is not a loophole," Brashear said.

Brashear said transfers are used for party building and not for individual campaigns. He said party building includes buying computer services, computer hardware and publications for Republicans.

Brashear said computers would be used to list donors, volunteers and registered voters in the state.

Dave Newell, chairman of the Nebraska Democratic Committee, said that conduit contributions defeat the purpose of the law set by the election committee.

Newell said loophole spending, "clearly violates the spirit, if not the letter, of the

law."

Democratic National Chairman Charles Manatt told the Omaha World-Herald Sept. 13 that the fund transfers are questionable. He cited Nebraska as one of seven states where funds have been used to directly influence the outcome of U.S. Senate races.

Kathie Smith, spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee, said the Nebraska Republican Central Committee did not report a \$25,000 transfer from the National Committee to the Federal Election Committee June 28.

But Kermit Brashear, speaking on behalf of the State Committee, said he does not think the allegation is true.

"To my knowledge we have missed no reporting deadlines," Brashear said.

Federal grand jury in Omaha closes Douglas investigation

By Brad Kuhn
Daily Nebraskan Senior Editor

Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick Murphy of Denver announced Monday that the federal grand jury in Omaha will not indict Nebraska Attorney General Paul Douglas.

According to an article in the Sept. 17 Lincoln Journal, Murphy announced that the 10-month investigation of Douglas has been closed and no indictments against Douglas were given to jurors. Ac-

cording to the Journal article, Murphy said investigators thought that after the Nebraska Supreme Court impeachment trial and subsequent Lancaster County grand jury indictment of Douglas, federal charges on the same events would be a duplication of effort.

Douglas' attorney, William Morrow of Omaha said the decision will allow him to spend more time building his case for Douglas' trial in Lancaster County, scheduled for Nov. 26.

Morrow said he plans to con-

tinue to attack the charges against Douglas on the grounds that they're inadequate.

Morrow said his strategy in this case will be to prove that the Lancaster County grand jury was premature in its decision to indict Douglas and that: "They don't know what they are talking about." Douglas faces charges of perjury and obstruction of justice related to his business and personal dealings with Commonwealth Savings Co. Vice President Marvin Copple.

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Candidate's gender has little effect on voter opinion, researchers say

By Gah Y. Huey
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

A candidate's gender has little effect on voter opinion; consequently, the nomination of Geraldine Ferraro may have little impact on the outcome of this year's presidential race, a UNL researcher said.

Susan Welch, chairman of the UNL political science department, said voters generally do not make distinctions based on a candidate's gender.

Voters are as likely to vote for women candidates as they would for men, she said.

Welch said she bases her conclusions on data she and Margery Abrosius, a political science doctoral candidate, collected from

six states.

Welch and Abrosius studied the response of voters to both men and women candidates in each state's legislative race.

To study the gender impact, the researchers analyzed information on 5,000 candidates between 1970 and 1980 in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, Wyoming and New Mexico.

"We found that in 1970, there seemed to be a definite discrimination against women candidates," Welch said.

Since then, women and men have done almost identically well, she said.

When it comes to voting, men and women generally vote the same, Welch said.

Rather than differing in issues concerning gender, men and women tend to vote along party lines, she said. Women tend to view themselves as liberals or democrats, Welch said. Consequently, most will support government social programs and oppose foreign and domestic policies.

The tendency to view themselves as democrats can be traced to the nation's economic state, Welch said. About 25 percent of the white women who are single heads of households have incomes that fall below the poverty line, she said. Additionally, about 50 percent of all black and Hispanic women household heads are below the line.

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David Cremer/Daily Nebraskan
Bill Hammelmann holds his portrait, which will be hung on the wall in the Lincoln Public Schools' Administration Building. Hammelmann is the 20th recipient of a Distinguished Teaching Award for LPS teachers. Story on Page 9.

'Famous' Amos fights illiteracy in Lincoln

By Lisa Nutting
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

In March, 1975, Wally Amos opened the first chocolate chip cookie store in Hollywood, CA. And now, nearly 10 years later, his cookies are still hot.

He's known as Wally 'Famous' Amos and he's doing more than selling cookies — he's promoting the fight against illiteracy. Amos was awarded "Admiralship in the Nebraska Navy" Monday for his devotion to the Literacy Volunteers of America. The award was presented at the Folsom Children's Zoo by Gov. Bob Kerrey.

Amos lives in Honolulu, Hawaii, but spends the majority of the year traveling and promoting Louis Sherry/Famous Amos Chocolate Chip Cookie Ice Cream and the fight against illiteracy.

"I've traveled all over the United States in an effort to bring attention to the problem (illiteracy)," Amos said.

Amos said his work is most gratifying, "because there is no denying the need to read — it's vital to one's survival."

There are 26 million func-

tional illiterates in the United States, Amos said. And according to the Lincoln Literacy Council, approximately 15 to 17 percent of adults in Lancaster County are illiterate.

Amos said he gets a great sense of satisfaction from his work, because while promoting his product, he is able to help people at the same time.

"It's a way for me to do something constructive," he said. "I wanted to be famous for more than just cookies. I wanted to give something back."

And so he does. Amos donates 1 percent of his 3.5 percent royalty from the sale of Louis Sherry/Famous Amos Chocolate Chip Cookie Ice Cream to the National Literacy Council. During the month of October, 10 cents from every unit of ice cream sold in Lincoln will be donated to the Lincoln Literacy Association.

There is a message on each package of ice cream which tells about Famous Amos, Sherry Ice Cream and the efforts for literacy, Amos said.

"I've spoken to millions," Amos said. "I have since '79. The best thing is I've been able to make a difference."