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Spinning the wheel for a shot at big bucks

Students vie for WH---L OF F---RTUNE spots

By John Meissner
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

All the elements were there — the droll, charismatic host, a lovely assistant, unrestrained audience approval, and for those with enough luck, the chance to return for another shot at the "Wheel of Fortune."

But the Nebraska Union basement,

not a Burbank studio, was the scene of Tuesday's preliminary contestant auditions for the game show's "College Week."

Contestant coordinator Harv Selsby handed out applications on cardboard palettes to the potential contestants (primarily students), participating in the cattle call.

After some reassuring banter from

Selsby and Paul Gilbert, the show's creative consultant, the group was whittled down with a 15 puzzle test containing stingily meted letter cues to persons, phrases and things.

Those who solved the necessary number of puzzles were asked to remain and play a pseudo "Wheel of Fortune" game.

The game, replete with a used letter board, sound effects and a briefcase-sized wheel stopped arbitrarily by Selsby (alternating between big dollar amounts and the infamous "Bankrupt" for superlative responses), was used to test enthusiasm and knowledge of the game. Garishness and good guesses guaranteed a spot in one of today's two final 90-minute rounds.

Selsby said four students and one alternate will be selected by 2:30 p.m. to represent UNL at the Nov. 3 and 4 taping of "Wheel of Fortune College Week." The four segments (five if Nebraska makes it to the cash round) will

pit UNL students against their counterparts from Boston University, Stanford and Tulane.

Additionally, 20 to 25 contestants from Nebraska could be chosen to appear on the regular and syndicated versions of the show.

Selsby said he picked Nebraska because of its national recognition and standing in the Big Eight.

The group, completed by assistant contestant coordinator Peggy Lavell is not looking for the stereotypical Nebraskan. "We'll take people who look like they're having fun," Selsby said.

Gilbert said the show has hosted two previous college contests. A team of UCLA students was the biggest winner, garnering \$50,000 and a trip to France.

He attributed the success of the 10-year-old show — presently emceed by Pat Sajak — to its format. "It's not a question-and-answer show," Gilbert said. With five-to-six minutes between solutions, the viewers get involved in solving the puzzles, he said.

Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

Harve Selsby, (photo at left), the contestant coordinator for "Wheel of Fortune," points to the next contestant before spinning a money wheel. At right, Gary Ericson and Keith Hagenau grimace after a fellow contestant went bankrupt while playing "Wheel of Fortune," Tuesday in the Nebraska Union Rostrum. The two UNL students were part of a group of 25 competing to be on the TV game show.



Task Force suggests ways to fight sexual abuse

By Ward W. Triplett III
Daily Nebraskan Staff Editor

Legislature.

"When I first looked at this, I immediately saw not only the difficulty in getting some of this stuff passed, but the difficulty of getting it funded," Kerrey said.

The task force's major recommendations include a statewide resource center to coordinate crisis intervention services and education activities. The report also suggested a trust fund to develop preventive activities against child abuse at the local levels. The trust fund would be supported by an additional charge on Nebraska marriage licenses

and birth certificates, as well as grants and gifts.

Kerrey said he would meet with the committee's co-chairwomen Natalie Clark and Karen Authier before the next legislative session begins. He said they would determine which of the recommendations are immediately necessary.

"We will unquestionably see some statutory changes" because of the report, he said.

Kerrey said he and the task force need to prioritize items now, and find funding for those items determined necessary later.

If reasonable suggestions can

be made, Kerrey said he wouldn't be surprised if something is done in the next legislative session.

Other recommendations by the sexual assault committee included the elimination of the requirement that a victim's testimony be corroborated; legislation for financial restitution of a victim; the creation of an additional adolescent offender program at the Youth Development Center in Kearney; the creation of an after-care program for paroled and discharged sex offenders and the creation of a facility to separate sex offenders from other offenders in rehabilitation programs.

"This is just the beginning," Clark said. "Just because we've submitted these recommendations, our work has just begun."

Clark said the committee concentrated on four areas: the victim, the offender, training for public officials and public education. The resource center, with it purpose of training professionals to deal with the problems of both the victim and the offender, was the eventual answer, she said.

Clark said a Nebraska ETV Network program on abuse airing this week fulfilled a small part of the task force's objectives.

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Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

Alfred "Bud" Pagel, an instructor at UNL's School of Journalism, displays copies of two of the four newspapers his advanced reporting class produced this summer. Story on Page 8.