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Betting big business for Cornhusker fans

By John Meissner

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Editor's note: This is the fourth article in a five-part series exploring various issues behind Nebraska football.

Behind Big Red

So you think those rabid, raucous Nebraska football fans cheer so loudly every Saturday solely because pride and a national ranking are on the line?

Wanna bet?

A lot of the east stadium denizens do — bet on Nebraska, that is. Bet on the outcome of a lot of college and professional games every weekend. Try their skill at something more substantial than the friendly \$5 wager or the residence hall floor pool.

"We have been told that there is extensive gambling, especially during the football season," said Lt. Joe Wehner of the UNL police department. "But there is not enough information to confirm it is a problem."

Depending on the weekend, one bookmaker might take bets amounting to "\$3,000 to \$4,000," according to a former gambler. And, he said, there is more than one bookie serving UNL.

"Gambling is very difficult to uncover," Wehner said. "The people who gamble know each other and know who the police are. They can gamble openly, and still manage to keep it from the police."

The former gambler explained the present betting system. "They buy a line (a list of match-ups with predicted point spreads between final scores), and adjust it for the favorite games (those that spur the most betting because of local interest) to make both teams seem more attractive."

A runner then distributes the Xeroxed sheets among friends, fielding phone calls and keeping track of all placed bets. The minimum bet is \$10, with an additional 10 percent bookie fee.

After the final pro game Monday night ("Monday night games are extremely popular," he said, bets are collected and money distributed.

The bookmaker's ideal situation, the former gambler said, is to

have an equal number of bets placed on both teams, so the winners and losers even out. Usually, though, losers outnumber the winners, because bookies not only have a statistical advantage, but an informational one.

"People who make point spreads know a lot more about games than the bettors —" tangibles and intangibles like "injuries, team disunity, and playing conditions," he said.

He said he has suffered through losing weekends, but a "smart bookmaker plays the game such that winning weekends easily cover losing weekends."

Wehner said the department doesn't make a large number of gambling arrests, but they have made some, mostly low-level runners. The maximum first-offense sentence for promoting gambling in the first degree — a charge which applies to bookmakers who take in more than \$1,000 a day — is one year in prison and/or a \$1,000 fine. Fines and sentences are smaller for bookies who take in less and people who bet more than \$300.

People don't turn in bookmakers or bettors because "gambling is viewed as a victimless crime, a recreation, not a priority to report," Wehner said.

The former gambler denied that bookies take advantage of people. "On this campus, betting on sports is not a matter of one student trying to screw others out of money. It is a matter of an aggressive person providing a highly demanded service to friends and acquaintances."

"What right does the state have to provide gambling whereby they only pay the gamblers an 80 percent return on what is bet, and say that that is moral because it is legal?" he asked, referring to the 17 percent cut Nebraska takes out of every parimutual pool at race tracks.

"People enjoy betting football games, and I have seen it cause no more hazard to them than to others who enjoy wagering legally on horses.

"My only moral qualm with betting on games involving the human element is that the integrity of the men performing can be questioned," he said. He said some people begin to assume games are "fixed" or players accept money to influence games.



Joel Satore/Daily Nebraskan

John Janovy, interim director of state museum, sits beside one of his favorite Merrill Hall exhibits, the *Dinohyus* — a plaster figure representing an animal from the Miocene era.

Interim director Janovy hopes to integrate university, museum

By Barry Trevarrow
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

John Janovy Jr., newly appointed interim director of UNL's State Museum, said he hopes to increase public support and awareness for the museum in the next year.

Janovy, professor of biological science at UNL, was appointed Friday, replacing Allan Griesemer. Griesemer left to take a position at a museum in San Bernardino, Calif.

Janovy will be in charge of administering the museum's research and exhibits for this academic year. He said his experience as director of UNL's Cedar Point Biological Field Station near Ogallala probably led to his appointment.

"The station is a complex

administrative job that involves teaching, food service and transportation," Janovy said.

Janovy said he has "an enormous amount of interest in the museum."

"I use it every semester for classroom exercises in my teaching," he said. "I never miss museums when I'm in big cities."

Janovy teaches advanced parasitology at the field station and introductory biology and zoology at UNL.

"I see a strong relationship between the museum and geology, anthropology and life sciences," Janovy said.

Though Janovy isn't ready to disclose ideas he has for the museum, he said, he wants to "continue to make the museum a growing part of the univer-

sity and make people aware of how it is integrated with the campus."

Janovy has been a member of the UNL faculty since 1966. He is a former university award winner for distinguished teaching and has gained national prominence for his research and literary achievement.

"We are very pleased that Dr. Janovy has agreed to serve in the interim capacity," Chancellor Martin A. Massengale said. "He is well-known for his fieldwork in the sciences, his creative writing, and he is an exemplary scholar and leader."

Janovy is expected to begin his new assignment Oct. 1. The search for a permanent director for the museum will begin immediately after a new vice chancellor for research and graduate studies is appointed.

Women confer on goals of governor's conference

By Barry Trevarrow
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

In an effort to focus attention on women's roles in Nebraska's businesses, Gov. Bob Kerrey has selected 21 Nebraskans to serve on a steering committee for the 1985 Governor's Conference on Women Business Owners.

Kerrey and two committee members, Maxine Moul and Lynn Roper, officially introduced committee members and outlined the group's goals at a Wednesday

press conference.

"Economic development is so crucial to Nebraska's future that we must not overlook any source of growth, especially not in the fields being currently pioneered by and dominated by women entrepreneurs," Kerrey said.

The conference, tentatively scheduled for the spring of 1985, may include franchising, cash management, start-up financing, risk-taking and other managerial topics.

"Figures show that there are about 3 million women involved in small business ownership contributing to about \$40 billion in revenue to the country's economy," said Moul, owner of Maverick Media of Syracuse. "They are the fastest growing entrepreneurs in the country."

Moul said small business ownership is a way out for women who now have low-paying jobs. Kerrey said he agreed.

"We want to try to identify

people who have some dream, some goal and provide them assistance," Kerrey said.

Kerrey said he likes the idea of the conference because he thinks most businesses and jobs created in the state will be formed by people already living in Nebraska.

"We're very excited about the potential of the conference in not only identifying current women business owners," Roper said, "but giving an opportunity for potential owners to know what resources exist in the state to help

them."

Several members of the Kerrey administration have been named to the committee along with five Omahans, four Lincolnites and five others from outstate Nebraska.

The conference would run one to two days. Satellite videoconferencing will be used if two cities are chosen as locations for the conference. North Platte, Lincoln and Omaha have been suggested as possibilities.