

# Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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**Weather:** Partly cloudy and warmer today with a slight chance of showers and a high of 58 (14C). Halloween night, partly cloudy, windy and cold with a low of 28 (-2C). Thursday, partly cloudy, windy and much colder with a high in the upper 30s to the lower 40s (4C).

Bob Brubacher/Daily Nebraskan

**Blackshirts bound for Orange Bowl...Page 10**

**DePalma refines fear in Body Double...Page 12**

## Kerrey announces probe into Cairo farmer's death

By Brad Gifford  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Gov. Bob Kerrey Tuesday named former Lancaster County District Judge Samuel Van Pelt to lead an independent investigation of the State Patrol's actions in the shooting death of Cairo farmer Arthur Kirk.

Kerrey said the independent analysis is needed to explain to the public exactly what happened and to objectively examine the patrol's policies and procedures.

Kirk died late Oct. 23 after exchanging gunfire with troopers outside his home near Cairo. The troopers were assisting Hall County officials who were trying to serve Kirk with a foreclosure notice on his land.

Earlier that day Kirk forced the officials off his land with a gun when they first attempted to deliver the document. County officials then issued a warrant for Kirk's arrest and called in the patrol.

Kerrey has read a report of the incident submitted by the patrol and said "no immediate disciplinary actions" are required. He said he is not looking specifically for any wrong-doing by the patrol. The situation was not a general threat to public safety, he said.

"The only thing that really bothers me at all is it's only one report," Kerrey said.

Van Pelt retired this summer after 10 years with the district court. He was selected because he understands law enforcement terminology and processes and because "we needed someone the public can trust," Kerrey said.

Van Pelt will work jointly for the governor and the Legislature's Judicial Committee, which also is looking into the incident. State Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, a committee member, is conducting his own investigation, which committee chairman Chris Beutler said will help clarify the facts.

Kirk's wife has criticized the

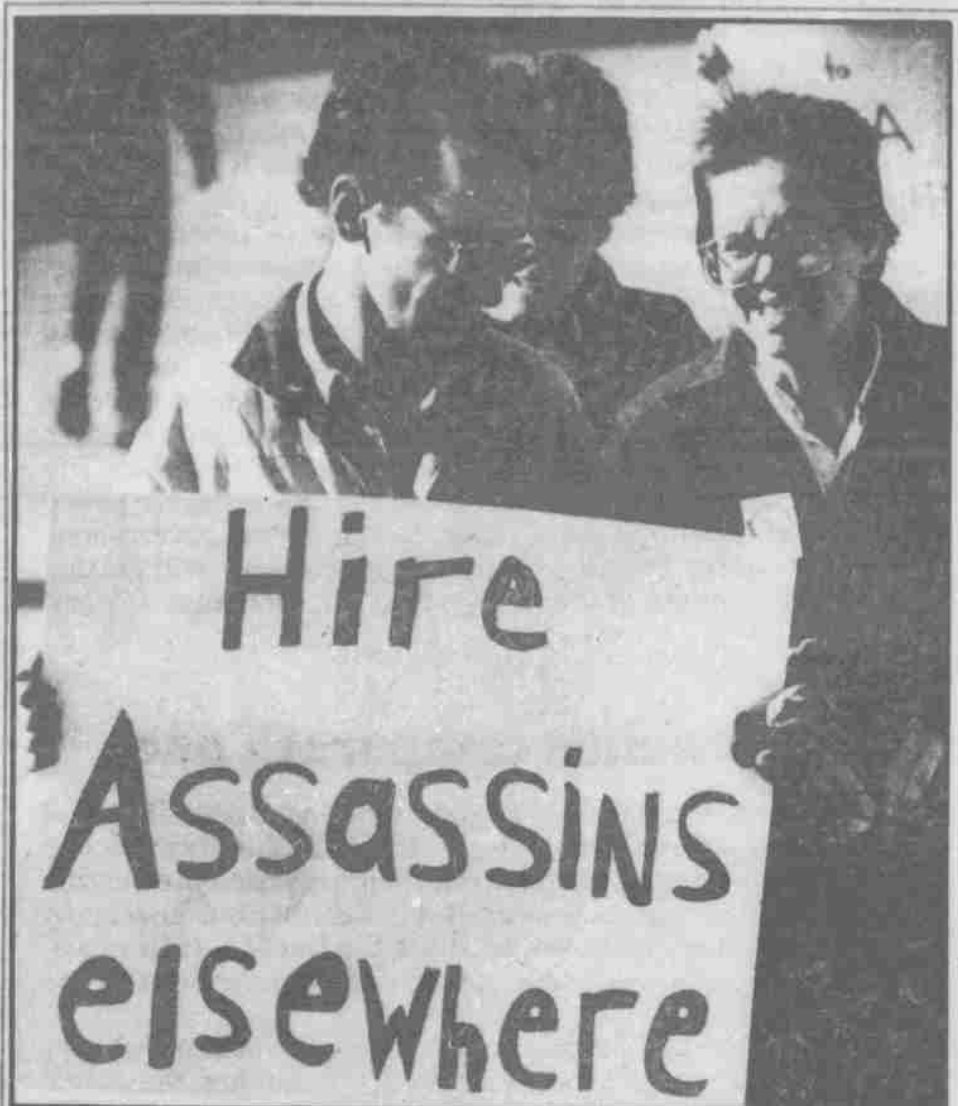
trooper's actions and feels her husband died needlessly. Col. Elmer Kohmetscher of the State Patrol said Tuesday that Mrs. Kirk was "uncooperative." When she was asked to try to talk Kirk into coming out of the house, which was surrounded by troopers, Kohmetscher said she refused.

Kerrey said he has received no formal complaints about the shooting, but added that several people have called to voice their concern.

Although the story is complex, Kerrey said it must be fully presented to the public so that people understand why the actions were taken.

Van Pelt's report is due Dec. 1. Kerrey said he will use the findings to determine if patrol modifications are needed.

"I want to make sure we don't adjust our policies so as to decrease public safety objectives," he said.



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

A small group, including UNL students Glenn Simonsen left, and Barbara Chantry, Tuesday protest CIA job recruitment on campus.

## Police suggest Halloween safety rules for kids, partiers

By Barry Trevarrow  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Student parents with children who will go out trick-or-treating tonight and students who plan on getting away from the books for awhile to go to Halloween costume parties have more than just ghosts and goblins to watch out for.

Lincoln Police Lt. John Becker said children often forget safety rules in the excitement of holiday activities. Becker said children should pay special attention to general pedestrian and night-time guidelines. Trick-or-treaters should:

- remember to look both ways when crossing streets;
- take a flashlight along for especially dark areas or emergencies;

- put reflective tape on clothing;
  - travel in groups with at least one adult.
- Additionally, Becker recommended several strategies trick-or-treaters should follow.
- Use makeup instead of masks. Masks tend to obstruct vision.
  - Wear a costume that allows easy movement. High heels are not advisable.
  - Don't go into any homes—stay on the porch.
  - Don't accept rides from strangers.
  - Don't approach homes that aren't lit. There is an unwritten rule that such homes aren't participating in the festivities.
  - Stay in your own neighborhood. Odds are that people you

know are less likely to do you harm.

- Have parents inspect all candy before it is eaten. Don't eat any while trick-or-treating.

Becker said if parents feel candy has been tampered with, they can contact the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. They will analyze the candy to make sure it is safe. Lincoln police also can contact candy companies to make sure questionable candy is authentic.

The health department encourages parents to host Halloween parties in their homes or arrange block parties to reduce the risk of tampered treats or injury to children. Non-food items such as small toys and stickers can be substituted for treats to help make a safer holiday.

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## Vickers says U.S. 'borrowing from future'

By Ann Lowe  
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

Elected officials should concentrate more on policies for the future than on "political whims of the moment," State Sen. Tom Vickers of Farnam said Wednesday in the main lounge of the Nebraska Union.

The 48-year-old farmer and rancher is running for the 3rd District Congressional seat against Republican incumbent Virginia Smith.

Vickers said too many elected officials act on immediate "crises" in government instead of planning policies for the future.

"If you want to get a horse in the barn, you have to get in front of it," he said.

The federal government borrows too much money — one dollar of



every four it spends, Vickers said. Much of the money goes for immediate needs of the legislators' constituents, he said.

"They're borrowing from the future," he said.

Four years ago, the United

States was \$2,000 in debt for every person in the country, Vickers said. Now, the national debt is \$4,000 per person, and it could double in less than four years, he said.

Interest on the federal deficit is the third largest federal expenditure, he said. It may soon grow to 35 to 40 percent of the federal budget, Vickers said.

Vickers partially blamed excess spending on legislators who give in to pressure from constituents and interest groups. He said representatives should use "political courage, or just plain guts" to turn down requests for federal funds.

"Sometimes, it makes you unpopular to say, 'no,'" he said.

Vickers, the chairman of the Legislature's Education Committee, said he opposes federal spending on public education — except for special education, integration programs and post-secondary research.

Vickers said he supports tough teacher accreditation standards and higher teacher salaries. These would "attract more worthy people" to the profession, he said. Vickers also favors a national teachers' exam, though, he said high scores on written tests don't guarantee good teaching.

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Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Sen. Tom Vickers