

Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Weather: Partly sunny, windy and cold today with a high of 39 (4C). Thursday night, very cold with a low of about 21 (-6C). Friday, mostly sunny and warmer with a high in the lower 50s (12C).

Bob Brubacher/Daily Nebraskan

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Pole's struggle...Page 11**

Commonwealth: One Year Later

First anniversary is no celebration

By Brad Gifford
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

When the state Banking Department locked Commonwealth Savings Co.'s doors one year ago today, 7,000 depositors thought their money was inside.

It wasn't.

It had been loaned to people who couldn't pay it back, or shoveled into the ground, the multi-million dollar real estate holdings of Commonwealth President S.E. Cople.

The depositors were certain the Nebraska Depository Institution Guaranty Corp. would do what it had advertised on signs in the window of Commonwealth: reimburse depositors up to \$30,000 for each account.

It didn't.

On the first anniversary of the closing, depositors aren't looking back at a bad experience that was tough for awhile, but getting better with the return of every dollar. They still are mired in the bad experience, and not one dollar has been recovered.

With nowhere else to turn but to themselves, the depositors formed the Nebraska Depositors Action Committee to prod officials who could help them get their money back.

For about three months, the depositors saw no results. They witnessed a flurry of legal activity. Cople and two of his sons, Marvin and Newt, were charged with several illegal financial procedures. As attorneys, state senators and the people debated who or what was at fault for the collapse, developments that encouraged — and discouraged — depositors passed:

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Foreign students trying to forget

By Joan Hoffman
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Within the last year, UNL's International Educational Services assisted 29 students who lost their savings in the Commonwealth Savings Co. collapse.

An estimated \$225,000 of student money was lost.

Of the 29 students, 4 were American students. The remaining 25 foreign students had to fend for themselves with limited help from the university.

What do you do when you're attending a foreign university and you have no money?

David DeCoster, dean of students, worked with the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aids at the NU Foundation to help these students continue their educations.

Each student was offered the opportunity to live on campus with a modified payment plan suited to each individual. Emergency work permits were obtained and since foreign students are not usually allowed to work off campus, the students were helped with job interviews, DeCoster said.

The financial aid office worked in conjunction with the foundation to establish an emergency loan program for about eight of these students, DeCoster said.

Akiko Horii Husen of Japan was one of the eight. She received \$400.

But \$400 doesn't go very far when you must pay \$100 for each tuition hour, said Husen, who lost more than \$3,000.

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Couple doubtful of money's return

By Gene Gentrup
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

For 29 years Erwin and Orletha Mantzner always managed to pay their bills. Despite Erwin's disability as a paraplegic and Orletha's bout with cancer, including two surgeries three years ago, the couple never had any financial difficulties.

Then, on Nov. 1, one year ago today, Commonwealth Savings Co. went insolvent. The Mantzners lost \$83,000 — their entire savings.

"We were shocked," Erwin said. "We figured it (the money) would come back in a short time."

Now, one year later, like all Commonwealth depositors, the Mantzners have received nothing. Payments are becoming difficult to meet, they said.

The Mantzners are finding it especially difficult to pay medical bills. Because of their severe health problems, neither is eligible for medical insurance. Their only income is Erwin's disability check of \$465 a month.

Orletha said Medicare will pay for the brunt of the costs on certain problems but will not cover the costs of her chemotherapy treatments or Erwin's medicine. The Mantzners also take treatment for high blood pressure and between them take 22 medical tablets a day.

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While Sen. Exon speaks, Sen. Zorinsky listens during a campaign rally Wednesday morning at Exon's 14th St. headquarters.

Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

Exon kicks off statewide tour

By Brad Gifford
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Voters should judge congressional representatives on legislation they defeat and the amendments they add to bills sponsored

by colleagues, according to Sen. Ed Zorinsky.

But because the lawmaking process is so obscure and complex, he said, most people only know about the measures representatives have their names on.

Zorinsky joined Sen. J. James Exon and Gov. Bob Kerrey at Exon's headquarters Wednesday morning to kick off Exon's final statewide campaign tour of seven Nebraska cities.

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Revelry, violence follow assassination of Gandhi

By Ward W. Triplett III
Daily Nebraskan Senior Editor

Just hours after Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by two Sikh members of her own guard, a party started in New York and London.

There, Sikh Indians danced and drank champagne outside Indian consulates in celebration of Gandhi's death. According to accounts by the Reuter News Report, the party started shortly after midnight with the first news of the assassination and continued until late afternoon.

"We came here to show the consulate that whatever is done is absolutely right," Gurrartap Singh Birk, a computer engineer, from Brooklyn said.

Birk and an unidentified Sikh leader in India said the assassination was in retaliation for Gandhi's attack on the Sikh Golden Temple in June. Eight hundred Sikhs died in that attack, many of them members of the military.

Reports said Gandhi was shot seven times as she walked from her New Delhi house to her office for an interview Wednesday morning. She died two hours later. Her funeral and cremation will be Saturday.

Gandhi's son Rajiv, 40, was sworn in as her successor as several Indian cities erupted with violence between Hindus and Sikhs.

UNL political science professor Louis Picard, who specializes in developing areas, said the assas-

ination's worst after-effect could be the violence a revenge attack by Gandhi's followers would cause.

"Unfortunately, that is part of India's history," Picard said. "There is certainly a possibility now for more violence."

Picard said the attack was a "very dramatic event" for the Sikhs, and Gandhi was never forgiven for it.

"What's going on is really an ethnic division," he said. "India is a multi-ethnic country, and there has been communal violence for some time."

Picard said the assassination should not change the foreign policies or structure of the world's largest democracy.

India was scheduled to hold general elections in January, but Picard said the elections probably will be postponed.

"Given the suddenness of this so close to the election, my suspicion is they will move elections back one year. It is in their constitution to do that."

Robert Kleis, executive dean of UNL's International Affairs, said the assassination should not affect Indian students abroad. UNL has 34 Indian students registered this semester.

"We should assume that the stability and structure of the Indian government is such that it will weather this terrible event," Kleis said. "Just what philosophic form the new government will take is unknown but it should not affect Indian students here, except emotionally."