

Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Weather: After a cold morning, expect clear skies and a high of 27 (-3C). Thursday night, clear and not as cold with a low of 17 (-8C). Friday, partly cloudy and warmer with a high in the lower to mid-40s (6C).

Bob Brubacher/Daily Nebraskan

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Bowl...Page 13**



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Meeting the need . . .

Freshman Kelly Decker, left, winces as Lincoln Community Blood Bank nurse Sonie Wohlers withdraws blood Wednesday during a blood drive at UNL.

Employees and volunteers from the blood bank and Red Cross will be at Harper Residence Hall for the blood drive today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To meet the demand of local hospitals, 200 to 250 donations a day are needed to fulfill the drive's goal, said Dorothy Rippe, public relations officer in charge of donor recruitment for the blood bank.

"This isn't something to take lightly. We need those blood donors," she said.

M. Copple says Douglas showed him FBI letter on bank probe

By Brad Gifford

Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Marvin Copple testified Wednesday that Attorney General Paul Douglas showed him an FBI letter describing that agency's investigation into possible wrongdoing on the part of Commonwealth Savings Co. officials.

But William Morrow Jr., representing Douglas, told reporters afterward that the former Commonwealth vice president did not tell the truth.

One charge against Douglas alleges he lied to the Legislature's Special Commonwealth Commit-

tee when he said he had not discussed the FBI letter with Copple. The other alleges Douglas obstructed government operations when he allegedly told Copple, a friend and business associate, about the letter.

Morrow said Copple had perjured himself during his testimony.

"I think he lied," Morrow said. He called Copple's testimony "convenient" for the prosecution and noted several memory lapses in Copple's testimony that he said reinforced his charge.

Copple substantiated Special Prosecutor Kirk E. Naylor's open-

ing statements when he told the jury that Douglas brought the letter to Copple's basement office at Commonwealth in either March or April 1983.

Copple said Douglas walked in and tossed the letter down. He said that Douglas asked if everything was alright with Commonwealth's officials. When Copple told him that he was sure the charges in the letter were not true, Douglas was "relieved," Copple said.

FBI Agent John Campbell also said in his testimony that he

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Legislature will confront rash of farm closings, prayer in public schools

By Barry Trevarrow
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

They've got their work cut out for them.

As Nebraska's lawmakers prepare to convene Jan. 9 for the first session of the 89th Legislature, a number of important issues await discussion.

Perhaps the greatest concern of lawmakers will be to resolve the recent rash of farm closings in Nebraska, Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln said.

"We're faced with one of the most devastating disasters in the state's history," Wesely said.

Wesely said the economic condition of the state is so bad that any tax relief for farmers is hard to get. He recommends economic development incentives which will stimulate growth. Wesely said short-term financial loans would help farmers.

"The state is left with few options because most of the problems are federal ones," Wesely said. "The deficits have caused high interest rates."

Sen. Bernice Labeledz of Omaha said she thinks the federal government is responsible for helping farmers. However, she said, the Legislature can help by giving them the special classification in land valuations that Amendment Four proposes.

Sen. Shirley Marsh of Lincoln said Nebraska is in an economic recession that has reduced the state's tax receipts. Setting next year's budget will thus be a major concern for her.

Marsh, who has served on the Legislature's appropriations committee for 13 years, said the committee this session probably will have to ask state agencies to prioritize their needs. After Gov. Bob Kerrey reveals his recommendations, Marsh said, the Legislature will determine where cuts can be made.

To increase the tax base, Labeledz said, some tax exemptions must be eliminated and sales

and service taxes may need to be raised.

The sensitive issue of state regulation of church schools also will confront lawmakers. The 1984 Legislature passed LB928, called a "compromise" bill by many.

The bill exempts private church school teachers from state education standards if the schools are established for religious purposes. The law, however, gives the State Department of Education authority to "make sure it's working right," Wesely said.

State Education Commissioner Joe E. Lutjeharms wrote to Wesely in September that "the basic problem with LB928 is that it is a law which appears to require the State Department of Education to regulate a class of schools, while at the same time adopting the position that the schools are not being regulated by the state."

The law needs to be clarified, Wesely said.

"We're faced with an enforcement problem," Wesely said. "Somebody has to have the authority to deny exemptions from schools in violation of LB928."

Sen. William Nichol of Scottsbluff, last session's Speaker of the Legislature, was skeptical about the lawmakers making any progress on the issue.

"At best, there'll just be a lot of discussion," Nichol said. "Most are happy with what we have."

Sen. Marsh also expressed a desire to make it mandatory for Nebraska drivers to use their seat belts.

"Automobile accidents are the greatest cause of death for persons below the age of 44," Marsh said. "Most of them could be avoided."

Marsh said air bags can add between \$600 and \$1,600 to a car's price. They don't protect as well as seat belts when a car is struck from the back or side, Marsh said.

Nichol said the Legislature will consider appropriations bills first, followed by bills from individual senators and then committee bills.

Daily Nebraskan adopts new policy for ads

By Judi Nygren

Daily Nebraskan Senior Editor

The Daily Nebraskan has adopted a new policy on roommate advertisements as a result of a discrimination complaint by two women.

The UNL Publications Board on Tuesday approved the use of gender preferences in roommate ads, but eliminated preferences based on sexual orientation, race, religion, age, disability, marital status or national origin.

The new policy reads, "The Daily Nebraskan will not print any advertisement which discriminates against any person on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, age, disability, marital status or national origin. The Daily Nebraskan recognizes and respects the right of persons to specify a preference of gender when looking for a roommate and will not prohibit stating such a prefer-

ence."

Previously, the policy excluded "sex" and "sexual orientation" from the first sentence and had "sex" in place of "gender" in the second sentence.

By changing the word "sex" to "gender," the board said, people can no longer ask for roommates of particular sexual preferences in Daily Nebraskan ads. However, people can ask for such things as pet lover or non-smoker.

An example of a roommate ad could read: Male looking for a non-smoking, male roommate.

The board agreed that asking for roommates of particular sexual orientation, race, religion, age, disability, marital status or national origin is discriminatory and the Daily Nebraskan should not be part of it. Gender is acceptable, according to the board.

"Discrimination happens no matter what," Chris Welsh, Daily Nebraskan

editor in chief, said. "It's just a question of whether the Daily Nebraskan should print it."

The discrimination issue began after two women complained to the board that the Daily Nebraskan refused to run their ad asking for a lesbian roommate. Soon after, the newspaper received letters from the Lincoln Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights and the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union.

The coalition complained that by omitting the word "lesbian" in the ad, the Daily Nebraskan was forcing each woman to face "homophobia and hatred on a one-to-one basis with each prospective roommate who responds to her ad."

The union claimed the omission was censorship. The union also said the preference did not go against Lincoln's open housing laws.

Under Lincoln's housing code, anyone with four or fewer roommates can include

preferences of any kind in roommate ads.

With the law and complaints in mind, the board discussed five options: Anything goes, no self-description or preferences, arbitrary decisions on individual ads, self-description only or gender only.

According to Dan Bernstein, UNL associate professor of psychology and board member, a policy of anything goes "regardless of the offensive nature" would be the purest sense of free speech.

"Let people display their stupidities and get punished," Bernstein said.

However, the board discarded this option because it would offend too many people.

The board said a policy of no self-description or preferences would be the easiest to follow and would look less arbitrary to the union, but it would suppress free speech.

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