

Monday

Weather:

Cloudy and cool today. Northwest winds 15-25 mph with a high of 54. Partly cloudy and cold tonight with a good chance of frost. Low of 35. Partly cloudy on Tuesday with a high of 56.

Barb Branda/Daily Nebraskan

Seven Illini turnovers fuel Husker victory

Sports, page 9

New magazine SPIN rises on the music scene

Arts and Entertainment, page 12

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DeCamp bill brings new twist to session

By Todd von Kampen
Senior Reporter

As debate begins today on a bill to give \$8.5 million to depositors of the failed Commonwealth Savings Co., state senators on both sides of the issue agree it is no longer as simple as Gov. Bob Kerrey or depositors would like.

The Legislature will consider a bill that allows Commonwealth depositors to receive payment for a tort claim against the state. This may be done by adding specific words to an existing bill.

But depending on an opinion due today by Attorney General Robert Spire, senators also may debate a bill that would bar depositors from recovering the \$50 million in insured deposits lost when Commonwealth collapsed in No-

vember 1983.

Kerrey called the Legislature into special session Wednesday after Spire ruled that LB713 needs the words "there is hereby appropriated" before the state legally can pay depositors. LB1, introduced at Kerrey's request and advanced unanimously to the full Legislature Friday by the Business and Labor Committee, added the four words.

The second bill, which was introduced by Neligh Sen. John DeCamp, would give depositors the \$8.5 million but change its legal definition. Under LB2, the Legislature would say the tort claim "does not have a valid legal basis" but would be paid "to effect a complete, final and binding resolution of the matter."

DeCamp said his bill follows the Lancaster County District Court ruling

that payment of the tort claim represents "a full and complete compromise settlement of any and all claims" against the state by Commonwealth depositors. He told the Legislature's Reference Committee Thursday night that the current LB713 was intended to reflect the ruling but left the issue unclear to senators.

"If there's that misunderstanding sitting here between people that have been involved in this for 2½ years, what must there be among 1.5 million Nebraskans, the Commonwealth people themselves?" DeCamp asked the committee.

But Lincoln Sen. Chris Beutler, committee chairman, said DeCamp's bill changes "the purpose and intent of 713" by denying depositors a chance for extra state money. He said the court ruling allows Commonwealth deposi-

tors to ask the Legislature to appropriate more money.

Beutler told the committee that DeCamp's bill cannot be considered because Kerrey called the special session to pass only the correction bill. However, according to DeCamp, Kerrey has the right to tell senators to discuss a general topic, but not a specific bill.

"I don't think you or anybody can tell me that a governor can come in and mandate one specific, single thing under the constitutional authority to call a special session," DeCamp said.

After a public hearing on both bills Friday, the Legislature's Business and Labor Committee voted to hold the DeCamp bill until Spire rules whether it can be considered. Even if the bill never leaves the committee, DeCamp can try to amend the correction bill to

include his bill, said committee chairman Sen. Bill Barrett of Lexington.

Opponents of the state's plan to pay off depositors are likely to fight the correction bill and support LB2 as a last resort, said Imperial Sen. Rex Haberman. Some senators who voted for the original bill as a final settlement, having discovered the bill's supporters actually meant to keep alive the chance of full payoff, he said.

"Now it comes to light that that's not the end — that they can sue over and over and over until they get the entire \$60 million," said Haberman, who voted against LB713.

Scottsbluff Sen. William Nichol, speaker of the Legislature, said the correction bill needs 33 votes to pass

Please see DECOMP on 7

Roskens supports merger of NU, four state colleges

An article titled "Consolidation not acceptable; NU President Roskens says he'll quit if campuses merge" in last Thursday's Daily Nebraskan contained grievous errors.

The article said Roskens would quit if UNL, UNO and the NU Medical Center were consolidated. It said Roskens thought consolidation would eliminate duplication, but consolidation is undesirable because it implies that he is trying to build an empire.

The article should have said Roskens would resign immediately if the NU system — UNL, UNO and the NU Medical Center — and the four state colleges were merged under a single governing body.

The merger was proposed by the Citizens Commission for the Study of Higher Education, formed by Gov. Bob



Roskens. The 65-member commission issued its report last January.

Roskens, who made the comments

during a "Face the Chamber" session with the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, said he supports consolidation because it would improve efficiency and eliminate duplication.

"We'd do a better job in higher education of both those institutions were united under a single board," Roskens said.

But if a merger occurs, Roskens said he would quit "to avoid people saying 'Roskens is trying to build an empire.'" Roskens said he doubts that he would resign because Nebraska's political climate makes a merger nearly impossible.

The Daily Nebraskan regrets the errors and apologizes for any misunderstanding it may have caused readers and any embarrassment it may have caused Roskens.

Bookstore sales rise

By Jen Deselms
Staff Reporter

Sales at the University Bookstore increased by 45 percent over last year's sales during August, said Dick Lewis, bookstore operations manager.

Lewis said the store's renovation and increased services account for the increase.

Letters sent to all registered freshmen inviting them to the bookstore also helped boost sales, he said. The letters urged students to use the University Bookstore because all profits go to UNL. Lewis said the profits helped prevent increases in student fees.

The renovation will be paid for with a \$1.9 million bond issue.

"There were no state funds. You and I as taxpayers did not pay for this," Lewis said. Paying back the

bond issue is the bookstore's top priority, he said. Although the bond issue is being paid back with store profits, Lewis said the university should get as much or more money as it has before.

"We price textbooks and trade books the same as we did before," Lewis said. Book prices are determined by publishers. Used textbook wholesalers set the prices for used books.

Lewis said if problems arise in paying off the bond issue, which he does not expect, the payroll will be cut so prices would not increase.

He said the store has about 10 more full-time employees working during non-rush periods than before the renovation.

Lewis said there is a trend in university bookstores to expand and carry a wider variety of items to meet student needs.

Beloved pets find resting place at Rolling Acres



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

By Deb Hooker
Staff Reporter

The closest thing to animal heaven is only three miles from Lincoln.

More than 2,000 beloved pets rest under the plush Kentucky bluegrass of Rolling Acres Pet Cemetery, Crematory and Funeral Home, 400 S. 134th St.

Most of the animals buried at Rolling Acres are dogs and cats. But two horses, two chinchillas, countless parakeets, two African parrots, guinea pigs and all sorts of rodents also fill the cemetery's small graves.

Owner Patricia Strnot said she does not discriminate against human burials either — as long as the bodies are cremated. It is illegal to bury a human body at a pet cemetery, Strnot said. However, once a body has been cremated, it is out of the law's jurisdiction, she said.

One man's ashes were sprinkled near the pine trees lining the west side of the graveyard. Strnot said the evergreen location was picked partly as a favor to a woman who works at the cemetery.

"I was going to put him in the rose

garden," Strnot said. "Well, she didn't want him in there because she'd step on him."

The man's pets haven't died yet, Strnot said, but when they do, they will either be buried or sprinkled at Rolling Acres with their master.

Another person's ashes are buried there, and about five families have plots reserved, Strnot said.

Rolling Acres can bury pets at almost any price. Prices start at \$20 for a group burial of small pets and can go up to as much as an owner wants to spend. Deluxe meal and stainless steel caskets start at \$500.

"We get people from all sections of town that have money set aside for their pet's burial. And it won't matter what the price is," she said. "But you can have the rich come out here, and they won't do anything. They're mad that they have to pay \$20 to bury their pet. You know, it's people who are more caring and more loving and things like that, that will care enough about their pet to want to do this."

Rolling Acres offers a variety of services for pets. There is a viewing room, four types of caskets, concrete vaults,

tombstones and slabs, crematory vases and embalming and cremation services. No one has to buy a casket or have their pet embalmed unless they want to keep the animal in the viewing room for a few days.

An owner also can buy a casket and bury their pet at home, she said. Cremated pets can be buried at Rolling Acres sprinkled anywhere, put in their owner's coffin at a human cemetery, buried at home or displayed on their owner's fireplace mantel.

Strnot said she started the pet cemetery in 1977 after her dog died. At that time, animals could not be buried in people's backyards within city limits. They usually were taken to the city dump or cremated at the Humane Society. Strnot said she wanted a more dignified way for people to bury their pets.

People become very attached to their pets, she said. They take care of their animals and love them. In return, they have a friend who always is there no matter what. She said it helps to see that their friend is taken care of after death.