

Presidents' portraits to be debated

DeCamp looking forward to debate with Ernie Chambers one more time

By the Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh says he doesn't want to leave the Legislature without being assured of "at least one more last dandy chance for a debate" with Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers. He plans to get it, courtesy of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

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—DeCamp

possibility of a healthy exchange of views, but I figured that with Ole George and old Abe, we'd have it more or less guaranteed," said DeCamp, who lost a bid for re-election.

DeCamp has sponsored LRI, a resolution that would require that the portraits of Washington and Lincoln be hung in the legislative chamber.

Chambers has long opposed the idea, saying the prints

in question are mediocre at best, don't compliment the legislative hall and honor two presidents who are overestimated by history.

Washington owned slaves, Chambers has noted. He also said Lincoln freed the slaves not because he felt compassion for them, but because he wanted the support of abolitionists in preserving the union during the Civil War.

DeCamp's resolution says Washington "led this nation victoriously against the tyranny of King George and showed great wisdom and prudence forging this nation."

It also says Lincoln "preserved the union of this nation during its most difficult and darkest times during the Civil War."

The portraits were hung in the legislative chamber before it underwent a recent restoration process. Chambers objects to their being returned to the room.

Daily Nebraskan's
Newsline
472-1763

Hysteria worse than disease, Keeling says

AIDS from Page 1

Actor Rock Hudson's battle against AIDS last summer brought another wave of public fear — very much like the ones that occurred in 1983, Keeling said.

The hysteria that AIDS has caused has created a problem of separating information from misinformation, Keeling said. For most people the epidemic of hysteria about AIDS is more threatening than the disease, he said.

As of this week, Keeling said, there are 27,000 reported cases of AIDS in this country.

Reports estimate by 1991, 350,000 cases of AIDS will have been reported and there will be 75,000 new cases in that year alone.

In many Midwest states, the number of AIDS cases is still quite low, Keeling said. Several states still have between 1 and 20 reported cases.

Two years ago more than half of the reported cases of AIDS in the world occurred in New York City, Keeling said. In the last few years the number of cases in large cities has not dropped, but more in smaller communities, he said. AIDS thus is no longer a disease that can be geographically categorized and isolated.

Many of the people exposed to AIDS do not get the disease but get, instead, AIDS Related Complex or show no symptoms of the disease at all, Keeling said.

Public health problems rest mostly in the people who are infected with AIDS but show no symptoms, Keeling said. More than 2 million people in the United States are capable of transmitting AIDS, most of whom do not know they have the virus, he said.

Keeling said the number of cases reported by women and heterosexual men is increasing; just because they are not in high-risk groups doesn't mean they can't get the disease.

Keeling said in the next five or six years homosexual AIDS cases will continue to gradually decline, a gradual rise in heterosexual cases will continue and AIDS will become a sexually transmitted disease like any other.

Keeling stressed that education is needed to make people aware that AIDS can be transmitted only through certain body fluids, such as blood and semen, and not by sweat or other body fluids.

He said progress is being made through pamphlets, but they need to be more direct and explicit to get the message across.

One of the important parts of education is to anticipate a problem before it happens, Keeling said. Education must be started before AIDS becomes a large-scale problem so that transmission can be prevented, he said.

He said that AIDS education must not be a one-shot deal but rather an ongoing program.

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