

WEATHER: Partly cloudy and cooler Tuesday. High near 45. Wind becoming east 5 to 10 mph. Increasing clouds Tuesday night. Low around 20. Partly cloudy and cool Wednesday. High around 40.

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Police find family dead

From Staff and Wire Reports

Police removed five bodies from a southeast Lincoln house Monday evening after an apparent suicide note received earlier Monday prompted authorities to search the house.

The victims Stan Gushard, his wife Judy, two sons Dylan, 16, Brandon, 19, and daughter Vanessa, 12, of 4650 La Salle St. were found by police at 2 p.m.

The father, prompted by financial problems, apparently shot his wife and children with a handgun before killing himself, Lancaster County Attorney Mike Heavican said.

"It appears to be a multiple homicide-suicide situation involving all the members of a single family," Heavican said. "The motive appeared to be financial. He appeared to be in finan-

cial trouble and that appears to be what was bothering him."

Heavican said both parents were lawyers.

Heavican could not give the exact time of the killings.

"I'm sure it was sometime over the weekend, but I don't know when," he said.

Heavican said police also found three notes at the house, apparently written by the father.

"They generally indicate that he was the one who committed the homicides and they talk about a motive," Heavican said.

Heavican said some of the victims apparently were sleeping when they were killed. Some were shot in the head, he said.

Heavican said the killings appar-

ently occurred quickly and with "no apparent sign of struggle."

Deputy County Attorney Gary Lacey said the father was found with a handgun in a downstairs den, lying on a couch. One of the sons was found in a canopy-covered bed in an upstairs bedroom in the house, Lacey said. The girl was found in another upstairs bedroom and the mother lying face up on the floor of an upstairs bathroom, Lacey said.

The other son was found in a downstairs bedroom, lying on a bed, he said.

Corey Groshans, 16, a classmate of one of the sons at Lincoln Southeast High School, said the couple had marital problems, but appeared to have patched up their differences. He said

See MURDER/SUICIDE on 6

Orr announces budget priorities

By Michael Hooper
 Senior Reporter

Calling for tight budgeting because of limited resources, Gov. Kay Orr on Monday presented her 1987-88 budget recommendations to the Nebraska Legislature.

In her State of the State address, Orr said that although she has heard the budget requests of all state agencies, not everyone will agree with her priorities.

Throughout her review of the budget requests, Orr said, she "had to rely on the admonition: 'just say no.'"

Orr proposed the continued funding of the Lied Center for Performing Arts and the Animal Science and Clinical Facility on East Campus, and cutting in nursing and intercollegiate athletics budgets at NU.

'The university should work . . . to revitalize the state.'

—Orr

She also proposed eliminating the so-called advocacy agencies.

Without including salary increases, Orr's budget recommendations for 1987-88 fall \$81.6 million short of state agencies' requests of \$928 million.

Orr's proposal also is \$12.9 million short of meeting the university's 1987-88 budget request of \$177.6 million.

Orr estimated that the state tax system will generate the \$898 million necessary to fund her 1987-88 budget without a tax increase. Orr's budget for the next fiscal year is about \$862 million. For 1988-89 Orr is recommending a budget of about \$876 million. She estimates a 3 percent cash reserve for the first year

and a 6.6 percent reserve for the second year.

For fiscal year 1988, Orr has proposed that \$100,000 be cut from the College of Nursing and \$116,645 be cut from intercollegiate athletics. Ultimately, the NU Board of Regents decide where specific cuts will be made. But Larry Bare, director of the Department of Administrative Services said that Orr feels the university has one too many nursing programs.

One-third of the advocacy agencies' budgets would be cut each year, Orr said. Eliminating the Indian Commission, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Mexican American Commission over the next three years will allow the commissions time to find other sources of funding, she said.

"Reductions in existing programs are necessary in order to meet our commitments to ongoing independent programs, to provide for salary increases for state employees and to move forward on other limited initiatives," Orr said.

Orr said she plans to "annualize" the \$6.5 million in state reductions the Legislature made during December's special session. Annualizing forwards the reductions into the next two years, Orr said this will reduce state appropriations for the coming year by \$11.1 million.

In her biennial budget, Orr included \$1.1 million for university research and technical assistance to enhance Nebraska's economy. The \$1.1 million would be distributed by the NU administration.

"The university should work closely with state government and the private sector to fashion new partnerships designed to revitalize this state," Orr said.

Orr also included \$500,000 for the first year and \$750,000 for the second year for biotechnology and food processing at UNL. She also proposed to appropriate \$150,000 for the first year and \$250,000 for the second year to the Small Business Development Center at UNO.



Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan

That's no snowball . . .

Harper-Schramm-Smith residents take time out to enjoy the unseasonably warm temperatures with a game of volleyball. Record-matching temperatures in the 60s are expected to continue early this week.

Working the night shift

Mortuary assistants — an honest night's work

By Merry Hayes
 Staff Reporter

It's not a gory job. It's not a job many people could talk about, let alone do.

It's a job that makes some people shiver and others recoil.

But at least three UNL students do it.

It's a job as a mortician's assistant. It includes answering mortuary phones and sometimes transferring a body from the site of death to the mortuary.

Ross Faubel, a sophomore marketing major, has worked at Roper and Sons Inc. for four months.

"I think a lot is what you think of it," Faubel said. "People say, 'I could never do that.' That's true. A lot of people just couldn't handle it."

Kent Disney, a junior broadcasting major, has worked at Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home for a month.

"People say, 'How can you do that?' and 'That's weird,'" Disney said, "but then they start asking a million questions.

"Everyone's curious about mortuaries

and death. They're real curious, but they wouldn't want to have to do it."

Steve Keedy, a junior business-administration major who has worked at Lincoln Memorial for two months, said people ask him questions, too — especially about the bodies.

The first night he was alone in the mortuary, the elevator door opened and closed by itself.

They ask him questions like "What do they look like?" "Do you have to touch them?" and "Do you have to embalm them?"

All three said the job is not gory. Keedy said he spends more time driving to and from the death sites than picking up the bodies. All three mainly drive and answer phones. They do not embalm.

Usually pickup points are nursing homes or hospitals. Disney said the not-so-average pickups are unexpected deaths such as car wrecks, fires, murders and suicides. He said in these cases, the police notify the one of the five Lincoln mortuaries on the "corner's call." This duty rotates monthly.

The assistants said these calls can be difficult, but overall, the job's benefits outweigh the unpleasantness. They are paid minimum wage, receive free rent and utilities, and use of the company's typewriters, copy machines, washers and dryers.

Keedy said other benefits are responsibility and freedom.

Faubel said, "I think it evens out — what I get paid for and what I do."

Disney and Keedy live in an apartment at Lincoln Memorial. They alternate working hours Monday through Friday, 5 p.m. to 7 a.m., and all weekend.

He said sometimes their sleep is disturbed by a call, but that's part of the job.

Faubel said he works and lives at Roper and Sons two weeknights from 5:30 to 7 a.m. and every other weekend

from 5:30 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Monday. Two of the four assistants there work at a time.

In the beginning the job can be frightening, the assistants said.

'Everyone's curious about mortuaries and death. They're real curious, but they wouldn't want to have to do it.'

—Kent Disney

Faubel said before his first call he thought, "What's it going to be like? Is it going to be gory?"

He said he told the funeral director that he was a "little bit hesitant" about touching a dead person, and the director told him that a dead person would never hurt him.

"That's so simple," Faubel said. "But it's true. It's not going to jump out at me."

Keedy said his first call was "pretty scary" because he didn't know what to expect, but after the first time he got used to it.

Disney said the first night he was alone in the mortuary the elevator opened and closed by itself. He found out later that it does that all the time.

"That can get you. That can make you jump," he said. "No matter how used to it you get, you're still aware you're in a mortuary."

The assistants said the job can become routine, but it is always difficult when they are confronted with the death of a young person.

"What throws you is a suicide or an infant. That bothers me," Keedy said.

Disney said, "Picking up someone who is old and has lived a long life is one thing, but picking up somebody young, that's different."

Faubel said, "After being around death and dying, I know I would never commit suicide because life is so precious."