

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Daily Nebraskan

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448, weekdays during academic year (except holidays); weekly during the summer session.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Don Johnson, 472-3611. Subscription price is \$35 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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Detail snarls threaten deficit-reduction agreement

WASHINGTON — Budget negotiators haggled Thursday over the specifics of tax increases and spending cuts as a compromise deficit-reduction blueprint that seemed close only a day earlier began slipping from their grasp.

"I don't expect any early resolution of the talks... it may take us into next week," said House Majority Leader Thomas S. Foley, D-Wash., chairman of the working group, which had hoped to finish by Friday.

Asked what the snag was, he replied: "Everything."

"Maybe it just gets darkest before the dawn," said House Republican Leader Bob Michel of Illinois, with a sigh, as the closed-door talks dragged on for their 14th day.

The group had been zeroing in Wednesday on the outlines of a plan to reduce the deficit for fiscal 1988,

the budget year that opened Oct. 1, by about \$30 billion and the deficit for fiscal 1989 by \$45 billion or more.

But agreement became elusive when they discussed important details of how that would be done, each side blaming the other.

"Both sides think they have compromised as far as they can go on the big three things," taxes, defense spending and domestic program cuts, said one source, who declined to be identified, adding it was possible the talks could collapse. "It's become a matter of principle," the source said.

Gramm-Rudman requires at least \$23 billion in deficit reduction in fiscal 1988 and, if it isn't accomplished with legislation, the law slashes spending programs. Half the reductions would come from the Pentagon and half from domestic accounts.

Kennedy gets cautious praise

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Anthony M. Kennedy won the support of former opponent Jesse Helms Thursday in a day of White House peacemaking sessions free of the bitterness that followed

President Reagan's previous two nominations.

"I think he'll make a fine member of the Supreme Court," Helms, R-N.C., told reporters after meeting separately with Reagan and with the federal appellate judge.

Late last month, after the Senate voted down Reagan nominee Robert Bork, Kennedy was considered the front-runner for the court vacancy until Helms said there was no way he would support a Kennedy nomination. Other conservatives also indicated displeasure. Reagan then nominated Douglas H. Ginsburg, who withdrew last weekend after admitting past marijuana use.

The president also met with Democrat Joseph R. Biden Jr., chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

In Brief

Researchers: some AIDS carriers may shed virus

BALTIMORE — Researchers at Johns Hopkins Hospital are studying several people who suddenly tested negative for exposure to the AIDS virus after repeated positive tests.

The researchers are confident the tests on the patients were accurate, and are trying to find out whether some people might be able to rid themselves of the AIDS virus naturally, WBAL-TV reported.

Farmers rarely work just 40 hours a week

WASHINGTON — Farmers rarely put in the 40-hour week that has long been a standard for urban workers, according to a report by the Agriculture Department.

Farmers who sell more than \$100,000 worth of livestock and crops each year reported that they spend an average of at least 56 hours a week, 50 weeks a year, working on their farm operations.

Omaha officers kill 1 pit bull, remove another

OMAHA — One pit bull terrier was killed by police and another was removed by animal control after separate attacks on people.

Police officials said Thursday that Wednesday night's incident was the eighth involving police shootings of pit bulls in Omaha since April.

Jewish community to monitor neo-nazi talk show

SALT LAKE CITY — The Jewish community will monitor a radio talk show devoted to white supremacy when the program starts next month, a religious leader said Wednesday.

Radio personality Dwight McCarthy said the name and format of his live call-in show on station KZZI, known as the "Counter-Marxist Hour" since it first aired in July, will be changed Dec. 5 to the "Aryan Nations Hour."

Corpses possible source in Texas jewelry thefts

FORT WORTH, Texas — A grand jury has indicted a former mortuary worker and his girlfriend on charges of stealing jewelry from corpses at three funeral homes.

The couple traveled to funeral homes, where they would sign guest registers with fictitious names and pay last respects to the dead, police said. While huddled over the coffins, police said, they would slip rings and other jewelry from the bodies and leave before the thefts were noticed.

RR suit affects could vary, state official says

OMAHA — If three railroads succeed in challenging how the state taxes their personal property, a few counties wouldn't be affected but others would face big reductions in revenue, a state official said Thursday.

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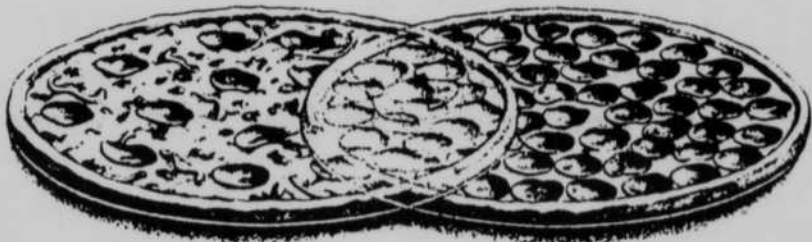
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