

Daily Nebraskan

Friday

Weather: Friday, sunny and warmer, high in the mid to upper 50s with winds out of the NW at 10-15 mph. Friday night, clear, low in the upper 20s. Saturday, sunny and continued mildness, high in the mid 50s.

A&E: A little more poetry —Page 6.

Sports: Nebraska's men's and women's track teams will try to capture Big Eight championships —Page 5.

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Chambers: Papers shouldn't print odds

By London Bridge
Staff Reporter

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha criticized newspapers that publish point spreads and betting odds but write editorials against gambling when he testified Thursday before the

legislature NEBRASKA

Nebraska Legislature's Judiciary Committee.

Chambers testified in favor of LB 1149, a bill he sponsored, which would require criminal penalties for newspapers that publish point spreads and betting odds.

Chambers used the Omaha World-Herald as an example of a newspaper that publishes betting odds and point spreads while writing about

the evils of legalized gambling on the editorial page.

"This manifests two conflicting behaviors, one on the sports page and one on the editorial page," Chambers said.

Chambers said newspapers that provide these services to readers know that someone will pick up the paper to read the betting odds.

He asked the other senators how a newspaper can condemn sports betting and then publish the latest betting line.

While only Chambers testified in favor of the bill, the opposition also had only one speaker.

Alan Peterson, a representative of Media of Nebraska, said the bill was unconstitutional.

The Media of Nebraska includes The Lincoln Journal, Omaha World-Herald, Daily Publishers Association of Nebraska, Nebraska Press Association and the Nebraska Broadcast-

ers.

"It (the bill) flunks every First Amendment test to protect speech and discourse," Peterson said.

Peterson said he thinks the bill is unneces-

'It (the bill) flunks every First Amendment test to protect speech and discourse.'

—Peterson

sary. He said eliminating point spreads in newspapers would not be the best solution.

"The problem with this bill is that in sweeping out some of the bad, it sweeps out some of the good," he said.

Peterson said betting odds are published because "this is a sports-crazy country; people really want to know who's on top or who the underdog is."

"The First Amendment says people have to protect themselves from speech," he said. "People are supposed to hear the bad and the good. There is no virtue in a cloistered mind. This is the very basis of the whole democratic system: The government is supposed to keep laws out of people's minds."

Chambers said some newspapers in the country won't print odds because they indirectly support gambling.

"Certain types of things are detrimental to society," he said. "Restrictions need to be put upon them."

The committee will vote next week on whether to advance the bill to the floor of the Legislature.



Dave Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

Balancing act

Rod Larsen and Lance Voyles of Lincoln practice trial maneuvers Thursday afternoon in the Sheldon sculpture garden.

Official says Malone ready to compromise

By Dave Holloway
Staff Reporter

Negotiations between Malone neighborhood residents and University of Nebraska-Lincoln officials over a boundary between the two could quicken, said Dallas McGee, Lincoln community development program manager.

The Malone Community Center board voted Wednesday 8-4 with three absentees in favor of a proposal which calls for creating a city park between the Malone neighborhood and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Dallas McGee, community development program manager, said the decision shows that Malone is willing to work with other groups, making the negotiations faster.

Tim Francis, Malone Community Center Board member, said the proposal was rejected by the board in January because of its desire to see what the Lincoln City Council and the Malone Neighborhood Association would decide.

The Rev. Terry Cain, Malone Community Center representative, said the earlier decision was to take a stand at 20th Street.

"The neighborhood and the city were in favor of the new plan, so the Malone Center went along with it also," Cain said. But, he added, the southern boundary of the buffer zone must still be determined.

Francis said there needs to be a clear boundary between the university and the community.

"For years, the community has never really known if they would have to move from their homes," Francis said. "If there is a clear boundary the property owners can go in with confidence and be willing to put money into their own homes, thus raising property values."

"The critical issue is the question of the university's future plans of expanding eastward," Francis said.

UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale and John Goebel, vice chancellor for business and finance, were out of town Thursday and could not be reached for comment.

Helmet not 'total answer'

Cyclists support safety education bill

By Amy Edwards
Senior Reporter

Although many Nebraska motorcyclists opposed the helmet bill Gov. Kay Orr signed Feb. 19, many of those cyclists support a bill proposed by Sen. Jacklyn Smith that would require motorcycle-safety education.

Smith of Hastings said she will make the motorcycle-safety education bill her priority bill next session.

Smith proposed an amendment to the helmet bill with Sen. Scott Moore of Stromsburg to make education a part of the bill and to require helmet use only for motorcyclists age 19 and under. The bill was passed without the amendment.

Smith said she was disappointed the amendment was not added to the bill because the amendment was a compromise motorcyclists supported.

The amendment's purpose was to educate motorcyclists on the benefits of wearing a helmet, Smith said.

"People do things because they understand them," Smith said. "You can't mandate a change of behavior, you have to educate for that change."

Mike Frasier, an agricultural engineering senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said he thinks the amendment would have helped the bill.

Frasier, 22, has been riding a street bike for three years. He said he took a motorcycle-safety course when he was 15 years old.

The course teaches motorcyclists the responsibility that goes with driving a motorcycle, Frasier said. Then they can choose for themselves if they should wear a helmet, he said.

Frasier said he wears a full-face helmet on the highway but not in town because it blocks his peripheral vision. If the law is not overturned, Frasier said, he may take his chances not wearing a helmet in the interests of comfort and safety.

Richard Alfieri, owner of A&A Trailer and Cycle Accessories at 4011 N. 11th St., said he is afraid the helmet law without the education amendment could cause more problems than it solves.

"These kids aren't going to be careful. They are going to think nothing can hurt them while they're wearing a helmet," Alfieri said.

Alfieri said he belongs to four motorcycle clubs, and almost all the club members wear

helmets. Wearing a helmet is safe and an example for other riders, he said.

"We want to ride," Alfieri said, "but safety comes before the ride and before speed."

Alfieri said he supports education for motorcycle riders ages 16 to 21 before he supports a mandatory helmet law.

"Wearing a helmet is safe," he said, "but a helmet is not the total answer."

Kerby Ham, 21, senior accounting major, said he wears a helmet occasionally, but doesn't believe he should be forced to wear a helmet.

Ham said the helmet law is like the seat belt law that Nebraskans repealed in November 1986. But, Ham said, there aren't enough motorcycle riders in Nebraska to vote the law down if it is put on the ballot.

Eric Salem, a UNL advertising junior, said requiring motorcycle safety education is a good idea. But Salem said Moore's 19-and-under amendment would not have been a good idea.

"If you're going to have a helmet bill, have it for everyone," said Salem, 21, a motorcyclist for five years.

Gary Biskup, owner of Jerry Co Motors Inc., 2400 N St., said about 80 percent of people who buy motorcycles from him buy helmets at the

same time.

Biskup said most motorcyclists tend to wear helmets sometimes. But, he said, "It's not good having Big Brother tell us what to do."

The key is not requiring helmet use, yet teaching riders safety, Biskup said.

John Lanz, former area representative for the Goldwing Road Riders Association, said the law won't affect the club because most of the members wear helmets anyway.

But Lanz said he would prefer not to have a Nebraska helmet law.

Lanz said people are prejudiced against motorcyclists because they're a minority.

"The same people who voted for this law voted against the seat belt law," he said.

Lanz said a mandatory helmet law should include everyone who rides a motorcycle. More people over the age of 19 have accidents than people under 19, he said.

Smith said she will have an interim study done to look at all angles of motorcycle-safety education. She said the bill will include a section about the qualifications of course instructors.

Smith said the study probably will be done within her office so she can make sure the bill is a good one.