

Campaign spending, tax law discussion to be at annual Common Cause meeting

By Shawn Schuidies
Staff Reporter

The state chapter of a national group interested in government will discuss ways to limit campaign spending and change tax laws at its annual meeting this weekend, said Bill Avery, Common Cause state chairman and a University of Nebraska-Lincoln political science professor.

Avery said the group wants to discuss these issues because it thinks they will be important in the upcoming state legislative session. He said they want to plan lobbying strategies.

Common Cause is part of a national interest group that represents the average citizen, Avery said. The

group, started in the early 1970s, works toward making government more accountable and open to average citizens, he said.

State senators, lobbyists and other informed people will be at the meeting to show different ways of dealing with taxes and campaign spending, Avery said. The meeting also includes a keynote speech by Nebraska Attorney General Robert Spire and a workshop on citizen lobbying, he said.

The meeting will be at Lincoln's Ramada Inn from 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Avery said.

The group wants wealthier citizens to pay a higher percentage of their income in taxes and the poor to pay a lower percentage, he said.

"Poorer people shouldn't be taxed heavier just because they lack clout in the legislature," Avery said.

State Sen. James McFarland, who will be speaking about tax reform at the meeting, said he thinks groups like Common Cause can make a difference.

These types of groups can come up with some innovative solutions, McFarland said.

Avery said work by Common Cause has led to open meeting laws and laws that hold campaigns accountable for the money they raise.

Focus to be on issues Araujo says important programs needed

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religions, educational levels and ages.

• One in three females are sexually assaulted in their families.

• More than 50 percent of all sexual assaults are committed by a person the victim knows.

• According to Nebraska law, sexual assault/rape is penetration of a person's body or touching breast, buttocks, genitalia or inner thigh by using lies, tricks, cons, manipulation, force or threats.

People often neglect that these issues also affect children, Hynes said. She said no specific workshops will be set aside for children.

During this month the programs will be adjusted "... to try to be as inclusive as we possibly can," she said.

To continue to keep women and others informed of the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault, the center will "continue to be a resource" for those wanting more information about the issues, Araujo said.

The center does not give counsel but may refer victims to other agencies, Araujo said. It also will sponsor upcoming events such as films that will try to keep the awareness of the community and students, Araujo said.

Committee changes theme

From Staff Reports

Complaints from Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus have caused the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to change its Homecoming theme.

The theme has been changed from "The Greatest Show on Earth" to "The Greatest Show in Nebraska," said Bryan Valencia, Homecoming committee chairman.

Valencia said that on Sept. 26 representatives from the circus phoned Tim Moore, the adviser for Campus Activities and Programs, and asked that the theme be changed.

Valencia said the committee had thought it would work to use the phrase "Greatest Show on Earth" if they dropped the first part of the Ringling Brother's slogan. The Ringling slogan reads "Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus: The Greatest Show on Earth."

"Ringling Brothers has a trademark on that phrase," Valencia said.

Moore said representatives from Ringling told him UNL would be infringing on that trademark, and asked him to change the theme.

The Homecoming committee has printed up stickers to put over posters and notified the sponsors about the theme change.

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