

Daily Nebraskan

Friday

Happy St. Pat's Day!

WEATHER:

Friday, mostly cloudy, 30 percent chance of rain, high 50-55, SW winds 15-20 mph. Friday night, mostly cloudy, high mid 20s. Saturday, high 40, partly sunny.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Frost says chain distribution widespread

By Brandon Loomis
Senior Reporter

An illegal chain distribution, or pyramid sales scheme, has established links at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a Nebraska assistant attorney general said.

Denise Frost said a concerned potential customer sent her a copy of the game last week. She said the pyramid sales are widespread on campus.

The "Lucky 13, 24 Hour Madness Dash" is a package sold for \$10 containing a list of 13 names and a \$5 money order.

Upon purchasing the package, participants cross out the name at the top of the list and mail the money order to that person.

The next step is to make two copies of the new list complete with \$5 money orders, and to sell them for \$10 each.

Each of the steps must be completed within 24 hours. An accompanying letter says that

within 13 days, each new participant's name will have reached the top of the list, and they will begin to receive money orders amounting to \$40,000.

"It amazes me how stupid people are," Frost said.

Such games are inherently risky, and violate the Nebraska Deceptive Trade Practices Act and the Consumer Protection Act, she said.

The Deceptive Trade Practices Act makes illegal any sales technique in which the buyer helps the seller make a sale to another person.

It also outlaws pyramid sales, which are defined as sales devices "whereby a person, upon a condition that he make an investment, is granted a license or right to recruit for profit one or more additional persons."

Frost said the "Lucky 13" game clearly is a case of pyramid sales.

"If they do a referral where you give them money and they give you names in return, that's chain referral, and that's illegal in Ne-

braska," she said.

Frost said the sales also are illegal because the packages contain misleading letters saying that since the plan does not involve mailings to uninterested people, it is legal.

"Is this an illegal activity?," the letter asks. "Legal authorities state . . . it is perfectly legal."

"That is a misrepresentation of Nebraska law," Frost said, because it falsely presents the law and does so to make sales.

A UNL student who asked to be identified by his first name, Charles, said he bought into the game last Friday. He said "Lucky 13" is commonly played in his fraternity and in the entire greek system.

Charles said he was skeptical when he first heard of the plan, but decided to try it after talking to the woman who was number three on the list. He said the woman, a Nebraska Wesleyan University student, had received \$105 in her first six days of participation.

By selling the two packets, Charles said, he made back the money he spent to get involved. Now he can sit back and wait for money, without worrying about losing anything.

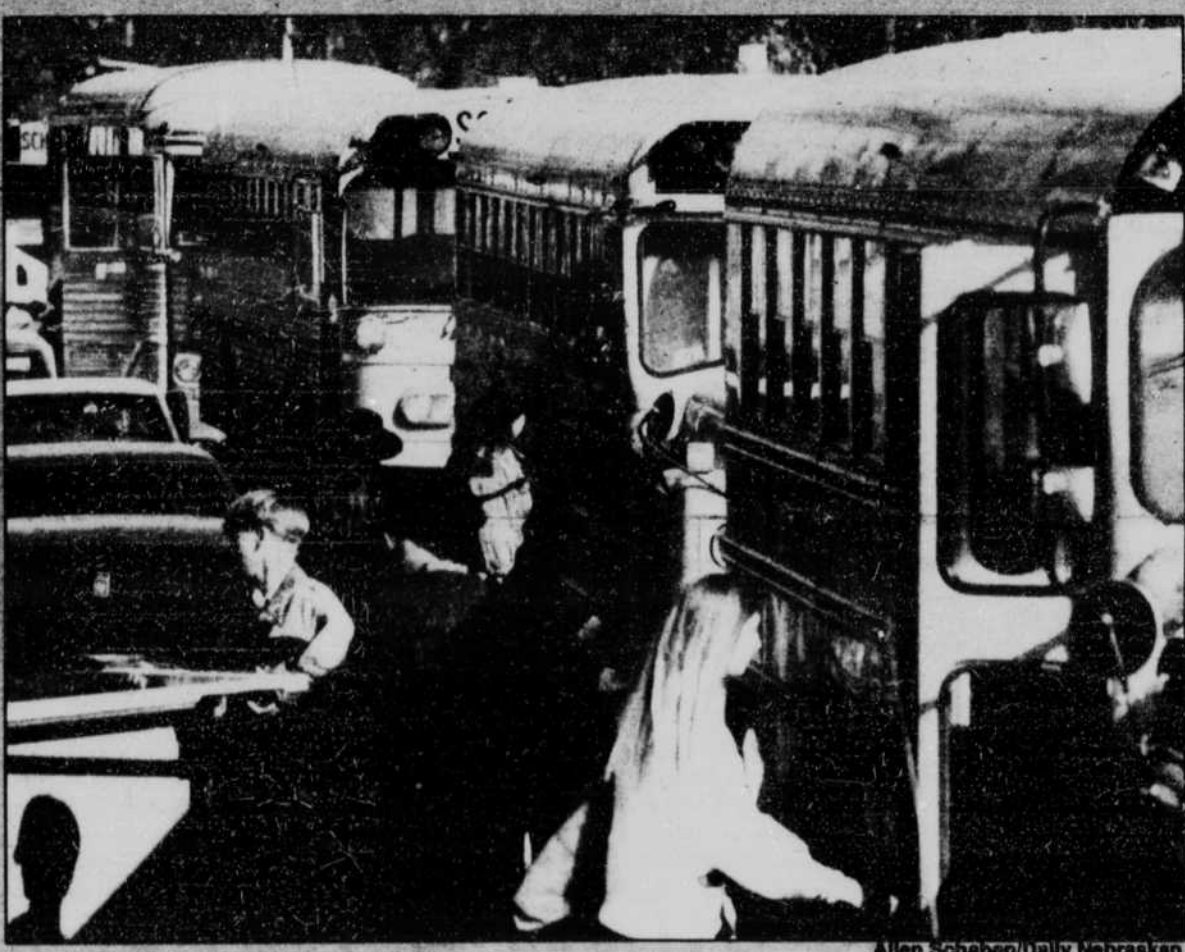
"That's the beauty of this thing," he said. "You can't lose money unless you have no desire to make money."

He said he has not made any money yet. Lt. Ken Cauble said the UNL Police Department was alerted to the scheme last week, but canceled an investigation because the county attorney's office said it saw nothing illegal about "Lucky 13."

Cauble said students contacted police asking about the legality of the plan. He said the students had been approached by other students.

The county attorney's office is reviewing the case, Cauble said.

See FRAUD on 3



Valet parking?

Buses congested traffic along R street Thursday afternoon while loading visitors from UNL's Foreign Language Fair.

Allen Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

BEER heads violations list with 86 campaign rules broken

By Eve Nations
Staff Reporter

Although every party running in the ASUN elections had numerous campaign violations, the BEER party stole the rule-breaking show with 86 violations.

The ASUN Electoral Commission met Thursday to discuss the violations and the action to be taken against the offenders.

The BEER party, which had a maximum of \$1,075 to spend during the campaign, accumulated \$430 in fines for their violations -- most of which occurred on election day.

The other parties had less than half the number of BEER'S violations: 34 violations for SLUMBR totalling \$160; 21 violations and \$91 worth of fines for the PRIDE party; and 37 violations totalling \$145 for the IMPACT party.

BEER party violations ranged from placing a party poster in a polling booth to putting three BEER stickers on the Director of the ASUN Electoral Commission's van while he was checking a polling site.

Mark Fahleson, the commission director, said the BEER party also took a polling booth from the ASUN office the night before the election.

"They had it in their room and they were taking pictures of themselves voting on a sample ballot," he said.

Two independent candidates, Mark Hoffman and Joe Bowman, received \$415 and \$85 in violations. Hoffman put up more fliers than are allowed in one area and used the ASUN logo on his fliers, which is prohibited. Bowman placed posters in restricted areas.

Independent candidates, Fahleson said, are charged with violations just "as a formality," and do not have to pay the fines.

Fahleson said the commission is unsure how they will enforce the violations if the parties spend more than their budgets.

"We are looking into community work as a possibility," he said.

Other suggestions made by the commission for making sure fines are paid included holding grades or restricting graduation.

Funding for each party is determined by the number of candidates in each group and is generated by the parties themselves.

"We set the limit of spending," Fahleson said. "The parties can get funds through such ways as donations. But the parties have to generate their own money. The ASUN office doesn't give them money."

Fahleson said fines will be determined officially Tuesday after the parties turn in their last financial statements.

See REGENTS on 3

Regents have no plans to alter NU discrimination laws

By Eric Pfanner
Staff Reporter

Despite recent controversy over gay rights at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the NU Board of Regents has no plans to change NU bylaws to include a policy statement prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals.

The regents would need to pass a resolution that would change the wording of section 18 of the University of Nebraska Charter, which pro-

hibits discrimination on the basis of age, sex, color or nationality.

Nancy Hoch of Nebraska City, the chairman of the board, said she would have to see how such a resolution would be worded before she could decide whether or not she favored it. Regent Don Blank of McCook also said he would need to see a specific proposal before making a decision.

But Donald Fricke of Lincoln and Kermit Hansen of Elkhorn said they do not think a change in the charter is necessary.

John Payne of Kearney said he does not think he would support a change, either.

"Maybe someday you will understand," he said. "When you are 45, you look at the world differently."

Margaret Robinson of Norfolk said she does not know if she would support the change.

"I prefer to think of college students in other terms than sexual preference," she said.

But some members of the board said they would support including

gay rights in section 18.

Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha said she would support the addition if a "logical" proposal were made.

Skrupa said such a proposal should be made by the UNL student regent because the Committee Offering Lesbian and Gay Events has been a UNL issue.

Robert Allen of Hastings said he would have to see a proposal before he could decide whether he was in favor of a change or not, but said that UNL should "follow the lead of other

institutions," when making a decision to change the wording.

Allen said he and five other regents will attend the Association of Governing Boards conference in Boston this weekend. Allen said he will ask regents and trustees from peer institutions what they are doing about the gay rights issue.

At several other state universities a specific policy statement has been written into the university bylaws.

Alternative Indian burial bill indefinitely postponed

By Jana Pedersen
Staff Reporter

Opponent complaints about the "secretive" way LB691 was drafted led to the indefinite postponement of the bill Thursday in the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Nebraska Legislature.

LB691 was proposed as an alternative to LB340, the Unmarked Human Burial Sites and Skeletal Remains Protection Act that is await-

ing second round approval on the floor of the Legislature.

Sen. John Weihing of Gering, sponsor of LB691, said he proposed the bill as a "reserve" to LB340.

Walter Echo-Hawk, an attorney with the Native American Rights Fund based in Boulder, Colo. who spoke in opposition to the bill, said LB691 was an unfair alternative because, unlike LB340, it wasn't drafted with the consent of American Indian tribal leaders.

The main difference between LB340 and LB691, however, is not

only in language, Weihing said, but also intent.

One of the most controversial aspects of LB340, the disposal of human remains already in state museums, he said, is not dealt with in LB691.

LB691 is not intended to resolve current disputes, Weihing said, but instead attempts to lay the foundation for future procedures for dealing with remains.

Ron Bozell, a professional archeologist who spoke in favor of LB691, said the bill was a compromise.

"LB691 is the only bill which equally recognizes the concerns of Native Americans and archeologists," he said.

But, Echo-Hawk said, LB691 could not be a compromise because it fails to protect the rights of American Indians.

The avoidance of dealing with the status of remains currently being displayed in state museums is one of the main faults of LB691, Echo-Hawk said.

Also, he said, the bill places com-

plete control of remains in the hands of the Nebraska State Historical Society, requiring it to consult with Indian tribal leaders only if possible.

Giving the society such control is unfair, Echo-Hawk said, because in the past, including the drafting of LB691, the society has failed to cooperate with tribal leaders.

LB340 on the other hand, Echo-Hawk said, was developed carefully, with input from both the Historical Society and tribal leaders, and should be the bill of compromise.