

# Senator: Bill would limit gun sales to felons

By Kara Wells  
Staff Reporter

A bill to require registration and a waiting period to buy a handgun would "close loopholes of easy access to guns" by criminals, state Sen. Brad Ashford of Omaha said.

"This will stop hundreds of thousands of felons from buying guns," Ashford, LB355's sponsor, told the Nebraska Legislature's Judiciary Committee on Thursday. "These kinds of laws have worked across the country."

The committee took no action on the bill.

The bill would require a registration permit to purchase, lease, rent or receive a handgun. It also would include a two-day wait for a background check and a "cooling-off" period. Ashford said. The delay would discourage suicides and crimes of passion, he said.

The purchaser would be required to fill out a registration form at a local law-enforcement office.

The bill, Ashford said, is an effort to come up with Nebraska's answer to what he called the handgun problem.

James Skinner, chief of the Omaha

Police Department, said Omaha has had a similar law for the past 50 years.

"The law is definitely beneficial... it can't stop all acts of violence, but it's definitely a help," he said.

But John Lenzi, state liaison for the National Rifle Association of Nebraska, said the bill would create an unreasonable amount of work for law enforcement agencies.

The bill would "clog the system," Lenzi said, by creating unneeded paperwork for police.

The bill also would inhibit individuals' rights to personal protection, he said.

"This is not a crime-fighting bill," Lenzi said.

Instead of LB355, Lenzi said, he supports LB801, which calls only for automatic background checks of prospective buyers. Several other states, including Virginia and Delaware, use this type of regulation effectively, he said.

Dave Schneider, a member of Law Enforcement for the Protection of the Second Amendment, said the bill is "bad gun legislation."

"The bill would give law enforcement agencies too much power," he said.

## Dunbar

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physics, not mathematics, was his main interest. After a while, he says, he realized he needed math to understand physics.

The physics books Dunbar read throughout high school, he says, kept using math techniques to explain physics. Rather than just following instructions, he says, "I wanted to know what was really going on."

"Ultimately, I found math was fascinating," he says.

Dunbar graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1974,

then went on to the University of Minnesota for his master's degree. He has been a professor at UNL since 1985. Before that, he taught at the University of Utah for four years, taking seven months off for research at a German university.

Dunbar says a highlight of his career has been watching "the light go on for students."

"You can almost hear it click."

And Dunbar's students must enjoy being in his classes. He has received a UNL Parents Association Recognition Award for the last two years.

In December, Dunbar finished teaching a three-semester sequence

honors calculus class.

During the class, he says he had "the most fun teaching a person is allowed to have."

The class, a combination of calculus and differential equations, was a "real intense experience" for the students, he says, because they were together five days a week and moved 50 percent faster than usual.

Despite the fast pace, the students must have appreciated his teaching.

Angie Hoins, a sophomore math major who was in the honors class, says she remembers one day when a student brought Dunbar an apple.

"The next day," she says, "his whole

desk was covered with fruit, Ho-Ho's and Hostess snacks. He put them all into his already overstuffed briefcase and lugged it up to his office."

A different student response sticks out in Dunbar's memory. It happened while he was a graduate student, lecturing to an introductory math class.

"This one poor guy, a theater major, got frustrated, stood up, threw back his arms and yelled 'Does anybody really care about any of this stuff?'"

Dunbar says he felt bad because he worried that the material must not have seemed interesting to the student. He wants his students to care about what he teaches.

# UPC receives largest ever budget cuts

By Heather Heinisch  
Staff Reporter

Four UPC minority programming

committees received the largest budget cuts of any UPC committee Thursday as the Committee for Fees Allocation made its final budget recommendations for the 1991-92 academic year.

University Program Council President Ness Sandoval said he was very disappointed with CFA's recommendations to cut \$3,729 from the four minority programming committees.

"How do you do more programming with less dollars?" he asked.

Two of the four programs received less funding than the 1986-87 academic year. The African American Committee has been allocated \$4,333 compared to \$6,310 five years ago and the Native American Committee \$1,924 compared to \$2,623.

The Daily Nebraskan received a one-time \$16,500 increase to offset a projected \$35,000 loss because of increases in printing costs and losses in advertising revenue.

CFA made a recommendation that \$6,500 be used to purchase soy ink that is environmentally safe and will

benefit the Nebraska agricultural economy.

Dan Shattil, Daily Nebraskan general manager, said he will include soy ink in the printing bids, but ultimately the Publications Board will have to decide if it wants to spend \$35 more per issue.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska received a 4.6 percent increase over the 1990-91 budget allocation. ASUN was allocated \$130,707; last year it received \$124,980.

The Fund A budget was passed for the 1991-92 budget of \$369,273 at a cost of \$7.90 per student, an increase of 36 cents. These budgets can be amended before they are final.

Collectively, the university, state colleges, technical community colleges and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education would receive a 2.1 percent, or \$6.8 million, increase during the first part of the biennium. In the second half of the biennium, the university's budget would be boosted 5.9 percent, or \$26.3 million. For the entire biennium, postsecondary institutions would receive an 8 percent, or \$33.1 million, increase.

Faculty salaries for postsecondary institutions would increase by 3.75 percent, or \$10 million, for 1991-92 and increase 4.5 percent, or \$22.6 million, for 1992-93. Faculty salaries had been increasing more than 10 percent in past years in an effort put NU's faculty salaries at a comparable level with peer institutions.

The Nebraska Research Initiative would be allotted no additional money under Nelson's proposal, but would be maintained at its current \$12 million. With the 2 percent across-the-board proposed cuts, however, the university realistically would be allotted \$11.7 million in funds per year for the research initiative.

The initiative was a five-year plan to add \$4 million annually for university research, with a cumulative amount of \$20 million.

Nelson also proposed withholding further commitment of Nebraska's cigarette tax funds. Funds have been earmarked for NU capital construction, but Nelson said prison overcrowding may make constructing more prison space a priority. He recommended a study of the issue.

Given the current economic slump and the demands of the war in the Persian Gulf, Nelson said it was difficult to draw up this budget.

"It is not enough to simply regret, and I do, these conditions. What is required is that we accept the challenge to direct our course," he said. "The world we live in will not permit business as usual."

State Sen. Scott Moore of Seward, Appropriations Committee chairman, said he thought the governor made "painful" but necessary cuts.

Moore said he thought Nelson's proposal was realistic and that the governor is merely "spending what's available" in state revenues.

"I agree with the bottom-line figures, as painful as they may be," he said.

Although Moore said he wasn't sure if he agreed with the way the spending cuts were handled, he thought that the state needs to tighten its purse strings.

"I prefer specific spending cuts as opposed to across-the-board cuts," Moore said of Nelson's proposed 2 percent cut in state government programs and 1 percent cut in state aid programs and entitlements.

"But it (across-the-board cuts) may be more appropriate at this time," he said.

"We'll have to find the dollars to do better than that," Blank said. "We have good people, and we want to keep good people."

Blank said the proposed budget might cut into funding for the transition of Kearney State College into the NU system.

The transition is scheduled for July 1. Blank said it can't be put on hold even if money isn't available in the budget.

"We'll need to find the dollars for this somewhere," he said.

Rowson said the Legislature's Appropriations Committee won't finalize budget proposals until March 4, so officials have until then to convince the committee of the university's financial obligations.

## Budget

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error's proposal. After the Appropriations Committee approves a budget, it goes before the full Legislature for additions or amendments.

Once the Legislature approves a budget, it goes to Nelson, who can veto specific items within the budget but cannot add items.

The way the university system is structured, the NU Board of Regents is given a lump sum and it decides how money is distributed.

Nelson's proposal would mean NU's central administration and the five institutions that fall under the university's umbrella would receive a \$5.2 million boost.

Under the proposal, a total of \$278.6 million would be allotted the university during 1991-92 and \$294.2 million allotted during 1992-93. The money would be divided among the following: central administration, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the University of Nebraska at Kearney and the Nebraska Technical School of Agriculture at Curtis.

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