



Shaun Sartin/Daily Nebraskan

U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey speaks in the Centennial Room of the Nebraska Union Sunday evening for Disability Awareness Week.

Senator: Fight for disabled rights

By Lori Stones
Staff Reporter

U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey urged Nebraskans to battle discrimination in their efforts to help disabled Americans overcome their handicaps in the keynote address for Disability Week at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"There's a need to fight, to identify and say that it's not right for a person to not be able to get a job, a house or, at times, public schooling. Be impatient with that injustice," Kerrey said Sunday in the Nebraska Union's Centennial Room.

In the fight to improve accessibility, Kerrey said, Americans must "follow the trails of discrimination" and bring personal examples so the government can deal with them.

He encouraged citizens to speak to him about problems in Lincoln or at

UNL that he might be able to help by proposing legislation in his position on the Appropriations Committee in Congress.

Citizens also must make sure that rules set by the government to bar discrimination are written and administered correctly, Kerrey said.

He referred to the Justice Department's recently published pamphlet on the American Disabilities Act.

Justice officials have the responsibility to write the rules so they apply to all disabilities, he said, and Americans have the responsibility to oversee them.

"We must watch the rules and make sure that there is no backsliding," Kerrey said.

The battle to overcome discrimination is sometimes hard, he said, because people might be unwilling to resist employers, universities and even friends.

The fight to help the disabled must begin with each person, Kerrey said, telling about a recent experience.

Kerrey said he hired a deaf employee to work in his office in Washington. It wasn't until then, he said, that he noticed how hard it was to communicate with a deaf person.

Kerrey said he is battling to improve accessibility in the office for the deaf employee and he is learning sign language to help the employee give input into the day-to-day decisions in the office.

But the benefits are greater than the work in helping disabled persons, said Kerrey, whose leg was injured in Vietnam.

Being aware of disabilities can help people, Kerrey said, because awareness allows people to discover the amount of capacity human beings have and continue to have.

Trio Day observed Kerrey addresses war, social, economic issues

By Kim Spurlock
Staff Reporter

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The U.S. government's social and economic policies over the last 17 years have been a failure, said U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey at the annual Trio Day luncheon at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"One million people are in city, county, state or federal institutions of incarceration. It costs us \$50,000 per cell to build an institution and \$15-\$20,000 to keep someone in them," Kerrey, D-Neb., said.

Kerrey said the policy of "we're going to lock them up and throw away the key" is not working.

The debate in Nebraska of whether to use cigarette tax revenues for building prisons to alleviate overcrowding or for education that is underfinanced is one failure of the economic policy, he said.

Kerrey said he advocates affirmative action and providing more scholarship money for minority students.

"When you have a pattern of discrimination placed in a community, if you're going to counter that pattern, if you're going to correct it, you've got to act affirmatively in scholarships and hiring in order to correct it," he said.

Kerrey began his speech with comments and answers to questions about the Persian Gulf war.

"I expect we'll have a victory. I don't doubt that the victory will be, by almost every measure, very impressive," he said.

He also said there will be a great deal of human suffering as a consequence of the war and all wars should be viewed "as a failure of politicians to be able to figure out how to avoid

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U. S. senator

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them."

Kerrey was the keynote speaker at the Trio Day luncheon in Selleck Residence Hall.

Saturday was established by Nebraska Gov. Ben Nelson as Nebraska Trio Day, which is in concurrence with National Trio Day, said Joel Scherling, Trio Day chairperson from Creighton University, sponsor of the day.

James Taylor, a senior biology major at Creighton and Trio Day master of ceremonies, said Trio programs are educational opportunity programs that help low-income, disadvantaged students who might not otherwise have a chance to attend college.

"Nearly 450,000 students are served each year by over 1,300 Trio programs nationally. In Nebraska, more than 2,700 students are served by these programs," Taylor said.

Trio programs include Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Center and the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. Eight colleges and universities across Nebraska have Trio programs.

Keynote address kicks off week honoring disabled

From Staff Reports

"Ability in Disability," the theme for Disability Week that began Sunday, will recognize what handicapped students can do when barriers are removed, the coordinator for UNL Handicapped Student Services said.

"Our goal is not compliance but independence," Christy Horn said.

In honor of the week, Handicapped Student Services has organized several events for University of Nebraska-Lincoln students.

U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., delivered the keynote address for Disability Week on Sunday.

There will be a panel discussion at 7 tonight on "Challenges and Opportunities" in the Centennial Room of the Nebraska Union.

Horn said UNL students and former students with disabilities will discuss successes and troubles at UNL, including improved accessibility and independence in the residence halls.

Tuesday at 7 p.m., Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery will show "My Left Foot," the true story of a man who overcame his disabilities and became a writer.

The week will end with an awards reception on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in the Georgian Room for faculty and staff members who have allowed an enabling environment for students with disabilities. The awards will be presented by Nebraska Lt. Gov. Maxine Moul.

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