

NEWS BRIEFS

Engineers' Week to feature tour, projects

Engineers' Week will be held today through Saturday at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The week will be kicked off today with the planting of a tree in support of this year's theme, "Technology and Nature: Engineer-

ing a Dynamic Future."

Tuesday, Robert Dostal from Dow Chemical will speak on "Strategies for Environmental Health and Safety," at 7:30 p.m. in Henszlik Hall.

The general public is encour-

aged to attend an open house Friday from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Student projects, research projects and laboratory facilities will be on display at the Walter Scott Engineering Center.

Advance registration needed for mock interview

Mock Interview Day will take place April 10 from 9 a.m. to 4

p.m. in Room 225 in the Nebraska Union.

Those interested must sign up in advance in Room 230 in the Nebraska Union.

Gun

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amendment, saying it is "a legitimate way to check out the person buying a gun. But we're not going to stop criminals (from getting guns). It's a question of what are we willing to mandate on honest, law-abiding citizens of our state. These, and law enforcement personnel, are the ones who are agitating for something to be done."

Sens. Elroy Hefner of Coleridge, Jennie Robak of Columbus and Stan Schellpeper of Stanton opposed passage of the amendment.

Hefner said it would not keep guns out of the hands of felons.

"Felons will not get a permit. They just won't bother. We'll just be punishing honest people," Hefner said.

In addition, he said, the method would cost police departments more

money for the background checks and for the annual renewal of the permits.

Robak opposed LB355 and the Chizek amendment, saying that "it's time we stopped passing feel-good, do-nothing laws."

She said LB355 is "another one of those laws that law-abiding citizens will observe, but criminals won't."

Schellpeper agreed with Hefner, saying the amendment and bill would penalize the honest person, but wouldn't "get at the criminals," which is what LB801 attempts to do by calling for background checks and registration of each gun purchased.

"We need to do what is good for Nebraska," he said, "and this amendment is not good for Nebraska."

Sen. Spence Morrissey of Tecumseh, speaking in support of the Chizek amendment, said LB801 "is less effective and more onerous for people who think gun control inhibits

their right to buy a gun."

LB801 just does a "hot check," Morrissey said, and local officials, as the amendment proposes, can do that, as well as check local records of the permit applicant.

"After all, we register our cars" and apply for hunting and fishing licenses, he said. "Guns should be no different."

"LB355 will restrict criminal access to guns, but not be as much of a hardship as LB801," Morrissey said.

In his closing statement, Chizek said, "I offered a compromise to an issue we have dealt with for three years, one which neither side is totally happy with." That is the nature of a compromise, he said.

The amendment to LB355 was passed with a 26-16 vote. A motion by Hefner to indefinitely delay action on the bill was defeated, and the Legislature plans to debate the bill again Tuesday.

Rights

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would stop offering Ph.D.s," he said.

Some in academics have questioned whether higher education will benefit or suffer from the proposed civil rights bill, according to a recent article in The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Critics claim the legislation would

go beyond helping higher education employees win discrimination suits, alleging that certain hiring practices would come under fire and some colleges would adopt hiring quotas to prevent lawsuits.

UNL political science professor Susan Welch said she considers it "unreasonable to suggest that any legislation would change basic hiring

requirements."

Welch, who is leaving UNL because she considers hiring and promotion practices for women discriminatory, said that although she is not familiar with the bill, she does not foresee drastic changes.

"There are already laws in the books that make discrimination on the basis of gender or race illegal," she said.

Accounting

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But Raymond said the new demand will not mean much change for UNL students because many now complete a five-year degree program, which is not a master's degree program. Other students in the four-year program take more than the required

amount of credit hours, he said.

LB75 follows a national trend, Raymond said. Nebraska is the 14th state to pass such a bill.

He said that by the year 2000, most national accountancy organizations will support such legislation.

Raymond said students will be able to obtain the additional credit hours required by LB75 at any accredited

school in the state and there may be cooperatives among schools in Nebraska.

The new requirement also will "preserve the reciprocity" with states around Nebraska, he said, because other states will accept students who have passed the CPA exam in Nebraska, although they may need to meet other requirements.

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