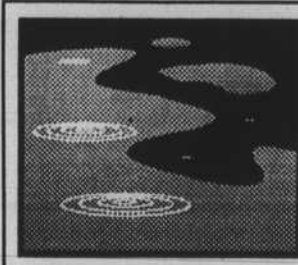


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TODAY'S WEATHER

37/25

Today, colder with chance of light freezing rain. Tonight a chance of light freezing rain. Saturday, partly sunny and warmer with a high of 45 to 50.



On tap

Dodd Wamberg, a senior mechanical engineering major, gives blood for the first time at the University of Nebraska Campus Red Cross "Give for Life" Bloodmobile. The blood drive was Wednesday and Thursday at the Nebraska Union.

Shaun Sartin/DN

Death penalty advocates argue lethal injections more humane, less gory

Process lengthy, opponents say

By Andy Raun
Staff Reporter

Lethal injection was touted Thursday as more humane and less sensationalistic than electrocution during a hearing on a bill to adopt injection as Nebraska's official means of capital punishment.

But lethal injection may be more unpleasant than electrocution and may, because it is considered less gory, be given as a sentence more often than the electric chair, LB874 opponents told the Nebraska Legislature's Judiciary Committee.

Sen. Elroy Hefner of Coleridge, the main sponsor of the bill, said that out of 36 to 38 states that allow capital punishment, 20 use lethal injection.

Fourteen states still use the electric chair, he said.

Hefner said he supported the death penalty and hoped a switch to lethal

injection might result in more executions being performed.

"The news media and some others get carried away with sensational aspects of carrying out the death penalty using electrocutions," he said. "It upsets a lot of people, even though they may know that the murderers got what (they) deserved."

Steve King, planning and research manager for the Nebraska Department of Corrections, said research showed that lethal injection was painless, more humane and less distressing to prison staff and execution witnesses than electrocution.

While the department neither supports nor opposes the death penalty, King said, it recommends that LB874 be changed to call for a lethal combination of three drugs instead of two.

The dosage should include an anesthetic, a paralyzing agent and a drug to bring on cardiac arrest, King said.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, a member of the judiciary committee, questioned King's contention that lethal injection was painless and humane.

"How can you establish that?" Chambers asked King, who responded

See DEATH on 6



Legislature

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Make American interests priority, say proponents

By Sean Green
Senior Reporter

It's time to send other countries the message that Nebraskans are serious about protecting their own interests, said proponents of a "Buy American" act at a legislative committee hearing Thursday.

Proponents of LB1216, sponsored by Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln, said the Nebraska Legislature's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee should support the bill because of the growing need to put America first.

LB1216 would require public agencies to buy only goods or commodities made in the United States, except under certain circumstances.

Gordon McDonald, president of the Nebraska AFL-CIO, told committee members that the bill would send a strong message to "a lot of people" that the Legislature was serious about protecting American-made

goods.

Nebraska is one of 19 states in the country that does not have such a provision, McDonald said.

"If we keep going in the direction we are now, we'll end up the highest-skilled, lowest-paid nation in the world," he said.

Lincoln resident Vicki Sullivan, a member of the Teamster's Union, told committee members that she and her family always had purchased American-made products, but she said it was getting harder to do so.

Sullivan blamed foreign competition for the economic problems and said LB1216 would reverse the trend.

"There are nine million people out of work in this country," she said. "I believe if you asked, most of them would say foreign competition has put them out of work."

Sullivan also said companies that moved their factories to foreign countries were hurting American workers.

"The only way to stop companies from moving their factories to places like Mexico, for slave labor, is to stop

See AMERICA on 6



Legislature

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Former UNL student sentenced

From Staff Reports

A 30-year-old Lincoln man, arrested in November while trying to steal computer equipment from the Nebraska Union, was sentenced to two years in prison last week.

Rodney Bell of 1530 D St. was sentenced to a one-year prison term on a burglary charge and another year on a charge of second-degree forgery.

The terms will run consecutively.

A third count of possession of burglary tools was dismissed.

Bell, the former president of the Gay/Lesbian Student Association at UNL, was arrested Nov. 22 at 4 a.m. after a custodian called the university police department.

An officer dispatched to the scene found a computer mouse, paper, power cable and printer cable after Bell was

witnessed loading equipment into a car.

Bell was issued citations for theft and criminal mischief on the scene and released.

In 1987, while at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bell was involved in GLSA's attempts to distribute condoms on UNL Condom Day and the opening of the UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center.

Scholarship offer could be a scam

By Cindy Kimbrough
Senior Reporter

If anything sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

That's what John Beacon, director of the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid at UNL, said about a mailing recently distributed to several University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, promising them more than \$1,000 in scholarship money.

Beacon said the mailing came to his attention when eight to 10 students called to check its validity.

Postcards mailed to the students claimed they could be eligible for a minimum of \$1,698.12 in scholarships, he said.

The students also had been informed that the National Scholarship Foundation, the company that mailed the postcards, had been trying to contact the students, he said, and this was their last chance to call for complete information.

Beacon said the odd scholarship amount made him wonder about the offer's validity. He also said he thought the offer was confusing because when students called to get more information on the "24-hour call-processing system," a recording told callers they could not leave a message on the system's mailbox.

Students who receive the mailing should be cautious if contacted, he said.

About a year and a half ago, Beacon said his office saw a flurry of mailings similar to this, telling students to send \$60 to get a list of scholarships they were eligible for.

The mailings claimed a refund was available, he said, but students found out later the refund only was available if they could prove they were denied every scholarship on the list.

Beacon said the Better Business Bureau had received no complaints about the recent mailings and had no information on the company. But a number of people had called to check on it, he said.

Beacon said he was not calling the company illegitimate, "I'm just saying 'buyer beware.'"

FRIDAY

The men's basketball team looks to continue their winning ways on the road at Iowa State Saturday. Page 7



"Terminator 2" is no match for the dynamic duo of "Thelma and Louise" in this week's list of top ten rentals. Page 10

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