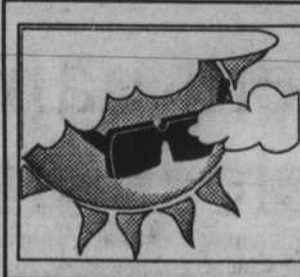


# Daily Nebraskan

April 9, 1992

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 91 No. 135



## TODAY'S WEATHER

68/47

Today, partly cloudy, south-east winds 5 to 15 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy. Friday, mostly sunny with a high of 70 to 75.

## Affirmation Day sparks protest, praise

### Group kisses-in to protest ROTC homosexual ban

By Sarah Scalet  
Staff Reporter

"Hey hey, ho ho. Homophobia's got to go." That was the chant of about 25 protesters who gathered in front of the Military and Naval Science Building Wednesday afternoon to protest the ROTC policy banning homosexuals.

Members of the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Association and Early Warning! protested from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. They chanted and held signs, some declaring "Every U.S. citizen should have a right to defend his country" and "ROTC needs a few good queers."

The protest also included a "kiss-in," during which protesters publicly kissed each other.

Lynn Kister, a junior women's studies and English major, encouraged homosexual and heterosexual couples to participate in the kiss-in.

People should be able to accept affection between homosexuals, as well as heterosexuals, while walking to class, Kister said.

"We're queer, and we're here, and we want to kiss our girlfriends and boyfriends," she said.

But Paul Moore, co-chairperson of GLBSA, said the issue was not a gay, lesbian and bisexual one.

"It's a human issue," he said, because discrimination of any kind is wrong.

"What is the Department of Defense afraid of?" he asked. "What is ROTC afraid of?"



Al Schabert/DN

Paul Moore, right, co-chair for Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Association, kisses protester Ben Abraham on Wednesday during an Early Warning! and GLBSA demonstration against the UNL ROTC program's ban of homosexuals.

Moore said the military's excuses to discriminate against homosexuals — that they were security risks and had an inability to perform — were only justifications for homophobic behavior.

Homosexuals are less of a security

risk than heterosexuals because they grow up trained to keep secrets, he said.

Moore also compared the situation to when blacks were not allowed in the military because of their supposed inability to perform.

Cheri Loofe, Queer Nation spokesperson for Lincoln, said the military had a "guilty until proven innocent" policy about homosexuals.

"What all this boils down to is homophobia," she said.

### Gays, lesbians encouraged to break silence

By Mike Lewis  
Staff Reporter

Two homosexual students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln wrapped up Affirmation Day Wednesday night by explaining why they chose to "break the silence."

Deb Archer, an English graduate student and teaching assistant, and Paul Moore, a senior speech communication major, said they went public with their homosexuality because "the silence will not protect you."

"I don't want students to leave my classroom still thinking they haven't met a homosexual," Archer told an audience of about 65.

The two students joined four other speakers at Affirmation Day, an event sponsored by the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Association to affirm the rights of gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

Moore, co-chairman of GLBSA, and Archer staged a mock conversation in which Archer pretended to turn down an invitation to speak at Affirmation Day.

Many of Archer's freshman English students had made homophobic remarks, she said. If she was to speak at Affirmation Day, she said, she might disrupt the sense of community in her class.

Also, Archer said, some faculty members in the English department had made their homophobia "loud and clear." She said she had doubts about working with people who would be hostile toward her.

See AFFIRMATION on 2

## ASUN pushes safety plan, lobbies for cigarette tax

By Kara Morrison  
Staff Reporter

ASUN passed a parking safety proposal Wednesday night that would increase parking permits by \$2 to \$5 over the next four years, instead of the one-time \$20 increase the Parking Advisory Committee proposed last week.

The proposal will be presented by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska to the committee today at 2:00 p.m. at the

Wick Alumni Center.

The senate also voted to lobby for a 5-cent cigarette tax increase proposed by LB1026. The bill would provide revenue for new capital construction projects for the University of Nebraska.

Jason Vogel, senator for the College of Engineering and Technology, said more than \$3 million of the revenue generated by the 5-cent tax would fund the completion of the Walter Scott Engineering Link, the renovation of the East Campus greenhouses and the removal of asbestos from Burnett Hall.

Vogel said ASUN needed to show its support for LB1026 because the

Nebraska Legislature had only three days left in its session to act on the tax increase.

Senators then delayed action on an ASUN bill that urges the NU Board of Regents to oppose a proposed 25-cent cigarette tax increase for environmental projects.

Brian Mikkelsen, statewide coordinator of the Clean Environment Committee, urged ASUN senators to postpone voting on a bill opposing the 25-cent cigarette tax so that students had time to look at both sides of the issue.

The Clean Environment Com-

See ASUN on 2

## Senator says it's time to end stalking game

By Sean Green  
Senior Reporter

Most people are familiar with "Fatal Attraction," a film in which the spurned lover takes revenge by stalking.

There also have been several well-publicized cases of celebrities, such as David Letterman, being harassed by an overenthusiastic fan.

But the crime is not restricted to the movie screen or to the rich and famous.

Average citizens can be victimized by a stalker.

It is more than a little troubling to many that stalking is not against the law in most states, including Nebraska. At least, not yet.

A bill under consideration in the Nebraska Legislature would make stalking illegal and give victims and the police a weapon against stalkers.

LB1098, sponsored by Sen. Jennie Robak of Columbus, defines and

provides penalties for stalking.

If passed, Nebraska would join California and Virginia as the only states where stalking is illegal. The legislative bill advanced to second-round debate Tuesday in a 32-0 vote.

LB1098 defines stalkers as those who "harass or willfully, maliciously and repeatedly follow another person or make a credible threat against that person."

The bill would make stalking a Class I misdemeanor for the first offense and a Class IV felony for following offenses, including a penalty of up to five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

Robak, who made LB1098 her priority bill, said the need to make stalking a crime had existed for a long time.

The only legal recourse now available for victims of stalking is to get a protection order on the stalker, she said.

But Robak said protection orders only applied to cases in which the victim and the stalker were married,

See STALK on 2

## Group says new policy 'a start'

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick  
Senior Reporter

The Department of Human Resource's decision to create a university-wide family leave policy is a step in the right direction, members of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women said.

"It's certainly a good start," Mary Beck, a chairwoman of the commission, said.

The policy will allow University

of Nebraska-Lincoln employees to take up to 12 consecutive weeks of leave without pay for child, parent or spouse illnesses, for the birth or adoption of a child or for a death in the immediate family.

Family leave now is determined by individual departments. The human resources department's policy will set a standard for the entire university.

Beck, an associate professor of animal science, said that while she was happy with the move, she thought the policy still was lacking because it did not provide paid maternity leave, as did some European nations.

"The commission would like to have seen a portion of the 12 weeks as paid," she said, "but that is apparently not possible at this time, for whatever reason. . . . We are not going to object to the whole plan on that basis, though."

The commission supports the policy, Beck said, but asks that some of its wording be clarified, including how family leave could be taken and whether leave could be taken at different times instead of consecutively.

Beck said she also wanted the policy to include non-traditional domestic partnerships — cohabitation or homo-

See LEAVE on 2



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