

Tough agenda creates tension in Legislature

By Angie Brunkow
Senior Reporter

With six days left, state senators say issues discussed during this session of the Nebraska Legislature have kept emotions high in the chambers.



LEGISLATURE

"It's probably the most emotional session I've sat through," Sen. DiAnna Schimek of Lincoln said Thursday.

The session has been fraught with flaring tempers and controversial issues, she said.

"Even the hazing bill got some real hot debate," Schimek said.

Sen. Ardyce Bohlke of Hastings agreed.

"People are more tense, more ill-tempered than I've observed in other years," she said. "We're taking on more emotional issues."

One issue causing tension is the welfare bill. Senators have clashed over a two-year cap on cash assistance, calling it "risky," Bohlke said. But, she said, the risk involved in changing the welfare system shouldn't outweigh the need for change in the present system.

"Until we can test a program, I don't think we can write anything that is fail-proof," Bohlke said. "In order to make a change, it usually involves risk-taking."

Sen. Kate Witek of Omaha said she didn't think skirmishes about the bill would be resolved before the end of the session.

Supporters of the bill have opposed aspects of the bill, such as the two-year cap, she said.

"They're caught in a Catch-22," she said.

Schimek said she thought parts of the bill required by federal law would be approved, but the entire bill would not outlast the session.

Another issue that has kept sena-

tors' emotions high is the adult crime bill, Bohlke said. Friction over the bill will keep it from passing before the end of the session, she said.

"It doesn't have broad support," she said.

Witek said supporters of the crime bill faced a similar dilemma as with the welfare bill. Proponents support the crime bill but oppose certain aspects, like dealing with the death penalty, she said.

Bohlke said she thought the cost factor was one reason senators weren't supporting the bill.

"You see a number of reasons for people backing away from it," she said.

Sen. Scott Moore of Seward said the cost of the crime bill and others that could pass in the final days of the session had him worried.

Many bills involve spending on worthwhile projects that are "hard to say no to," Moore said.

But if the Legislature can't say no,



Sen. Roger Wehrbein of Plattsmouth talks with Omaha Sen. Jessie Rasmussen Thursday afternoon.

Gov. Ben Nelson, using his veto, will, Moore said.

But the senators agreed that time may be the biggest factor limiting the

rising budget figures and the emotional flare-ups this session.

"Time is going too fast," Bohlke said.

POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Monday

- 1:22 p.m. — Larceny from auto, 17th and R streets, \$150 loss.
- 4:31 p.m. — Phone calls, Cather Hall.
- 11:43 p.m. — Phone calls, Schramm Hall.
- 11:56 p.m. — Fire hose glass broken, Pound Hall, \$5 damage.

Beginning midnight Tuesday

- 9:37 a.m. — Injury/sickness, Insectary Greenhouse, party taken to hospital.
- 1:28 p.m. — License plate stolen, area 3 lot near Harper-Schramm-Smith.
- 6:54 p.m. — Accident, area 10 loop, \$300 damage.

- 7:50 p.m. — Purse stolen, Andrews Hall, \$15 loss.
- 8:42 p.m. — Bike stolen, Smith Hall, \$50 loss.
- 9:33 p.m. — Purse stolen, Temple Hall, \$24 loss.
- 9:33 p.m. — Purse stolen, Temple Hall, \$223 loss.

Gore

Continued from Page 1

Clinton Administration was taking on some tough changes and giving Congress some tough choices to make.

"Change is not easy," Hoagland said. "It is time for us, as Americans,

to come together." Gore spoke for less than 30 minutes at the rally after attending a private fund-raiser for Hoagland.

Gore's Omaha visit was the first on a three-day tour. The vice president left Omaha for another rally in New Mexico.



Free Computer Classes!

The Computing Resource Center is offering free microcomputer classes to UNL students. The classes will feature an introduction to Microsoft Word for the Macintosh and WordPerfect for IBM machines. No reservations are required.

Introduction to WordPerfect for IBM

Thursday, April 14 3:00 - 4:30 Sandoz lab

Introduction to Microsoft Word for Macintosh

Tuesday, April 12 3:00 - 4:00 Andrews Hall lab

UNL receives grant for fertilizer study

By Julie Sobczyk
Staff Reporter

The Environmental Protection Agency has granted the University of Nebraska-Lincoln \$500,000 to research fertilizer application.

Jim Schepers, a soil scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a professor of agronomy at UNL, said the university would benefit from the project by being recognized nationwide for research in nitrogen and water management.

Schepers said UNL was chosen as the research site because of the university's previous experience with soil projects.

The money will be split between UNL's biological systems engineering department and the agronomy department, Schepers said.

"The money will pay for the immediate costs of the project, labor for extra technicians and staff, computers and equipment," he said.

The project, Variable Rate Application Technology, will evaluate how farmers can fertilize crops while reducing the amounts of nitrate pollution in the water and atmosphere.

Schepers said farmers often fertilized their entire fields to meet the needs of the most deficient area. Of-

ten, he said, this left excess fertilizer on the land.

Nitrogen fertilizer then is transformed into nitrate, which is soluble in water, Schepers said, and will filter through the water. Through this process, called leaching, nitrate can enter and pollute ground water.

Schepers said nitrate could harm humans because it reduced the blood's ability to carry oxygen.

"The project is intended to change the rate of fertilizer so leaching isn't a problem. We hope to come closer to reducing the amount of nitrate pollution."

Political scientists to assemble

From Staff Reports

Political science professors from around the country will gather at UNL this weekend for the Department of Political Science's 14th Hendricks Symposium.

Robert Sittig, a political science professor, said the focus of the symposium was legislative redistricting — the redrawing of boundaries of voting districts.

Some panels will focus on racial gerrymandering and representation, the effect of legislative redistricting

and redistricting the courts.

"It's an attempt to air viewpoints of those in charge of redistricting," Sittig said. "We want to bring together academic experts who are in charge of this. We also see it as a chance to inform the public as well, and to let them air any views they may have."

The symposium will be located in the Nebraska Union on April 8 and 9.

It is free and open to the public. Those who would like more information may contact the Department of Political Science.

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