

# Miller can speak but not vote

By Julie Sobczyk  
Senior Reporter

Although Regent Drew Miller of Papillion won't go to the NU Board of Regents' meeting Saturday, he will still make his opinions heard.

Miller is in Stuttgart, Germany, serving as a major in the Nebraska Air National Guard.

He will be participating in the meeting via telephone, said Richard Wood, NU general counsel.

Under the state public meetings law, however, any votes that Miller makes will not count.

"He will still participate and be recognized and can still be heard on matters," Wood said. "But if he is not present, he cannot vote."

The law states that a person must be present at the public meeting for the vote to count. The only exception is if the meeting is called an emergency.

In that case, votes via telecommunications would count, Wood said. The meeting has not been declared an emergency.

J.B. Milliken, NU corporation secretary, said he would still call Miller's name during roll and a record of his vote would still be taken.

"It isn't that anyone doesn't want Regent Miller's vote to count," Milliken said. "It's just that if ... there is a challenge under open meetings laws, that would invalidate the regents' actions."

"That's a risk that can't be taken."

## Regents

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not be fair for Blank, who has been chairperson twice, to take another turn.

"In past years, it had been agreed upon that it was passed around," Skrupa said. "It hasn't been that way lately. Three or four want to keep it under their control."

"I don't see why they want to. It's largely a ceremonial position."

Allen agreed.

"We should take turns," he said. "It's a teamwork kind of a thing."

Allen had the sharpest criticism for Blank.

"We're talking about mediocrity personified," he said.

Also on the regents' agenda this weekend:

• A program statement for a \$7.66 million parking garage near Memorial Stadium at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The structure would house 600 parking stalls, several campus offices and rental space for commercial operations. The structure also could be expanded to house another 300 spaces.

• An increase of \$20 in UNL student fees to help pay for the Nebraska Union expansion project.

The fee increase was approved by students in the last Association of Students of the University of Nebraska elections. It will not take effect until 1998.

• The approval of the bonds to pay for the Union expansion project. The project is estimated to cost \$13.8 million.

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# Law & Order

A LOOK AT CRIME ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

## Teen-ager killed in shooting accident

### SHOOTING

A 13-year-old boy died Thursday morning from an accidental gunshot wound to his head.

Michael Bryan, 6701 Vine St., died at 5:30 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Community Health Center.

Bryan's 14-year-old sister accidentally shot him at their residence just after 8 p.m. Wednesday, Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said. The two children were home alone.

County Attorney Gary Lacey is investigating the incident.

### ASSAULT

An irate man whose car was being towed attacked a Lincoln police parking officer Wednesday morning, police said.

According to reports, Danny Adkins, 1111 S. 32nd St., returned to his vehicle on P Street between Seventh and Eighth streets to find

Officer John May towing it because of unpaid tickets.

Adkins, 26, allegedly punched May in the face through the window of May's car. When May got out of his car, police said, Adkins repeatedly hit and kicked him.

A nearby bicycle officer, whom May called for assistance, detained Adkins and arrested him for assault.

May was treated and released from Lincoln General Hospital.

### NARCOTICS

A Crimestoppers tip led police to bust a 21-year-old suspected drug dealer and seize three weapons and narcotics.

Police contacted Filipp Mirzakhonov at 3:28 p.m. Wednesday at Yia Yia's Pizza, 1423 O St.

Police obtained a warrant to search Mirzakhonov's briefcase and took him and the briefcase into custody. Inside the briefcase, they found a loaded 9mm handgun and

14 grams of methamphetamine.

Police then searched two residences: 139 N. 11th St., Apt. 1002, Mirzakhonov's residence, and 1107 L St.

There they found a semi-automatic 9mm gun, a .22-caliber revolver, .7 grams of "crack" cocaine and 14 grams of methamphetamine.

Mirzakhonov was arrested for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, possession of a handgun while violating the controlled substance act and carrying a concealed weapon.

### BURGLARY

University of Nebraska-Lincoln police are investigating the theft of \$3,700 in computer parts out of Architecture Hall.

Sgt. Mylo Bushing said Wednesday that the parts were taken from a computer lab at 3 p.m. He said police were questioning people who had keys to the labs.

— Compiled by Chad Lorenz

## Tobacco

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samples. If retailers sold the tobacco at a nominal cost, one substantially below the original cost.

By honoring the coupon, Camp said, retailers probably didn't realize they would lose profit, thus the cost could not be considered nominal.

But Tom Bassett, who helped draft the law in 1989, said Camp missed the law's intention.

"In my estimation, she is wrong," Bassett said.

Bassett said the tobacco was sold at a nominal cost because the coupon offered a 50 to 60 percent discount on the tobacco. At Super Saver grocery

at 2662 Cornhusker Highway, where the tobacco is sold for \$2.38, the coupon grants a 63 percent discount.

"Anything sold under 50 percent off is at nominal cost," Bassett said.

Bassett, who is executive director of the Nebraska Dental Association, worked with state senators Merton "Cap" Dierks of Ewing and Arlene Nelson of Grand Island to draft the law after it had been defeated twice in the Legislature, he said.

They wrote the law to keep manufacturers from giving chewing tobacco away as free or nearly-free samples, Bassett said.

"We tried to think in terms of what they would do to get around it," he said.

Bassett said he thought the law would prevent promotional distribu-

tion because it prohibited smokeless tobacco distribution at no or nominal cost, and coupon discounts or rebates.

"It's up to state officials to enforce the law as it was intended," he said.

But Investigator Dan Plautz said the state patrol had never issued any fines for violations of the law.

He said Nebraska didn't have a commission to oversee tobacco laws as it does for liquor, so tobacco licenses were relatively easy to obtain.

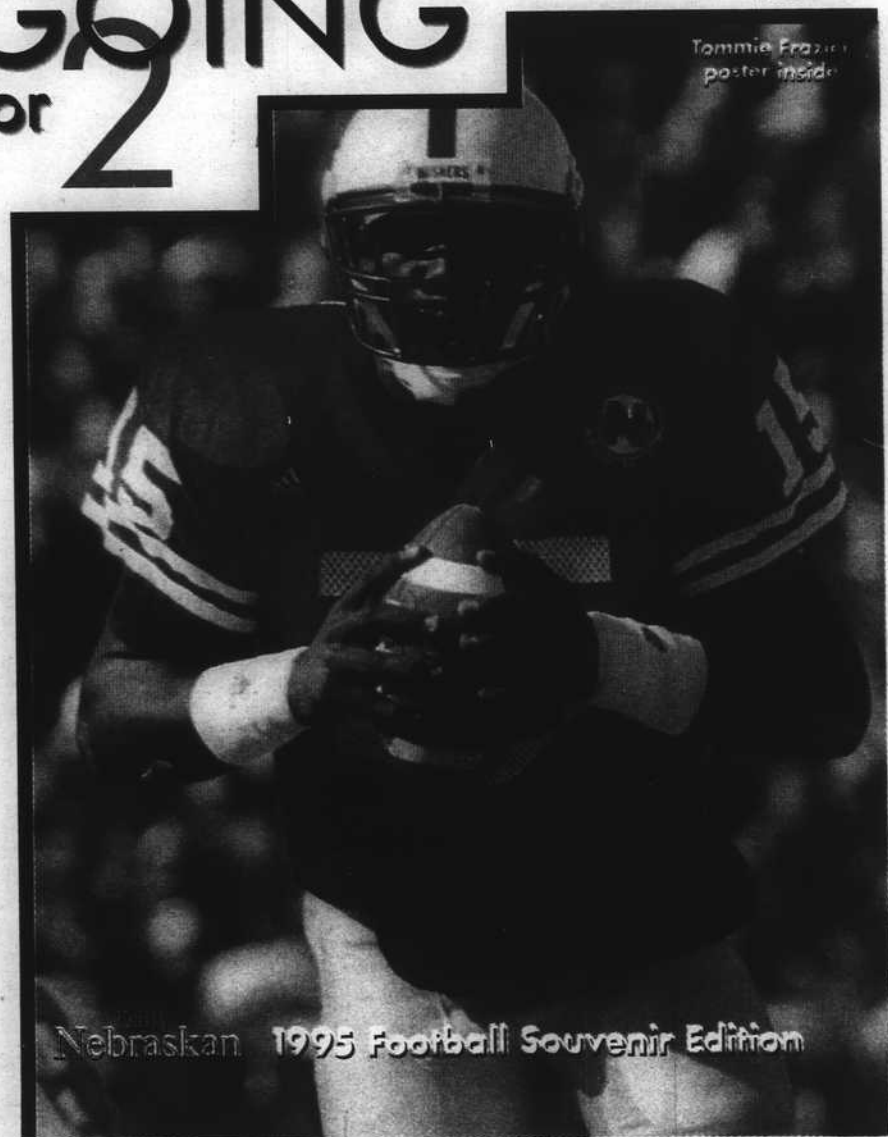
Bassett said if officials continued to interpret the law wrongly, the its original purpose would be lost.

"Our attorney general is interpreting a law different from how our Legislature intended it," Bassett said. "It's disappointing to see them finding ways around it."

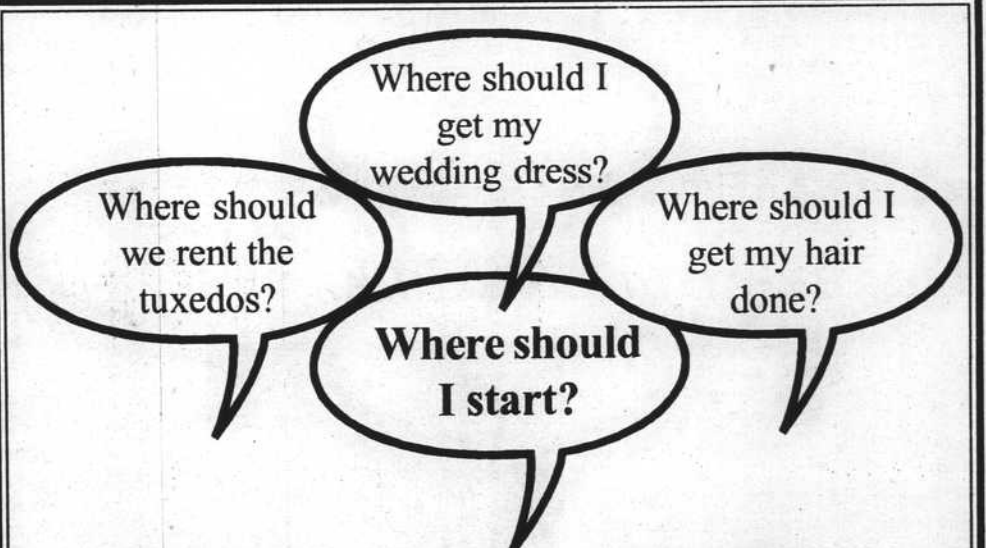
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