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WEATHER:

Today - Cloudy. A 40% chance of snow. North wind 10 to 20 mph.

Tonight - Cloudy. Low near 10.



January 22, 1996

Supporters unite, walk for pro-life

By Erin Schulte
Staff Reporter

"...with liberty and justice for all, born and unborn."

So went the Pledge of Allegiance at the 21st annual Walk for Life beginning at the Nebraska State Capitol Saturday.

"It's time to fire our commander-in-chief."

BARBARA MCPHILLIPS

Chairwoman of Nebraska Right to Life's political committee

More than 2,000 people took part in the walk, part of a nationwide protest marking the 23rd anniversary of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion.

During speeches at the Capitol, speakers urged protestors to take part in the political process. Barbara McPhillips, chairwoman of Nebraska Right to Life's political committee, told the crowds to unite in support of pro-life presidential candidates, no matter what their stances on other issues might be.

McPhillips said voter apathy was one of the main reasons anti-abortion measures were not made law and pro-life candidates were not elected. She said no pro-life legislation had been passed since President Clinton took office.

"It's time to fire our commander-in-chief," McPhillips said.

"I have one question for you right now: Do we want four more years of the Clinton administration?" she asked the crowd.

McPhillips said pro-life supporters should become involved in politics by becoming delegates to their county conventions.

The 10-degree weather may have hindered attendance at the walk, which has brought 4,000 to 5,000 protestors in previous years.

Sen. LaVon Crosby of Lincoln, who spoke at the Capitol, said the cold could be symbolic of abortion.

"Just remember how cold that little baby feels when he is yanked from his mother's womb," Crosby said.

After walking from the Capitol to the



Pro-life supporters gather at the Nebraska State Capitol on Saturday. More than 2,000 people marched from the Capitol to the federal building to protest the Jan. 22, 1973, Roe v. Wade decision of the U.S. Supreme Court.

federal building, the group congregated at the Nebraska Union to warm up and collect pro-life literature.

Several pro-choice demonstrators showed their opposition. Abortion rights supporters will gather tonight at 7 for a rally in the Nebraska Union.

Sandy Danek, president of Lincoln Right to Life, said she wasn't bothered that atten-

dance at this year's walk was lower than in previous years.

"I used to worry about the numbers," she said. "I don't anymore because I know that Nebraska is a pro-life state."

Danek said political support for pro-life measures was important.

"Abortion was never decided as a democracy; it was decided by a liberal Supreme Court."

Tanna Kinnaman/DN

Proposed bill could regulate sports agents

By Ted Taylor
Senior Reporter

Sen. Kermit Brashear of Omaha wants Nebraska to "get with it" and protect student athletes from the illegal activities of agents.

And Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne is on his side.

Osborne testified Friday before the Legislature's Judiciary Committee in support of LB927.

Although he said he did not have the expertise to explain the nuts and bolts of it, Osborne said Brashear's bill was thorough.

"This one's the best conceptually I've seen," Osborne said. "And I'm here to support the concept. I feel it will benefit the student athlete."

The Athlete Agent Registration and Accountability Act, introduced by Brashear, would give the state some control over the activities of sports agents.

The 16-page bill has three main points:

- Requiring all agents and their "runners" to register with the state attorney general's office — for a fee of \$500 — and to disclose background information on their businesses. Copies of those records would be put on public record.

- Prohibiting certain activities and providing criminal and civil actions that would penalize the agent, not the player.

- Allowing the student athlete to cancel the contract within 10 days if it did not meet the requirements of the act.

Former Husker lineman Brenden Staj said Saturday from his home in Pittsburgh that the bill was a good idea. He called it "absolutely perfect."

"There are a lot of agents who really aren't qualified to do the job," he said. "They're out there just to make a quick buck."

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha was the only committee member to question Osborne, and he later spoke in opposition to the bill.

"I have a lot of problems with the bill," he said.

Chambers asked Osborne why the rules governing agents should be different from those dealing with college recruiters. He said recruiters were just as bad about hounding the students.

"And nobody requires recruiters to give back-

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Health center cannot treat serious injuries

By Michaela Pieler
Staff Reporter

When faced with life-threatening pain, UNL students should head to a hospital instead of the University Health Center, one official says.

"We don't run a hospital," said Peg Blake, director of the center. "If you feel your life is endangered, call 911 and get yourself into an emergency room."

Blake was speaking in response to recent complaints about long waits to be treated at the center. She stressed that the center focused on common medical treatment, not serious emergencies, of college students.

"Of course, we have had diabetics with insulin shocks or cases of asthma," she said, "but we should never come to see a heart attack."

Emergencies such as complete fractures or tendon cuts are immediately transferred to a hospital, UHC physician Mary Lutz said.

"We don't have the capacities to treat such severe cases here," she said.

The UHC is not a regular 24-hour clinic, although it offers after-hours care — one nurse and one doctor — from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Students with simple stitches, cuts or fractures definitely can be helped after hours, Blake said.

"But if further treatment or an overnight stay is required, we have to transfer the patient to a general hospital," she said.

In less urgent cases, students can make appointments with specialists such as orthopedists, neurologists or optometrists who come to the center on certain days of the week.

Usually, after-hours patients are helped on a first-come, first-served basis, Blake said. Before being treated, they have to fill out a checklist specifying the problem and providing personal information.

But exceptions from that schedule are made if a patient has severe pain, she said.

"If someone is bleeding profusely, he will absolutely be treated prior to someone with a sprained ankle," Blake said.

Lutz stressed that every effort was made to help students quickly.

"Our nurses always try to put people with severe pain ahead," she said.

Students usually have to wait about 15 minutes before they are seen by a doctor or a nurse, Blake said, which she called "a pretty good rate."

"I don't think that's too long," she said. In some emergency rooms, patients are not seen within an hour.

During after hours, students often are treated in less than 15 minutes because staff is not as busy, Blake said about five students seek medical help at the center each night.

"That obviously makes the after hours very cost-intensive," she said. For that reason, health center officials have considered restricting after-hours care and closing the center by 8 p.m.

Within the next month, two emer-

"We don't run a hospital. If you feel your life is endangered, call 911 and get yourself into an emergency room."

PEG BLAKE

Health Center director

gency lines will be installed at the front and back entrances of UHC, Lutz said. By pushing a blue button, students will get a direct connection to Lincoln General Hospital's emergency room.

Students also can call Ask-A-Nurse if they want to talk to medical staff at the hospital. Thirteen nurses are available on that line, said Jeanne Boller, program coordinator.

"We assist patients in making health care decisions," she said, "and send them to appropriate facilities if necessary."

Students use the service frequently, especially after the health center is closed, Boller said.

"We hear about every possible symptom at every day of the year," she said.

Blake said many accidents and diseases could be avoided by educating students. She said this education — including lessons on birth control, safe sex and sexually transmitted diseases — was part of the Health Center's mission.

"It's much easier to teach them how not to get ill than to actually treat their illness."