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THURSDAY



WEATHER:

Today - Considerable cloudiness. South wind 15 to 25 mph.

Tonight - Partly cloudy, low around 40.

February 22, 1996

Bosnia's Fragile Peace



Fata Mujanovic was wounded in a shell attack near Srebrenica. She said there were not enough doctors in the camp to take care of her.

Staci McKee/DN

Hate crime penalties may stiffen

By Ted Taylor
Senior Reporter

Kristen Job told the Judiciary Committee of the Nebraska Legislature on Wednesday she was scared for her life last New Year's Eve.

Scared to think the four men outside her apartment meant what they were yelling through her door.

"They repeatedly told us we would be raped, beaten and possibly killed if we opened the door," she said. "All because we were interested in and preferred women to men — like themselves."

Job, a junior English major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, testified in favor of LB919, which would enhance the criminal penalties for crimes motivated by bigotry. Columbus Sen. Jennie Robak sponsored the bill.

"I implore you to think about what could have happened to me that evening — what continues to happen to people all over the state — and toughen the penalties for those who act out of hate," Job said.

Robak's bill would punish those who physically or verbally intimidate people based on their race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age or disability.

If convicted, Robak said in her testimony, the offender would be punished in line with the next higher penalty classification for the crime committed.

"The victims of hate cannot change their skin color, their national origin, their age or sex," she said.

But even supporters of the bill said it could use some amendments.

Jean Durgin-Clinchard of Lincoln asked for more law enforcement training to better identify hate crimes, inclusion of hate crimes in crime statistics, and clarification of some of the unclear language in the bill.

"Penalty enhancement is appropriate for hate crimes," she said. "Whole groups of people are impacted when such crimes go unrecognized for the terrorism they intend."

Bob Wolfson, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League, told the committee that hate crimes had more profound potential impacts on the community than other types of crimes.

"The damage done by crimes of bias can not be measured," he said. "For that reason, biased crimes deserve special response."

"Clearly the time is right for this kind of legislation in Nebraska."

Committee chairman John Lindsay of Omaha asked the difference between his being assaulted for being a Husker fan or for being a

See Hate on 7

Shelter's refugees tell war tales

By Matthew Waite
Senior Editor

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Emin Smajlovic doesn't know how old he is today. Neither does Ahmo Osmanovic. Dzevahira Hodzic has almost everything she needs — food and shelter. What she needs, she says, is peace.

Her son, Halid, cannot think about the past without crying.

They have been at the Enver Siljak refugee camp in the Slatina district of Tuzla for as many as five years. They all came from Srebrenica, or villages near the city that fell to the Serbs while under U.N. protection.

This building is more of a hospital than the four other camps in Tuzla, which house more than 20,000 refugees.

The camp used to be a dormitory for

students at the nearby university.

Now, it houses 372 Muslim refugees. Many were crippled by war. About 150 are too old to live on their own. Vahida Lelic, the chief manager of the facility, says the others needed someone to take care of them — but no one was there.

She says she often receives phone calls from concerned sons and daughters asking about their parents. Lelic tells them they are alive and doing fine, and they hang up.

The camp survives completely on international aid. Food, medicine and supplies from the United Nations, the Red Cross, Care International and several other groups all make their way here.

If it were not for those donations, the residents of the Enver Siljak refugee camp would not eat or have heat.

See CAMP on 8

For the first time, the Daily Nebraskan will give its readers an up-close look at the largest European conflict since World War II. Senior Editor Matthew Waite and Photo Chief Staci McKee recently spent five days in Tuzla, a city of 160,000 people in north-eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina. Today is the second day of a three-part series of stories from the former Yugoslavia.

Today:

Restless refugees react to the president of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Page 7.

Residents of a refugee camp for the elderly offer their stories. Pages 8 and 9.

Friday:

Two friends, both soldiers and students, tell about the war and trying to study with the memories of conflict.

Campaigns look to attract students' votes

By Julie Sobczyk
Senior Reporter

The average student isn't too interested in the 1996 election, one UNL professor says, but campaign managers say they want to target student voters.

Kevin Smith, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln political science professor, said the average student didn't show enough interest in the campaigns for president and U.S. Senate.

"Research says not a lot of students are politically aware, and they don't vote a lot," Smith said.

According to the Lancaster County election commissioner's office, during the November 1994 election, 12.8 percent of registered voters were between 18 and 25 years old. The high-

est percentage, 38.7 percent, comprises those between the ages of 41 and 65.

Because students traditionally have low turnout in the polls, most campaigns won't target them, he said.

"If you are a rational politician seeking votes, you'll want to pay attention to those who vote more," Smith said.

As people age, they tend to vote more because political issues affect them directly, he said.

Increasing interest rates and taxes become more of a concern after college, he said, and as people get older, they want their voices to be heard about those issues.

"They're concerned about their futures and their children's futures," Smith said.

But, he said, students should keep their futures in mind and listen to campaign messages.

"What the government does affects you," Smith said. "Education issues and student loans should be of interest to students."

As the U.S. Senate race comes closer to the primaries, two campaign managers say they want the student vote.

Steve Thomlison, Attorney General Don Stenberg's campaign manager, said student votes were necessary for a successful campaign.

"Students can have a big impact," Thomlison said. "Student involvement can make a difference as to whether or not we have a Republican senator

See VOTE on 7

Youth vote ✓

Percentage of age group registered (1992)



Election turnout (November 1994)

Electoral Group	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percent Turnout
Lancaster County	120,580	75,723	62.7%
Precinct 3D*	1,733	362	20.9%

*Precinct 3D includes the UNL City Campus

Source: Lancaster County Election Commissioner

Aaron Steckelberg/DN