

Party members debate platform

By Chad Lorenz
Senior Reporter

Same-sex marriages, abortion, V-chips and defense spending were among the platform topics discussed at the Lancaster County Republican Party's platform hearing.

About 20 people attended the hearing where the county party's platform committee listened to public opinion on the county and state Republican platforms. No action was taken on platform planks.

Participants wanted the party to take a platform stand on same-sex marriages.

Dan Howell, 31, said homosexual marriages hadn't been discussed enough because people haven't con-

sidered another possible outcome: homosexual divorces.

"How do you divide property in a same-sex marriage? How do you decide child custody in a same-sex marriage?" Howell said. "There seems to be societal issues that someone needs to address."

Patricia Smith, a former committee member for the National Republican party, said the party should neutralize or remove its stand on abortion because it had divided the party.

"We, as a party, are taking a suicidal approach to this whole question," Smith said.

The party had lost support from Republicans who were pro-choice advocates, she said, and changing the platform would bring them back.

Dick Buntgen, 38, said the party was right to hold its position.

"I think the party should stand on its principles and pro-life is a principle."

Kip Murphy, who was a former Cuming county party chairman, said Republicans believed government had a right to decide on the issue.

Betty Anderson said she thought the platform plank ran contrary to the Republican belief that government shouldn't meddle in people's lives or mix religious beliefs with state matters.

"The government was always and will always be involved in people's lives," Murphy said. "Government cannot get out of all personal issues."

Weather delays station's debut until April 1

From Staff Reports

Complications with the broadcasting tower and the arrival of new studio equipment prevented KLKN, Lincoln's soon-to-be newest television station, from going on the air Monday as planned.

Randal Stanley, KLKN news director, said the station's debut had been delayed until April 1, in part because rain, snow and cold weather had slowed work on the station's tower.

Also, the station received new studio equipment last week, so anchors and crew had to make some adjustments. The extra week will give the news team time to fine-tune its newscast, Stanley said.

In the meantime, viewers soon will be able to watch a 25-minute continuous presentation on channel 8 that introduces them to the news team and the station, Stanley said.

Richard Bates, operations director for CableVision, said the preview would begin airing sometime this week.

Sick

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fungi in the ventilation system somewhere that's giving a person problems," he said. "It's just a matter of finding uniform factors that point to a particular problem."

Phillips said about 15 percent to 20 percent of the United States' population had either allergies or asthma, and those conditions could worsen depending on the climate in which a person works.

"Nebraska is notorious for being a very dry state," he said. "When you have that dust and pollen flying around, that 15 or 20 percent is a lot more evident."

"Whether or not sick-building syndrome is a factor is debatable."

A good example of sick-building syndrome, a term for illness caused by repeated exposure to pollutants in the workplace, is carbon monoxide poisoning, he said. Victims can suffer from dizziness, nausea or even death.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards say fewer than 50 parts of carbon monoxide per million parts of regular air is safe for a work environment. Phillips said that guideline had been easily met by UNL.

"One of the good things about most of the buildings on campus is that they heat air with hot water or steam," he said. "That cuts down on a lot of the potential problems we could have with carbon monoxide."

Phillips said any complaints concerning air quality in campus buildings were dealt with immediately.

Sometimes it is difficult to isolate a single factor responsible for an illness, he said. The agent can range from something as insignificant as dust mites to much larger problems, such as multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS).

According to Neblin, MCS victims react to mixtures of several different chemicals in their work environments. This contact often comes in long-term, low-dose exposures to toxic compounds, making it difficult for even the victims

"A lot of times there's a mold or fungi in the ventilation system somewhere that's giving a person problems. It's just a matter of finding uniform factors that point to a particular problem."

RON PHILLIPS

environmental health specialist

to realize what is making them sick. Victims often suffer from nausea, rashes, diarrhea, respiratory problems and frequent incidences of common allergic reactions.

Phillips said there had been relatively few instances of environmental illnesses at UNL, considering the number of people at risk every day in places such as laboratories and office settings.

Even in the residence halls, where hundreds of students are crowded together in close quarters, he said, it is doubtful that the risk of infectious or environmental illnesses is higher than it would be anywhere else.

"Students are going to come in contact with other students," he said, "but that doesn't necessarily mean they have a better chance of getting a disease. In that situation, it all depends on the hygiene and susceptibility of the people involved."

Phillips said he didn't like to blame too many work-related illnesses on environmental or chemical factors, simply because so little was known about the true nature of such afflictions.

"There's a risk involved for every person working at an institution," he said, "and things like MCS are really recent. There's still a lot to learn about the ramifications and diagnosis of it."

Program gives money for cameras to police

By Kasey Kerber
Staff Reporter

A foundation in memory of slain Omaha police officer Jimmy Wilson Jr. has put Nebraska law enforcement vehicles 100 video cameras closer to a goal of one camera for each vehicle, Gov. Ben Nelson said.

In memory of his son, James C. Wilson Sr. is heading the foundation, which soon will make a \$450,000 donation to the City of Omaha to purchase 100 video cameras for law enforcement vehicles.

"We're well on our way toward our goal," Wilson said. "One day we hope it will be the entire state."

With the donation, officials estimate that 300 cameras soon will be in use in Nebraska. The ultimate goal of the program is to have every call-for-service law enforcement vehicle in Nebraska equipped with a video camera.

The foundation has not yet determined how many cameras will be needed.

"It would make Nebraska the first state to have a video camera in every vehicle," Nelson said Monday at his weekly teleconference.

The program is a joint effort of the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety and the James B. Wilson Jr. Foundation.

Nelson said the video cameras would improve police reporting accuracy, deter criminals from committing violence against police officers and encourage officers to follow procedures more closely.

He said the program also would honor Jimmy Wilson Jr., who was shot in his police cruiser.

"This program will honor the memory of your son," Nelson said to Wilson, "and of every fallen officer."

Look, if you think a talking stuffed moose is pretty amazing, listen to this. I was hanging out with some of the boys the other evening. One of them just bought a new Macintosh. Evidently, Apple is offering incredibly low campus prices on Macintosh computers right now. So he pops in this CD-ROM. Man, you wouldn't believe what this thing could do. No wonder the Mac is one of the most advanced multimedia computers. We're talking sight, sound, full-motion video—the works. Gee, wish I could move like that.

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