

Welfare reform to take time

State officials say federal law will add to paperwork

BY ERIN GIBSON
Staff Reporter

The federal welfare reform bill passed by President Clinton in August will be one more bureaucratic headache for Nebraskans beginning Dec. 1, said Lt. Gov. Kim Robak.

The law created new federal requirements for record-keeping that will burden the state, Robak said. Because of new time limits on benefits, she said, the state will have to keep track of everyone who has received welfare in Nebraska for the rest of their lives.

"We're killing the fly with a sledgehammer," Robak said.

Dan Cillessen, administrator of public assistance for Nebraska, said it will cost more than \$2 million for the state to modify data collection systems to conform with federal requirements.

The Nebraska Department of Social Services currently keeps records on welfare recipients for three years, he said.

Under the new federal law, the state will keep records for about 38 years, he said.

"We will receive about the same amount of money we had in the past, but we have more responsibilities," Cillessen said.

Welfare reforms included in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 require able-bodied welfare recipients to work in return for benefits.

Under this law, recipients cannot receive benefits for more than

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Nebraska public assistance administrator

five years.

But, in spite of the expensive record-keeping required to implement the new law, time limits on benefits will not affect many welfare recipients, Cillessen said.

"We need to recognize that the average person is on assistance for about 13 months," he said. "It's not like a person will say, 'Whoa! I've got another five years.'"

And 26 percent of all Nebraskans on welfare are not capable of employment and are exempt from time limits, he said. This figure includes children and Nebraskans with severe disabilities, he said.

Dec. 1 marks the beginning date for all time limits, regardless of how long a welfare recipient has received benefits in the past, Cillessen said.

Therefore, the state has several years before any recipient is forced to stop receiving benefits, and several years to compile the huge data bases required to keep track of ev-

eryone who has received benefits for 60 total months, he said.

But the costs are high and time is short, he said.

"There is no luxury at this point," Cillessen said. "We have to start right now, because it does take a while to build those systems."

The reforms also require increased record keeping on state-supported programs, such as child care that helps mothers to get off welfare and to work, Cillessen said.

These requirements mean a lot more work for local social services staff, he said.

"It requires a great deal more information," he said. "That's going to create a great deal of difficulties for us."

Interfaces between state data systems across the country must also be established in order to keep track of how long citizens have received welfare, he said, and little has been done to establish such a federal system.

Program takes light look at college students and sex

BY KASEY KERBER
Senior Reporter

"It's the Sexuuualll Feuuuud!"

It wasn't as elaborate as "Family Feud," but Thursday night's "Sexology 101" at the Nebraska Union Crib had all the makings of the popular game show with contestants, prizes and answers to every question.

Sexology 101, sponsored by University Program Council, examined the issue of sex and the college student from a lighthearted, "hands-on" perspective.

The audience of 12 students was divided into four teams that competed against one another. The teams tried to guess the results of an opinion survey filled out by 100 UNL students.

The team that correctly guessed what the majority of poll respondents answered was given a point.

All participants were given a free movie pass at Starship Nine Theatre, and members of the two winning teams received \$5 gift certificates to the University Bookstore.

The content of game questions ranged from "How do you know you're in love?" to "Do condoms really reduce stimulation for guys?"

Some questions were humorous, such as, "What's the most commonly used line?" Neither the first team's, "Let's get a cup of coffee," nor the second team's "Hey baby, what's your sign?" was correct.

Instead, more than a quarter of poll respondents said they didn't know what the most common line was.

Other questions were of a more

personal and sexual nature, such as, "Are you likely to discuss sexual health issues on a date?"

Team one correctly guessed, "Yes," which was the answer given by a slim majority of poll respondents. Thirty-two said they would discuss sexual health issues on a date, while 31 said they would not.

The family feud style of sex education was followed by half an hour of general questions from the audience.

Questions during this period were also of a sexual and personal nature.

They ranged from, "How much do HIV tests cost?" and, "How are they available?" to various questions on oral sex and sexual risks.

Pat Tetreault, a sexuality education coordinator at the University Health Center, fielded the questions. She said knowledge of sexual issues was key. The types and uses of condoms were the subjects of many questions.

"One thing that is extremely important about condoms is that they do fit," Tetreault said.

Tetreault said people should examine condoms before usage. The event also offered baskets of free condoms.

"There really aren't many stringent restrictions placed on how (condoms) are stored or shipped by companies," Tetreault said. "So you should look at them carefully."

The new forms of HIV tests and advantages and disadvantages of each were also discussed.

Tetreault said confidential or anonymous HIV tests were available through the UNL Health Center for \$18.

Juvenile bombers' arrest upsets, shocks principal

BOMBS from page 1

School District will decide how long to suspend the boys after giving them a hearing, she said.

The students won't return to school until after that hearing, Sheppard said. When they return, the school will help them catch up in classes and put the incident behind them, she said.

"I recognize that young people do make mistakes and we're here for them."

Sheppard said she was disappointed and surprised when she found out three of her students were suspected of the bombings because they were so young.

But the incident has shown parents that even 13-year-olds could do something violent and they should watch out

for such behavior, She said.

"I think it puts everyone on alert," she said. "I wouldn't think they'd do something like this."

Sheppard said teachers at Dawes had been told to watch for any suspicious behavior or possible bombs. The district sent a letter to parents telling them to watch their children, she said.

Police are not sure where the fourth boy, a 15-year-old, goes to school, Lincoln police Sgt. Ann Heermann said. He is a brother of one of the students at Dawes.

The pop bottle bombings all took place within 10 blocks of the boys' homes. The boys allegedly placed the 14 bombs last Friday and Saturday nights, going to each place on foot, Heermann said.

Law & Order

A look at crime on campus and in the community

ROBBERY

A 14-year-old boy was robbed of his bicycle Wednesday by a masked man who attacked him in an alley.

The boy was riding his Diamond mountain bike at about 10:38 p.m. through the alley between the Randolph Bypass and F street, from 21st to 22nd streets, Lincoln police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

A man wearing a black ski mask

jumped out from the side of the alley, pushed the boy off his bike and rode away on it, Heermann said.

The boy was not hurt, but the bike and its accessories were worth \$747, Heermann said.

He described the suspect as a black man, about 6 feet tall, with a thin build. He was wearing a dark coat, blue jeans and a ski mask.

BURGLARY

A man who apparently broke into the Stuart Theater Wednesday morning was discovered by a custodian, but fled before police arrived.

The man broke into the theater at 13th and P streets between 2:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. and took a can full of donations for the People's City Mission, Heermann said. Several packages of candy also were missing.

A custodian who had just arrived to clean the theater found the man in a

projector room, Heermann said. The man claimed he was a security guard.

The custodian took the man to the theater office and called the police, Heermann said. The man turned and ran out the north doors.

He was described as a white man in his 40s, about 5 feet, 7 inches tall and thin.

He had shoulder-length hair, a mustache and beard and was wearing a red and white checkered shirt.

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