

Legislature considers concealed weapon bill

GUNS from page 1

in areas with concealment policies decreased three to four times as much as crimes against men, Lott said.

Karl Dailey, Dawes County sheriff and bill proponent, said the right of citizens to defend themselves had become more important as crime rates increased.

"My opinion is that government and law enforcement have been telling people a lie," he said. "We are a reactive group — we respond after a crime happens."

"We can't stop crime. I've never felt that it was our purpose to be Big Brother."

Proponents were met with criticism from Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, a Judiciary Committee member. Chambers questioned the study's ability to establish the fact that concealment laws had caused the decrease in crime rates.

He also drew angry responses from the crowd by ridiculing citizens' desire to carry concealed weapons for protection against crime and asking, "Where is the manhood in Nebraska now?"

Chambers argued that in some

cases, citizens carrying a concealed weapon would respond with unnecessary violence to an encounter.

Other bill opponents questioned the ability of the state patrol to safely issue concealment permits.

Kent Roupf, representing the Police Chiefs' Association, said certain misdemeanors such as domestic violence would be ignored after too short a period of time had passed. He also pointed out the difficulty of conducting background checks.

"We would be lucky to be able to check records of people in the state of Nebraska, let alone people who moved here from foreign countries," he said.

Opponents noted that serial killers like Ted Bundy and Jeffrey Dahmer would have passed the background check because their records were clean until their capture.

Gov. Ben Nelson also announced Thursday that his support of the proposal hinged on the approval of law enforcement agencies.

Chinese New Year honored

BY LINDSAY YOUNG
Staff Reporter

Overcoming the beast of winter and welcoming the spring is the key behind celebrating the Chinese New Year this week.

A seven-hour celebration begins today at the Nebraska Union and will feature traditional Chinese games, food and entertainment.

Wanli Zhang, vice president in charge of communications of the Chinese Student and Scholars Association, said the celebration will be the largest Chinese New Year celebration ever on campus.

The event is sponsored by the Chinese Student and Scholars Association,

the University Program Council and International Affairs.

The celebration on campus will echo some of the celebrating that occurs in China every year, he said.

The Chinese follow a time line of events, starting a week before the holiday. Enough food is prepared for about a month to leave time over the holiday season to visit with relatives rather than cook. Fireworks mark the eve of the Chinese New Year.

Ping Liu, president of the Chinese Student and Scholars Association, said fireworks were one way of Guo Niam, or scaring away the season of winter, known as the beast.

Other ways, he said, include hanging red couplets on the front doors of homes. The couplets are sheets of red paper with lines written in Chinese

characters that speak of happiness and blessing. Peach branches also were once widely employed as a means of scaring away the beast, Liu said, but now are rare.

After the fireworks display, Chinese television stations hold specials late into the night. The next day, people eat dinner and spend time with their relatives.

A sold-out crowd of about 600 is expected to celebrate on Friday, with games starting at 3 p.m. in the Crib and the Colonial Room. The banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by entertainment at 8:30 in the Centennial Room.

Entertainment will include several native Chinese dances, songs, traditional instruments and a Cross Talk.

Injured cheerleader travels to NU game

JENSEN from page 1

this game," Jensen said. "I'm just glad I could join them."

Jensen enjoyed watching the CU cheerleaders perform before and throughout the game. Even though she injured herself during a basic routine, Jensen said she wasn't uncomfortable watching the cheerleaders perform.

Before the game, the Nebraska women's basketball team presented Jensen with an autographed basket-

ball.

"She loved it and had a ball," Lori Jensen, Tracy Jensen's mother, said. "It was her first outing and she did great. But she got tired and actually slept in the car on the way home. She loved riding in the car again and getting out into the fresh air."

At least one of Tracy Jensen's parents have been with her every day since she began her stay at Craie.

Although the doctors haven't given the family much information about Tracy's progress, she expects to return

home to Lyons in April.

"She has an incomplete spinal cord injury and the most positive thing we have heard is it's very incomplete," Lori Jensen said.

Tracy Jensen has to wear a halo-shaped brace, which supports her neck and head, her mother said. The brace makes it awkward for Jensen to walk.

"I'm getting better all the time," Tracy Jensen said. "I don't know, but I'm hoping to be able to walk again. Maybe I will even get to cheer again."



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