

Governor, USDA pair to improve food safety

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The partnership will help make up for a lack of national food safety education spending, she said. President Clinton's Food Safety initiative neglected education, but suggested spending \$43 million on food safety research, she said.

The National Cattlemen's Association, headed by Nebraskan Chuck Schroeder, is also a strong advocate for increasing research funding to develop new E. coli-fighting technologies, she said.

Woteki said she visited two Nebraska meat companies Wednesday, and was impressed by their use of technology, including steam pasteurization of meat, to lower their potential for E. coli contamination. She also praised Farmland Industries in Crete and a Cargill plant in Schuyler for their implementation of strict meat examination processes.

Farmland and Cargill help compose Nebraska's \$4.3 billion beef industry, which accounts for one of every seven private-sector jobs in the state and exports more beef than any other state.

CIA announces annual budget for intelligence: \$26.6 billion

WASHINGTON (AP) — The CIA ended 50 years of secrecy Wednesday surrounding how much the government spends to spy, announcing in response to a lawsuit that the annual budget for national intelligence is \$26.6 billion.

Disclosure came in a one-sentence legal filing by Lee Strickland, a CIA information officer: "In response to the referenced Freedom of Information Act request, the total budget appropriation for intelligence for fiscal year 1997 is \$26.6 billion."

The budget, covering the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, includes the CIA, the National Reconnaissance Office, the Defense Intelligence Agency and other branches of the vast U.S. intelligence-gathering apparatus, as well as tactical military intelligence.

No breakdown of how the money was spent was provided and CIA Director George Tenet said none would be.

"The administration intends to draw a firm line at the top line," Tenet said. "Beyond this figure, there will be no other disclosures of currently classified budget information because such disclosures could harm national security."

Tenet also said the administration would decide on a year-by-year basis whether to reveal overall intelligence spending. Neither Congress nor the administration has provided the intelligence budget for fiscal 1998, but a congressional staffer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was only slightly larger.

To put the intelligence budget in perspective, the total was somewhat lower than what the federal government spent last year on transportation, \$35.9 billion, and health and human services, \$34 billion, not including Social Security.

Despite the lack of details, the Federation of American Scientists, which filed the suit, has been able to construct approximate breakdowns of intelligence spending based on an inadvertent disclosure by the House Appropriations Committee three years ago.

About \$10 billion of the total goes for tactical military intelligence, serving battlefield commanders; the CIA itself gets about \$3 billion; the National Security Agency, which conducts electronic eavesdropping and decoding operations, gets about \$4 billion; the National Reconnaissance Office, which builds and operates spy satellites, gets about \$6 billion.

The rest is divided among a variety of intelligence analysis agencies, such as the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, and intelligence offices at the FBI, State Department, Energy Department and elsewhere.

Plugging the \$26.6 billion figure into an unclassified percentage comparison of intelligence spending published last year by a government review panel indicates spending on intelligence peaked in 1989 at about \$34.5 billion, up dramatically from about \$15.2 billion in 1980. In other words, today's intelligence budget is about average for the last decade of the Cold War.

Nelson, Wendy's join adoption foundation

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Thomas, an adopted child himself, established his adoption foundation in 1992 in an effort to get more children adopted in the United States.

Jann Heffner, executive director of the foundation, said she was pleased to see government and the private sector working together.

"Wendy's is thrilled to join in a partnership where government is at its best in making things better for families," she said.

There are around 90 to 100 special-needs children every year who are looking for placement in foster homes, said Jessie Rasmussen, director of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Each year about 200 children find foster homes through the Department of Health and Human Services system.

The initiative also will let people

know that the state can help with the costs of taking in a child with special needs including monthly financial and medical assistance, Nelson said.

Karon Andretti of Lincoln knows a little about helping the children NebraskAdopt aims at assisting.

A single mother who has already adopted her 5-year-old son, Jacob, through the state program, Andretti was on hand at the governor's hearing room Wednesday with her five children.

"It has been a rewarding experience," Andretti said, holding 17-month-old Tiffany, whom, along with her sister, Kayla, 5, Andretti is in the process of adopting.

"Each one of these children has something special to add to our family," she said.

The toll-free number for people interested in the program is (800) 772-7368.

ASUN inspects union renovation

By BRAD DAVIS
Assignment Reporter

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska senators toured the new \$15 million expansion of the Nebraska Union at Wednesday's meeting.

Daryl Swanson, director of the Nebraska Unions, guided senators around construction materials strewn throughout the site to show them progress made on the expansion and renovation.

Senators began their tour on the second floor, in front of the winding staircase that forms the rotunda, or atrium, that extends from the top of the structure to the bottom floor.

When finished, the top floor will provide space for an expanded food court and new art gallery. Swanson said the art gallery could be used to exhibit student art, permanent university collections or traveling displays.

The union, which is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 1998, will be complemented by a new fountain structure, which will replace the demolished Broyhill Fountain.

Part of the new fountain has been excavated, Swanson said, and a ledge that will serve as fountain seating is also in place.

Next spring, boulders will be transported from a South Dakota quarry and placed in a formation in the fountain, which will have nine water jets, Swanson said.

Swanson said the expansion and renovation would replace many mechanical systems, making the entire structure up to date.

Renovated restrooms, which Swanson called "airport-quality," may open by the last home NU football game, Swanson said.

Union patrons have endured many hassles because of the closure of some union restroom facilities, Swanson said, therefore a

Senator of the Week



Each week, the Daily Nebraskan will feature a member of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

Name: Sara Russell
Age: 20
Year: Junior
Major: Mathematics
ASUN position: Senator, Human Rights Committee chairwoman

Contact information: Call or visit the ASUN office in the Nebraska Union to speak with Russell about student concerns. Her office hours are 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday. Russell said she "lives" in the office, so students could see her any weekday after 3:30 p.m. The office phone number is 472-2581.

Other involvement: Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, campus Red Cross, Pi Mu Epsilon math honorary, Diversity Council and Golden Key.

Why ASUN is important: "ASUN is the voice of the students," Russell said. It's the way students can get their concerns and needs represented, in a formal way, to the administration. Sometimes one student's voice isn't as effective as the voice of all the students."

Responsibilities in ASUN: As Human Rights Committee chairwoman, Russell coordinates the activities of five subcommittees: racial affairs, women's issues, sexual orientation, students with disabilities and international students. "I'm the liaison between these groups and ASUN," Russell said.

Current ASUN projects: "I am working to unify the campus by creating more of a community atmosphere," Russell said. "This is not just a place where you go to school -- you actually interact with each other. People need to work together on an individual and personal level so people can begin to see where others are coming from and not judge them for superficial reasons."

Biggest challenge facing UNL: "There are still a lot of people that have been hurt by things that have happened on campus. We should not forget them, but learn from them," Russell said.

grand opening may be planned for the newly renovated restrooms.

In other ASUN news:

■ President Curt Ruwe asked senators to think of what ASUN could do to support the ideas promoted at the University Nebraska-Lincoln Cultural Diversity retreat held last weekend.

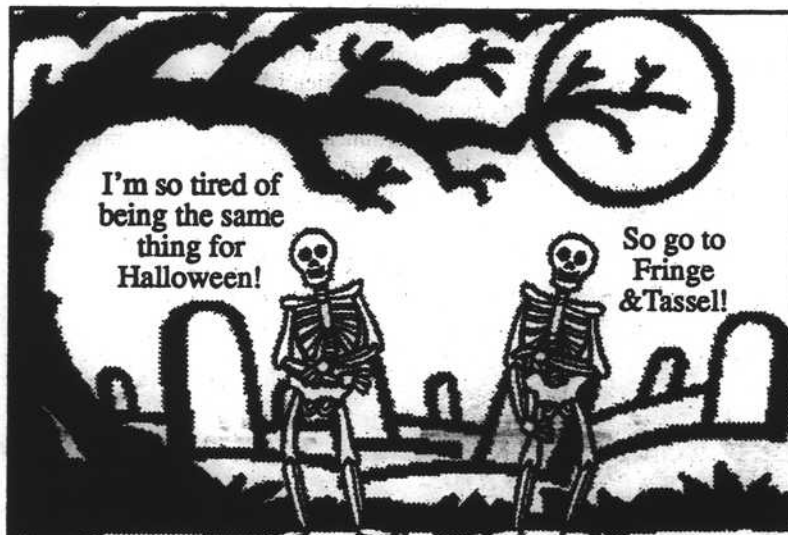
■ Campus Life Committee Chairman Kelly Hoffschneider asked senators to be careful around pedestrian crossings on campus. Hoffschneider is researching pedestrian safety around the Campus Recreation Center and Henzlik Hall.

ASUN

■ Senate Bill No. 2 unanimously passed. This bill recognizes the contribution of Jayne Wade Anderson as the UNL director of greek affairs. Anderson, who is retiring, has worked for UNL for 32 years, and has been director of greek affairs for 25 years.

■ The homecoming pep rally is today on East Campus at the basketball courts at 6:30 p.m. There will be fireworks at dusk.

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Homecoming Specials!! This week only!! Herff Jones representatives will be in the Student Union Bookstore from 10:00-4:00 on Thursday & Friday, October 16th & 17th. Saturday hours are 9:00-12:00.