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Students speak out for visiting teacher

ASUN from page 1

During ASUN's open forum, Paul Kelter, associate professor of chemistry, gave support for his colleague and personal friend.

He encouraged the creation of a special position for McLaughlin if necessary to keep him at UNL.

"Call him something," he said. "Whatever you call him, call him employed."

Many students, including some who have never had him in class, gave glowing reports of their experiences with McLaughlin.

"He has what every college professor should have - a background in education," said Stephanie Schardt, a sophomore pre-medicine major.

"The chemistry department is about to lose the best professor it's ever had," she said as she asked senators to draft legislation to support McLaughlin.

Without discussion, ASUN drafted and passed Senate Bill No. 30 in support of McLaughlin.

McLaughlin's widespread popularity - he is credited as having the highest student evaluation scores ever in the chemistry department - raised questions of who exactly was opposed to his staying, Schardt said.

In an informal vote among the chemistry department's faculty members, 15-1 favored keeping McLaughlin, Kelter said. Kelter did not

"The chemistry department is about to lose the best professor it's ever had."

STEPHANIE SCHARDT
sophomore

say who dissented.

Although McLaughlin has only a week to decide his future at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Arts and Sciences Dean Brian Foster has known of the situation for four months, Kelter said.

Director of Student Judicial Affairs Charles Greene urged students to seek out the "hidden agenda" of the situation.

"When someone tells you no, they need to be able to say why," he said.

Students also suggested beginning a letter-writing campaign to various university administrators to increase support for McLaughlin.

In other ASUN business, senators unanimously passed legislation to use half the money allotted to the Student Involvement budget for improvements in the East Campus Student Involvement Center.

Nelson: Economy is strong and can support a tax cut

From Staff Reports

Gov. Ben Nelson applauded a legislative committee's advancement of his proposed extension of last year's income tax cut.

LB1028, advanced Tuesday by the Revenue Committee, would extend last year's 5 percent income tax cut indefinitely. The 1997 tax cut was scheduled to last two years.

"The strong economy stands as proof that revenues will be sufficient to support a tax cut," said Nelson, who said government fiscal analyses have predicted a \$162 million surplus by the end of June. If passed, LB1028 would mean \$70 million in tax relief, he said.

Still pending in committee is Nelson's proposal to limit the growth of property valuations to prevent spikes in property taxes.

"The strong economy stands as proof."

BEN NELSON
governor

Nelson said LB1028's advancement takes a load off his mind as he prepares to embark on a weeklong trade mission to Argentina with Nebraska business leaders.

"It wasn't until yesterday that I felt comfortable packing my bags for Argentina," he said. But he said he would keep his eye on the Legislature from the Southern Hemisphere.

"Even from South America, I can check to see who's been naughty and nice."

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Preliminary hearings start in Dunagan case

From Staff Reports

An 18-year-old Pius X student and UNL Regents Scholar accused of murdering his father in September appeared in court Tuesday for a hearing to move his trial to juvenile court.

District Court Judge Karen Flowers heard arguments from both sides of Matthew Dunagan's case before requiring written briefs from them.

The lawyers have two weeks to file their briefs before Flowers makes her decision.

Dunagan, who is currently taking classes and is a senior at Pius X, is accused of killing his father with a 12-gauge shotgun in the living room of their south Lincoln home last September.

The elder Dunagan had reportedly abused his wife prior to the incident.

Earlier this year, Matthew

Law & Order

Fire alarm triggered

Fire alarms sounded at the Nebraska Union Wednesday afternoon when a broken fire sprinkler triggered the alarm system.

Cold temperatures caused a sprinkler head, exposed to the elements by the union construction, to break in the bookstore, Union Operations Director Mike Liebhold said.

The water flowing out of the broken pipe caused the pressure in the lines to decrease, which triggered a flow sensor in the alarm and summoned the fire department.

The water also caused minor damage to some of the bookstore merchandise.

Tools stolen from trailer

More than \$11,000 in tools and equipment was stolen from a construction site at 4700 Superior Street over the weekend.

Someone broke into a secured trailer by prying the crossbar off the door, then took saws, drills, screw guns and other tools valued at \$11,585, Lincoln police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

Runza site of arrests

A domestic dispute in a Runza Restaurant led police to two narcotics arrests.

When police arrived at the restaurant, 2501 N. 11th St., they found that Douglas Lannigan, 45, was carrying a needle and that Barbara Schmidt, 38, had marijuana, methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia in her backpack, Heermann said.

Police arrested Lannigan for domestic assault and Schmidt for possession of a controlled substance. When Lannigan was searched at the jail, police found almost a gram of methamphetamine. He also was charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Mailbox explodes

A Lincoln woman found the remains of her mailbox lying in the street Tuesday night after a homemade explosive destroyed it.

When police investigated the incident, they found remnants of a plastic bottle, which could be part of the explosive, Heermann said.

The mailbox was valued at \$20. Compiled by Senior Reporter Josh Funk