

Fewer dependent children on welfare

From staff reports

Fewer families with children received welfare funds in September, Gov. Ben Nelson announced at a press conference Monday morning.

The number of cases handled by the Aid to Dependent Children program dropped by more than 1,000 to its lowest point since 1980.

"This is the direct result of our strong economy, individuals finding employment and the state being responsive to the needs of families and providing them with the kind of support they need to become self-sufficient," Nelson said.

The September decline in the number of cases is a continuation of the general downshift in the number of welfare caseloads the state has seen during the last five years, Nelson said.

He said the smaller number of caseloads has translated into fewer dollars spent per year.

In the past year Nebraska paid out approximately \$52 million through the ADC program, compared to \$66 million in 1993, the highest spending year for the program.

Nelson said the decline in the number of ADC welfare cases was also the result of state welfare reform programs that require recipients to

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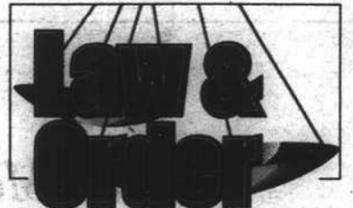
BEN NELSON
governor

participate in the Employment First program.

The program provides training, education and work experience for adults who receive money from the ADC.

"We realized that people had become entangled in the spider web of welfare, in essence become trapped in poverty," Nelson said.

"We knew that what people needed was not a handout, but a hand-up."



Vandals cause water damage
Vandals caused \$60,000 damage to a south Lincoln home last week.

The home, on the 4800 block of South 72nd Street, is for sale and was vandalized sometime between Oct. 20 and Sunday, Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

The property manager found water pouring through the ceilings and flooding the house when he entered it Saturday.

Vandals had left water running in the upstairs sinks and blocked the drains. They also scratched floors and countertops throughout the house.

Damage is estimated at \$50,000 from the water and \$10,000 in other damages.

Five houses vandalized

Five northeast Lincoln homes in various stages of construction were vandalized Friday night.

One house sustained \$12,200 in water and other damage when vandals blocked the drains and ran water in some of the home's sinks, Heermann said.

The other four homes all sustained minor damage from the vandals, who kicked in drywall, wrote messages on windows with glue and bent some heating ductwork. Damage to these four homes totaled \$540.

All of the homes are on Wemsha Street and Wemsha Court, a residential area near the North Forty Golf Course.

Gas 'N Shop robbed

Friday night one man robbed a Gas 'N Shop by threatening the clerk.

At 11:20 p.m. the man entered the 5500 Superior St. store and demanded money from the woman behind the counter, Heermann said.

The man did not pull a gun, but during the robbery the clerk thought he had one.

The robber is a heavyset man of average height wearing a green sweat-suit and a red bandanna across his face.

Compiled by senior staff writer Josh Funk

RHA, Neihardt debate cost of root beer party

By **VERONICA DAEHN**
Staff writer

Because of a lack of communication Sunday night, RHA senators decided to table a bill that would pay for a root beer keg party at Neihardt Residence Center.

The Neihardt Council is planning a party in celebration of the Nebraska vs. Kansas State football game, which will include root beer, deli sandwiches, ice cream and popcorn.

The original bill requests \$120 from RHA funds to be used for the

party. An amendment was passed limiting the amount to \$70, and after further debate, a motion was made to increase that sum to \$95.

"This is going to affect a lot of people," Brian Opplinger, RHA treasurer, said. "I think \$120 is perfectly reasonable."

Larry Willis, speaker of the RHA senate, disagreed. Neihardt will get most of its money back through a deposit necessary for the root beer, he said, but RHA will not.

"We were told all they would need is \$68," Willis said. "So, that's what we recommended."



Laura Sullivan, Neihardt senator, said event coordinators are planning to advertise with their own money and that RHA would be providing less than one dollar a student, as 150 students are expected to attend.

"There was some misunderstanding between myself and the Review and Recommendation Committee," she said. "But, I would definitely

appreciate the \$95."

In other RHA news, a resolution was passed requiring any programs receiving RHA funds to submit a report following their program.

"Since we're giving people money, they should have to come back and say how they did," said Courtney Mears, Smith Residence Hall senator.

The Senate also approved a request from RHA President Ben Wallace to pay for him to go to the Upper Midwest Region Association of College and University Housing Officials Conference from Nov. 4 to 6.

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