

Chambers vows to fight concealed weapons bill

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study by University of Chicago Law School Professor John Lott that found crime dropped in areas allowing concealed weapons permits.

"This is going to be the toughest legislation of any concealed-carry in this country," Schellpeper said. "I think this bill is probably in as good a form ... as it possibly could be."

Sen. Shelley Kiel of Omaha, however, disputed Lott's study, offering statistics of her own showing increased crime in areas with concealed weapons laws - including several arrests of concealed-weapons permit holders in states such as Texas. "We as policy-makers must fight

the effort to put a gun in everyone's pocket or purse to enhance security," she said. "Putting more guns on the street does not reduce crime. Better enforcement does."

Sen. Chris Beutler of Lincoln said concealed weapons could cause arguments to escalate into violence. Domestic disputes, child-custody fights or "road rage" cases could turn deadly if a gun were involved, he said.

"There will be an increase of immediately available, loaded, deadly weapons being handled on a daily basis," he said.

Schellpeper disagreed, saying opponents had exaggerated the bill's potential for inciting violence.

"This won't put one more gun on

the street in this state," he said. "This is just the opposition using scare tactics to keep it from passing."

Janssen agreed, saying the bill contained sufficient safeguards to ensure only law-abiding citizens received permits.

For example, under LB476, applicants must be 21 years old, pass background checks for criminal records and mental health and complete gun-safety training.

Chambers showcased his oft-used filibustering tactics, offering successive amendments to prolong the debate. The amendments, which sought to raise the fee for a permit from \$100, all failed.

Chambers sparred with other sen-

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SEN. STAN SCHELLPEPER

ators, sang a song about people who love guns and denounced what he called an effort by the National Rifle Association and other lobbies to ram the bill through the Legislature.

"Yes, I'll play hardball," he said, "and I believe I'll be the last one standing."

In other news, the Legislature advanced LB835, a bill that would

place requirements and restrictions on meat packers, on a 43-0 vote.

No one spoke in opposition to the bill, but Chambers said he expects to see some soon. He said he would try to increase penalty portions of the bill if packers tried to change it.

Staff writer Shane Anthony contributed to this report.

Buhler earns teaching award

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Caesar," with Marlon Brando as Antony, entrapped him in Shakespeare's world.

Not long after that, he acted in a school play of "Julius Caesar," which immediately prompted him to see Shakespearean literature from the angles of performance and reading.

Buhler grew up watching the Royal Shakespeare Company perform. He was amazed by a production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" where the actors playing fairies floated above the stage on trapezes.

"When you have experiences like that, it's easy to get hooked," he said.

When he entered California State University in Fresno in the early 1970s, he became more interested in music than performance.

He had been playing the guitar since he was about 14 years old, attempting to emulate the guitar greats of that time.

When he taught high school in southern California from 1976 to 1984 he joined a band at the prompting of a student, who was also in the band.

Now he plays occasionally with "The Miltones," a group of Milton fans and musicians from across the country. Last year in San Francisco the group played at the 50th anniversary meeting of the Milton Society of America.

Buhler, who is easily identified by his long black hair pulled into a low ponytail, also plays guitar in his classes. This semester he teaches a 400-level Milton class and Hancock's Shakespeare class.

Recently, Buhler got back into acting when he portrayed Friar Lawrence in the Lied Center for Performing Arts' "Romantic Rhapsody," an adaptation of "Romeo and Juliet."

Buhler's willingness to perform in class is encouraging, Hancock said.

"In a way, he serves as a model because he's not afraid to get himself into it," she said.

Buhler gives a lot to his classes, but he's always learning from his students and from further readings of articles and texts.

"There are worlds within these texts I have not encountered," he said.

Buhler used interactive teaching tactics as a high school teacher and for five years as a professor at the University of California in Los Angeles, where he also earned his masters degree and doctorate in English before coming to UNL in 1989.

Buhler said he could tell his method was effective by reading students' journal responses and by observing their eagerness in class.

"I know it works when I can call on virtually anyone attending and get something that's of value to everyone."

Shapiro said Buhler's theatrical talent is what sets him apart from other English professors, who tend to be less prone to acting out literature in class.

"Steve is a performer. He's obviously an incredibly smart guy, and he's a very gifted scholar. Unlike a lot of us, he's a performer," Shapiro said. "He brings a performer's love of interaction to the act of teaching."

When he's not in the classroom, Buhler said, he spends a lot of time with his wife, Carla, and 8-year-old daughter, Tess. And yes, he also reads Shakespeare in his spare time.

This year is not the first time Buhler has been singled out for teaching excellence. After just a few years at UNL, he won the 1991 award from the arts and sciences college for outstanding teaching. He has also received the Award of Recognition for Contributions to Students four times since 1990.

"I was amazed by it, and I think a lot of people were," Shapiro said of Buhler's 1991 award. "It became apparent that he was extremely effective in the classroom and just really beloved by his students."

"He's one of the brilliant teachers in our midst."

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