

— LEGISLATURE —

# Bill would abolish lottery in Nebraska

By Jill Zeman  
Staff writer

Anyone who's dreamed of winning the Powerball jackpot may not have much more time to do it if a proposed Legislative bill passes.

LB905, introduced Jan. 5 by Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, would eliminate the state lottery beginning July 1, 2001.

The General Affairs Committee discussed the bill Monday and has not voted whether to advance it to the floor.

Chambers said the state should raise money through taxes, not lottery revenue.

"The state is trying to raise money the easy way — by preying on people's weaknesses," Chambers said.

Currently 99 percent of lottery proceeds left after prizes and annuities are paid benefit environmental projects and education, while the remaining 1 percent goes to a fund set up to help compulsive gamblers.

"It's a tragic situation when society will try to take advantage of its citizens," Chambers said.

Sen. Ed Schrock of Elm Creek said the senators need to think of the people of Nebraska when making their decisions, because the people voted to legalize the lottery in 1993.

"Maybe this is an issue that should be put on the ballot for the people to decide," Schrock said.

Pat Loontjer, director of the anti-gambling group Gambling with the Good Life, said the state should not promote gambling.

"How, in good conscience, could the state conduct a business that creates heartache for those who least need it?" she said.

Loontjer said the state needs to set a precedent in eliminating the lottery.

Dan Lambert, chairman of the Excellence in Education Council, testified against the bill and said many schools have benefited from lottery money.

"Lottery proceeds have been important in transforming the educational landscape in Nebraska," Lambert said.

Lottery money has helped improve special education, distance education and curriculum in Nebraska's schools, so if the state lottery is shut down, the school districts will feel a negative impact, Lambert said.

Chambers said he disagreed with the lottery being portrayed positively.

"It's a good thing the lottery supports the environment because some people (who play the lottery and lose) end up living under a tree and catching a fish or two to eat," he said.

Chambers said he was serious about the bill, and if the committee kills it, he will either motion to advance the bill to the floor, which requires 30 votes, or he will add it as an amendment to every bill introduced regarding the lottery.

"This bill is not about morality; it's about the state raising money in a way that doesn't harm anyone," he said.



THE NEW DOLLAR COIN features on its front Sacagawea as a mother carrying her child, and on its back a soaring eagle. The coin is the center of controversy with some American Indians, as they believe Sacagawea did nothing to help her own people.

Heather Glenboski/DN

## New dollar incites debate

By Katie Muecting  
Staff writer

The image of Sacagawea on a new golden dollar coin has received mixed reactions from UNL faculty members.

Released into circulation in recent weeks, the new coin features Sacagawea, a Shoshone who interpreted for Lewis and Clark on their expedition through the Pacific Northwest from 1804-1806.

Sacagawea's image was chosen for the coin through a series of public hearings, focus groups and votes from Americans via a Web site, said Carol Lawrence, a spokeswoman for Rep. Doug Bereuter.

A UNL history professor was involved in the selection of the image that appears on the coin.

Professor Gary Moulton has spent 20 years researching and editing journals on the Lewis and Clark expedition. Moulton, along with 200 others, went to Washington, D.C., to evaluate designs of Sacagawea.

The design that appears on the coin was Moulton's favorite.

"It was so outstanding and so above all the rest," Moulton said.

The coin shows Sacagawea as a mother carrying her child. Moulton was attracted to the positioning of the image and the warmth of the design.

When the final coin design was chosen, Moulton returned to Washington for a reception at the White House. Many American Indians at the reception

seemed pleased with the selection of Sacagawea, Moulton said.

Some members of the American-Indian community were not as pleased, because Sacagawea is a American Indian known for her contributions to the first Europeans exploring America.

Sacagawea did not make things better for her own people, said Frances Kaye, an English professor.

"Many people would say that Lewis and Clark didn't come into this country to do good things for the native people," Kaye said.

Kaye said that honoring Sacagawea on the dollar coin is "kind of a back-handed compliment."

Moulton was not aware of the controversy. He said viewing Sacagawea as a traitor to her race because she assisted Europeans in America would be taking an extreme view.

The Lewis and Clark expedition was a mission of friendship, not a mission of conquest, he said. Sacagawea was not in a threatening situation.

Sacagawea was only about 17 years old, and she would not have thought about the consequences of her actions, Moulton said.

"Moreover, what you're doing is you're trying to place 20th-century assumptions on a woman of the 19th century," Moulton said. "I just don't believe that's fair."

Helen Long Soldier, a Lakota and education specialist Multicultural Affairs office, said most American Indians with whom she has talked approved of using Sacagawea's image.

"I don't think people are going 'Yahoo!' or groaning and moaning about it," she said.

Long Soldier said people must also remember the consequences of Sacagawea's assistance.

"In fact, it did open up this part of the country to a nation of Europeans. That was not good for us," she said.

Some people feel as though Sacagawea assisted with the concept of manifest destiny, Long Soldier said. Manifest destiny declared that the westward expansion of the United States in the 19th century was destined.

Long Soldier said it is important for Sacagawea's name to be as prominent as Lewis and Clark's.

Long Soldier was glad that Sacagawea was honored on the coin, rather than a nameless American Indian.

Long Soldier said the anonymous images on Indian-head coins and in government buildings indicate that people do not understand that historic American Indians were a real culture.

Sacagawea played an important role in American history, said Randy Ross, an American Indian and director for the Indian Center in Lincoln.

Ross said many American Indians deserve honor for their contributions to their own people.

"It is my hope that they can expand the honor to other Native Americans," Ross said. He mentioned people such as Sitting Bull, Red Cloud and Standing Bear.

The coin is available at local banks and Wal-Mart stores.



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**Accused felon found in Iowa**  
Authorities in Sioux City, Iowa, apprehended an armed man Friday who had led Nebraska authorities on a high-speed chase Wednesday.

Lance McDaniel, 34, of Norfolk was taken into custody Friday at about 10:30 a.m., at a motel in Sioux City.

It took authorities 14 hours to convince McDaniel to surrender.

Iowa police learned Thursday night from Lincoln police that McDaniel was in the Sioux City area at a Day's Inn, Police Chief Joe Frisbie said.

Police called off Wednesday's chase just north of Lincoln because McDaniel was driving recklessly.

**Parents arrested for child abuse**  
Saturday night, both parents of three children thought the other parent was watching them, Lincoln Police Ofc. Katherine Finnell said.

Police responded to a call at 2915 Merrill St., where they found a 4-year-old girl, 3-year-old boy and a 1- to 2-year-old boy unattended, Finnell said.

Officers did not know the age of the youngest son, and the parents were unavailable to verify the child's age.

Officers waited at the home for an hour without word from the parents.

At 2 a.m., the mother, Arva Kelley,

31, called police wondering where her children were. They were placed in protective custody, Finnell said.

Kelley said she thought the father, Anthony Kelly, 29, had been watching the children.

Anthony Kelley was contacted and met police at 27th and O streets, where he said he had thought Arva Kelley was watching the kids, Finnell said.

Both parents were arrested for felony child abuse, Finnell said.

**Man accused of exposing self**  
A man was seen fondling himself at Kabredlo's Convenience Store at 1325 South St., on Saturday night.

The man went into the store, purchased a soda and lingered inside the business at about 10 p.m., Finnell said.

The clerk was stocking items when she turned around and noticed the man had his penis out and was masturbating, Finnell said.

The woman asked him to leave, and he left. She called police.

Johnny Palmer, 42, of 1634 Washington St., was arrested for indecent exposure.

Compiled by staff writer Michelle Starr; The Associated Press contributed to this report.