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DN Issues

Utah's newly-created porn czar post leads to questions of free speech and women's issues. **OPINION, PAGE 5**

Lost in Space

How loose animation brings interactive project "Inspace" to the 7th Street Loft. **A&E, PAGE 9**



LEGISLATURE

Research bill advances to floor

Chambers makes vow to filibuster

By Veronica Daehn

Staff writer

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers promised Tuesday to stall a bill banning the use of aborted fetal tissue in research if it were advanced to the floor for debate.

The Legislature voted Tuesday to pull the bill out of the Judiciary Committee.

Chambers, who is notorious for his extensive filibusters, is against the bill.

"I am going to have a ball," Chambers said. "The Legislature during the time this thing is debated will be mine. I can take the full eight hours

myself."

At the end of eight hours, if at least 33 senators vote to end debate, it will end. The senators then can vote on the bill.

LB1405 failed to advance out of committee and onto the floor earlier this month when committee members were deadlocked in a 4-4 vote.

The bill needed 25 votes from the floor to be pulled out of committee. Twenty-eight senators voted Tuesday to place the bill on general file. Two senators were absent.

It generally takes a bill three days to be put on the agenda, so LB1405 could be heard as early as Friday.

Sen. John Hilgert of Omaha introduced the bill in response to the discovery in November that UNMC was using aborted fetal tissue in research of neurodegenerative diseases.

Twenty-seven senators co-signed in support of the bill.

Hilgert said now is the time for the Legislature to take a stand on the issue.

"If we don't do anything about this, there's going to be more and more issues coming down," Hilgert said. "There needs to be protocols and procedures in place."

Sen. Kermit Brashear of Omaha, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, submitted the request to pull the bill.

Chambers said it was the first time a committee chairman had lobbied the Legislature to pull a

bill out of his own committee.

The university needs guidance, Brashear said. "I think of the university as a dysfunctional adult child," he said. "Its learned behaviors are disabling it."

Brashear urged senators to look at the university's history.

Brashear brought up the accusations that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln mishandled American Indian remains and denied doing so. He also said gender equity in hiring and treatment is still not realized.

"We have a critical failure of governance (in the university system)," Brashear said.

This is an issue for the taxpayers of Nebraska,

Please see **FETAL** on 7

Engineer explains disaster

■ Roger Boisjoly talks about decisions made after he predicted Challenger tragedy.

By Derek Lippincott

Staff writer

Fourteen years after predicting one of the greatest tragedies in American history, Roger Boisjoly spoke at UNL Tuesday about what led to the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger.

Boisjoly was an engineer for Morton Thiokol, the company contracted by NASA that was responsible for making the faulty part.

At the time of the explosion, Boisjoly had more than 25 years of experience as an aerospace engineer, yet managers of Morton Thiokol authorized NASA to launch the Challenger on Jan. 28, 1986, despite his warnings.

Boisjoly is renowned for the role he played in trying to stop the launch of the Challenger, said John Ballard, associate dean of the College of Engineering and Technology.

Boisjoly emphasized to the estimated crowd of 300 people gathered in the Nebraska Union that his speech wasn't intended to be a negative program.

"I don't want you to dwell on any of the negatives here," Boisjoly said. "It's really not about the engine failure. It's not about the loss of seven lives. It's about professionalism."

Boisjoly gave a detailed analysis of the problem that caused the explosion of the Challenger. The joints that connected the two four-piece external engines on the sides of the shuttle were faulty, causing improper seals after ignition in cold weather.

"It was a Murphy's law joint," Boisjoly said. "If something can go wrong, it will. You never want to tempt Mr. Murphy. He works on his own time table, not ours."

Boisjoly talked about several previous flights that were successful, but recovered engines showed clear malfunction of the engine joints. The one flight where the engines blew up happened to be carrying

Please see **SHUTTLE** on 6

In bloom



STUDENTS WALK PAST the daffodils near Andrews Hall. Tuesday's high was 48 degrees, and Thursday calls for cloudy skies, possible showers and a high in the low 50s.

Sharon Kolbet/DN

Threatening caller faces jail sentence

"Hopefully it will be taken care of, and there will be no more phone calls, but we can only hope."

Barbara McGill
university police officer

By Michelle Starr

Staff writer

The man who made threatening phone calls to several women across the country last fall, including University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, was sentenced in federal court in New York on Tuesday.

Sean Patrick Francis, 21, was sentenced to 22 months in prison for making threatening phone calls from Middleton, N.Y., to eight different women in five states, including Nebraska, said Mary Jo White, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District

of New York in a statement.

Other victims include women from Kansas, Montana, North Dakota and Oregon.

Francis pleaded guilty on Dec. 21 to an eight-count charge of felony information for more than 75 calls made between Aug. 28 and Nov. 3, 1999, in which he threatened to rape or kill the women, White said.

University Police Ofc. Barbara McGill said in addition to Tuesday's sentence, U.S. District Judge Colleen McMahon put Francis on probation for three years, ordered he receive alcohol abuse treatment and recom-

mended Francis seek psychological treatment.

McGill, who has worked on the case on Lincoln's campus for the past two years, said at least 15 reports from women on UNL's campus were filed last fall.

"I think that (his conviction) is great if that will take care of the problem and make him stop calling," McGill said. "But time will tell."

McGill said she hoped the calls would end, but the judge ruled that Francis will still have phone privi-

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