

Legislature overrides vetoes

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UNL when the university seems to have enough money in the athletic department.

"They are asking for \$13,000 less than what they were going to offer a coach," Chambers said. "No coach is worth that much."

Chambers was referring to the \$1 million offer UNL made to Tulsa Basketball Coach Bill Self on Friday. Self turned it down, opting to stay in Tulsa.

Chambers said there was something out of sync at the university.

"The university is adjunct to the athletic department," Chambers said. "They ought to ask them to take care of Sheldon and the health care."

After senators voted against the package of overrides as a whole, Crosby could have reintroduced the amendment that would have given money to the Sheldon Gallery.

But instead, she withdrew the motion.

Senators did take another look at two parts of the package, however.

The Legislature overwhelmingly voted to approve two amendments that will override Johanns' vetoes on mental health care.

Sen. Jim Jensen of Omaha motioned to override Johanns' veto of additional money for mental health care providers.

"If we don't do anything else today, I want the mentally ill dealt with in a fair way."

Deb Suttle
Omaha senator

Members of the Legislature voted 43-2 in favor of a rate increase of \$2 million a year for agencies that provide mental health care services.

In a 41-2 vote, senators also approved giving mental health care facilities a one-time appropriation of \$250,000.

Omaha Sen. Deb Suttle said it was the state's duty to help the mentally ill.

"We cannot forget about those people who cannot help themselves," Suttle said. "If we don't do anything else today, I want the mentally ill dealt with in a fair way."

Suttle said because the Legislature had set reducing property tax as a priority, it was left with less money to dole out. But mental health is still a main concern, she said.

"Mental health in this state is a mess," Suttle said. "But this body loves to crisis-manage. We've got to override this veto. Putting these people in jail is not the answer."

Dan Siedell, curator of Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, said he was disappointed with the governor's veto.

And despite what happened on the floor Monday, Siedell said the project would get done.

"We'll carry on," Siedell said. "The problem is still there."

Siedell said he would continue to look to the university and the community for help with the project.

Crosby's motion to put money into improving the area of Centennial Mall between M and K streets was also included in the package that failed.

After urging the body to support the package several times during the debate, Crosby also withdrew her motion to vote on the proposal separately.

Before the vote on the package, Appropriations Committee Chairman Sen. Roger Wehrbein of Plattsmouth reminded senators of their priorities.

"We are obligated to run the state," Wehrbein said. "You've said property tax relief is more important, but who is going to take care of the state of Nebraska's situation if we don't?"

Marine case set to begin

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP)—A Marine captain charged in the heat-stroke death of a reservist refused to slow the pace of a night training hike, then left before a head count was completed, a prosecutor said Monday in opening statements at the officer's court-martial.

Marines on the hike testified they were marched so fast that many became overheated and ill and straggled out of the sight of Capt. Victor Arana, 28.

"People were going down all over the place," said Lance Cpl. James Vasser. "I saw Marines in the road vomiting, with cramps in their legs. Myself, I was vomiting the majority of the hike."

A prosecutor, Maj. Chris Hamilton, told the judge that Arana was overheard on the hike saying, "I don't care who dies," and that Arana told his staff as he left after the hike, "Mama ain't waiting up all night."

Arana, from DuPage County, Ill., is charged with failure to obey an order and dereliction of duty in the death last July 7 of Lance Cpl. Giuseppe "Joey" Leto, 21, of New Milford, Conn. If convicted, Arana could be sentenced to nine months in prison and be dismissed from the Marines.

A wrestler and lacrosse player, Leto had just completed his second year at Western New England College when he came to Camp Lejeune for infantry training. Arana led Leto and 179 other Marines, all carrying weapons and packs, on an eight-mile night march in 80-degree heat.

Leto's body was found two hours after the hike ended near a back road at Camp Geiger, a training facility that is part of Camp Lejeune.

Prosecutors contend Arana didn't follow established procedures for training hikes, normally conducted at a slightly slower pace.

UNL steps up efforts to recruit minority faculty

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departments money to help out initially with the hiring of minority faculty members.

The music department hired Gene Smith, professor in the music department and director of jazz activities, through the Target of Opportunities Program.

Smith said he found out about the job through White.

Since coming to UNL in 1997, Smith said he has had a positive experience at the university.

Along with working to bring minority faculty to campus, the college has also had to devise ways to address issues of retention.

It's an issue that needs to be addressed universitywide, some say.

Barbara DiBernard of the UNL Faculty Women's Caucus said retaining minority faculty is one of the biggest problems the university faces.

The caucus was one of the groups who went to Sen. Deb Suttle, chairwoman of the Legislature's Select Committee on Gender and Minority Equity, with their concerns on minority hiring and retention, DiBernard said.

The group is concerned about the number of women leaving the university, she said.

"How many women faculty are leaving?" DiBernard said. "We may still be coming out even (despite new women faculty hires)."

Durst said his college has had to take active steps to make new minority faculty feel welcome and make them want to stay.

Smith was assigned a mentor from the English department when he first came to help him adjust to the university.

As a jazz musician, Smith said he has become connected to others in the community through his jazz performances.

Connecting new minority hires to other minority faculty in the univer-

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UNL Faculty Women's Caucus

sity, as well as others in the community, is vital to retaining them, Durst said.

"We want to make them feel like they have a family in their ethnic group," Durst said. "It is important that they have those connections in that community as well."

Potential faculty members must also be drawn to the programs at the university and the opportunities in the community, Durst said.

For Smith, the draw that brought him to Nebraska from Chicago was the lack of jazz music.

"The reason I came is because I saw the opportunity to bring jazz to this part of the country," he said. "I think I am the person who can bring it."

When asked whether he planned on staying in Nebraska, Smith said he couldn't say.

"It's a business, like everything else," he said. "I hope to stay for a long time, but I can't say where I will be 30 years from now."

So far, Durst said the college has been successful in retaining its new minority faculty.

He said this is because the faculty are not hired for their minority status but because of their expertise.

"It's an important goal to make people recognize we are interested in what they bring to the classroom," he said. "That may be one of the reasons we've had success in getting them and keeping them."

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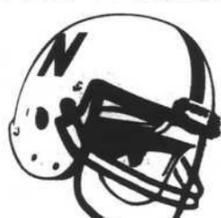
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