

Having a ball



FOUR-YEAR-OLD JOAQUIN VERA reacts to missing a toss with a ball into a cup as sophomore psychology major Ryan Ross looks on. Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, of which Ross is a member, was one of many organizations helping the Mexican American Student Association with the children's carnival as part of Chicano Awareness Week.

Lydia S. Gonzales/DN

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Neighborhood clean-up project needs volunteers

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Habitat for Humanity and S.W.A.T. organization are looking for some hands to help in an afternoon service project on Sunday.

The project, called Hand and Heart, is a local neighborhood clean-up and repair project in the Clinton area. Many homes built by Habitat are also in this area.

Chris Stone, publicity chairwoman for Habitat, said the groups still need volunteers — individuals and groups are welcome.

The event starts 2 p.m. and ends around 5 with a block party. To volunteer, or for more information, call Habitat president Jason Dubs at (402) 472-4526.

Human resources college puts history on display

The history of the UNL College of Human Resources

and Family Sciences will be on display starting today.

After years of planning, fund raising and sorting pictures, the college will dedicate its project at 7 p.m. in the Home Economics Building Auditorium on the East Campus.

Alumni will be on hand for the event.

The first course in the college was offered in 1894.

Since then, many milestones were set, including the first U.S. child development laboratory.

Also, in the 1940s, Ruth Leverton was the first researcher to use humans in studies and to use a metabolic laboratory.

She is known for her research determining the requirements for essential amino acids in the human diet.

The college's name was changed from the College of Home Economics to the College of Human Resources and Family Sciences in the 1990s.

The event is open to the public.

Grogan leaves race

GROGAN from 1

"I think each candidate other than me thinks it will magically benefit them," he said. "It just throws everything up in the air."

Stenberg and GOP Senate candidate Dave Hergert, a Scottsbluff agribusinessman, could not be reached for comment.

Robert Sittig, a political science professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said he could not predict whether one candidate in particular might benefit from Grogan's departure.

One lesson from Grogan's campaign, Sittig said, is that political newcomers face a variety of pitfalls. Hagel, Sittig noted, reportedly told Grogan to prepare for intense scrutiny of his past.

"The opportunity for missteps is much greater for neophytes and amateurs, and (Grogan) is certainly in that category," he said. "He should have followed up on the advice Hagel apparently gave him."

The public is not well-served when candidates' pasts are not scrutinized until late in a campaign, Sittig said.

LEGISLATURE

Four departing senators honored for their service

By Jill Zeman

Staff writer

Members of the Legislature said goodbye to four departing senators Wednesday on the final day of the legislative session.

Omaha Sen. Shelley Kiel is stepping down but will try to carry on her lawmaking skills as she is running for Nebraska's 2nd District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sen. Deb Suttle of Omaha presented Kiel with a plaque honoring her for four years of service as a senator. Each departing senator received a personalized plaque in the shape of Nebraska.

"It's been an honor and pleasure to serve with you," Suttle said.

Lincoln Sen. LaVon Crosby said though she is leaving the Legislature after 12 years as a senator, she will still be keeping tabs on her peers' progress.

Sen. DiAnna Schimek of Lincoln, who also became a state legislator in 1988, spoke of the time she spent with Crosby.

"She loves the arts," Schimek said. Crosby made that apparent in her final speech to the senators.

"I do appreciate the plaque so much, but I would have rather had the money for Sheldon (Memorial Art

Gallery) or Centennial Mall," she said.

The Education Committee will need to find a new leader, as its chairwoman, Sen. Ardyce Bohlke of Hastings, is also stepping down.

Sen. Bob Wickersham of Harrison, a member of the Education Committee, said Bohlke thought her most significant impact was her service to constituents.

"Well, Ardyce, I think that's the way we should do this business," he said.

Wickersham said Bohlke will continue to be involved even after her term is over, and he said she convinced him to attend a convention in Madison, Wis., about teachers' pay.

"My guess is, Sen. Bohlke, you're not going to leave schools alone, and my guess is, Sen. Bohlke, you're not going to be able to leave us alone," he said.

The fourth senator to leave the Legislature is Sen. Jerry Schmitt of Ord, who was recognized by Sen. Ed Schrock of Elm Creek.

"Jerry has focused on constituents, farms and small schools," Schrock said.

Schmitt said he looks forward to life after the Legislature.

"I'm going fishing," he said.

Legislature Notebook

Override issued Wednesday

Senators got a last triumph this legislative session. They passed an override to a veto by Gov. Mike Johanns during the session's last day Wednesday.

Legislators voted 45-1 to override the governor's veto of LB956, which will provide salary increases for several elected positions:

Governor: \$65,000 to \$85,000; lieutenant governor: \$47,000 to \$60,000; secretary of state: \$52,000 to \$65,000; attorney general: \$64,500 to \$75,000; state treasurer: \$49,500 to \$60,000; state auditor: \$49,500 to \$60,000; public service commissioners: \$42,000 to \$50,000.

The salary increases will take effect on Jan. 9, 2003, the first day the elected officials start their term.

The motion to override the governor's veto was made by Sen. DiAnna Schimek of Lincoln, and the only senator to oppose the vote was Sen. LaVon Crosby of Lincoln.

Crosby said a raise should be given to state employees rather than constitutional officials.

Bill creates college savings plan

Students hoping to find more ways to save money to attend college moved a step closer Tuesday when lawmakers passed a bill that establishes a statewide education savings plan.

Sen. Ed Schrock of Elm Creek said he introduced LB1003 to help put his grandchildren through college and give other Nebraskans the same chance.

Schrock based his plan on College Savings Iowa, the plan Iowa uses.

Nebraska's plan would add 10 percent to the money deposited in the savings account for students who attend school in Nebraska.

A minimum of \$300 must be deposited each year, the bill states.

Students would not receive the additional 10 percent if they chose to go to school out of state.

The bill was passed by the legislature but could be vetoed by Johanns within the next four days.

Bill provides \$40,000 to study

An additional \$40,000 could be provided for a study on the fairness of the death penalty because of a bill senators passed Tuesday — if the governor does not veto it.

LB1008, introduced by Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, also extends the deadline for the end of the study to August 2001.

The Legislature ordered a study last year to see if factors such as race, religion, sex or economic status affect who is executed.

Earlier this session, there was a bill that would have changed the method of execution to lethal injection.

No action was taken on that bill this session, after the Supreme Court failed to review a Florida case challenging the constitutionality of the electric chair used in the death penalty.

Compiled by staff writers Veronica Dahn and Jill Zeman



Man arrested for robbery two days in a row

A man who was arrested Monday for stealing money from a tanning salon also was arrested Tuesday for a robbery at Flowerama.

Mathew Birchett, 23, of Beatrice allegedly entered the flower store, at 5305 O St., at about 6 p.m. Saturday and took an undisclosed amount of money at knife point, Lincoln Police

Ofc. Katherine Finnell said.

At the time of his arrest on Tuesday, Birchett was being held in Lancaster County Jail for allegedly stealing about \$600 from the Tanning Zone, 220 N. 66th St., on Monday, Finnell said.

Birchett did not use a weapon in the incident at the Tanning Zone, Finnell said.

Compiled by staff writer Michelle Starr

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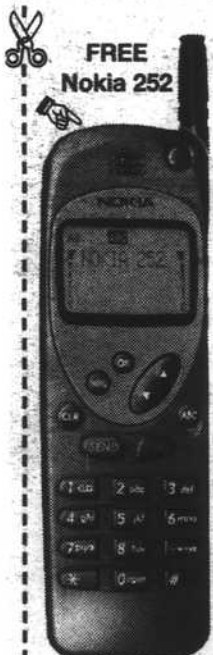
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