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EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND

Thursday

- Alpha Gamma Rho Philanthropy BBQ 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- AZ Quiz Bowl 5 p.m.
- Rodeo Queen Contest 7 p.m.

Friday

- UNL Rodeo 7 p.m. at Saunders County Fairgrounds
- Rodeo Dance 9:30 p.m. at Starlite Ballroom in Wahoo

Saturday

- UNL Rodeo 1p.m. at Saunders County Fairgrounds
- UNL Rodeo Dance 9:30 p.m.

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Senators: Lobbyists essential

LOBBYING from 1

of salt until he hears the other side of the story from an opposing lobbyist.

"Too often (lobbyists) are one-sided," Beutler said. "If I see two of them, I know I'll get both sides."

Beutler and Landis agreed that lobbyists are essential. There is too much information for one senator to gather alone.

Lobbyists are necessary, Beutler said, to inform senators about the logistics behind a specific bill. Without them, it would be impossible for senators to learn everything they needed to know about bills.

Joe Jordan, a reporter from KMTV 3 in Omaha, said he calls lobbyists first when covering a bill.

"Lobbyists know the bills better than the senators themselves," Jordan said.

"Quite often, it's the lobbyist who writes a bill that the senators later vote on."

The Legislature passed a bill this session that increases the number of gifts given to senators from lobbyists that have to be reported.

Larry Ruth, a private lobbyist of the Legislature, said he gives up to \$5,000 a year in gifts to senators.

The definition of gifts is broad, Ruth said.

It includes food, drink and entertainment, among other things.

Though the recently passed bill might make lobbyists report more spending, Ruth said, it won't affect the number of gifts he gives.

But there's been massive over-reporting by lobbyists anyway, because none of them want to break the law, he said.

Beutler said Nebraskans have a

"Lobbyists know the bills better than the senators themselves."

Joe Jordan
KMTV 3 reporter

misperception about the gifts senators accept from lobbyists.

"Let me tell you what annoys the hell out of legislators," he said.

"All this wining and dining stuff. In a 90-day session, we get invited out every day of the week, and after the first few, it's a drag. We'd just as soon it all went away."

Former coach sentenced in Texas

By Michelle Starr

Staff writer

A former University of Nebraska cross country coach was sentenced Monday to six months in jail and 10 years probation for indecency with a child in Texas.

Michael Marsh, 35, was convicted April 13 in Mesquite County Court for fondling a 16-year-old girl's breasts in January 1999 in the hallway of Mesquite High School in Mesquite, Texas, said Mesquite Police Sgt. Mike Bradshaw.

Marsh, who had worked at the school for five years, was working as a

track coach at the time of the incident, and it was not the first time he had been accused of inappropriate conduct.

Another female student at the school brought sexual assault charges against Marsh in the spring of 1999, but the case was dropped during the trial last summer because of conflicting testimony from the alleged victim, Sgt. Joel Martin told the Daily Nebraskan in January.

Marsh was put on paid leave from the high school when the first charges were filed and resigned from his position during the investigation in the summer.

Ian Halperin, Mesquite Independent School District spokesman, was unavailable for comment.

Marsh moved to Lincoln, where he volunteered for a portion of the 1999 NU cross country season, and the second round of allegations, which led to the conviction, were brought in the fall.

Marsh was arrested Jan. 20 at Lincoln's Sports Courts, 222 N. 44th St., where he worked as a personal trainer.

The second-degree felony of indecency with a child is punishable by two to 20 years in jail and/or a \$10,000 fine, according to Texas law.

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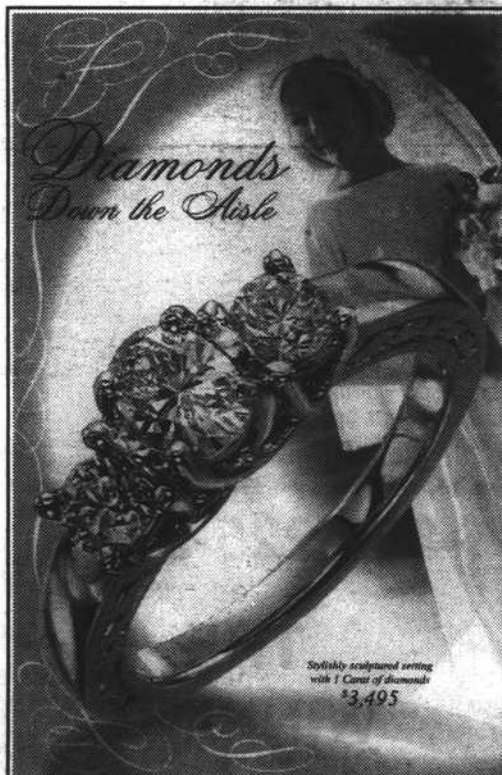
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