

Daily Nebraskan

Cool conversation: Karen Brown brings a new suggestion for the required curriculum in Opinion/4



Lord, not Crouch, will lead the Husker offense this spring in Sports Tuesday/10



Art of the couch potatoes in Arts/8



WINTER REMINISCE: Connie Lintz and Dugan go on their daily walk in Irvingdale Park Monday afternoon.

Jennifer Lund/DN

Legislature

Bill aims to curb violence

BY GWEN TIETGEN

Before the school violence that's plagued some areas of the country hits Nebraska, state lawmakers will try to prevent it.

One of several senators speaking out against school violence this session is Sen. David Landis of Lincoln.

Landis introduced the School Violence Prevention Act and designated it, LB740, as his priority bill for the session.

Sen. Ron Raikes of Lincoln, chairman of the Education Committee, said the bill would be discussed in an executive session today.

While no one testified against the bill in the committee hearing, Raikes said he needed to clarify what exactly would be accomplished by the bill. "What would this bill change?" Raikes asked.

"The bill is on a topic of general interest and doesn't require lots of money, which is always good," he said.

The bill would establish a grant program that would work to enhance the conflict management skills of students and teachers.

The State Department of Education would administer the grant program that would give Nebraska schools \$250,000 each year for five years to build comprehensive management programs in schools.

Just one day after the bill was heard in the Legislature's Education Committee on March 13, Omaha and Lincoln schools were kept busy with threats of violence.

At Burke High School in Omaha, a freshmen girl was arrested Wednesday after making threats to blow up the building.

Students alerted school officials about the girl's threats.

The girl was arrested on suspicion of making terrorist threats and expelled from school for two semesters.

Luanne Nelson, Omaha Public Schools spokeswoman, said schools work to prevent school violence through conflict-management programs and plans designed to deal with crisis situations.

Omaha schools hold a zero-tolerance policy against any weapons brought into the schools.

"Our conflict-management programs teach students to deal with conflict in a peaceful manner - verbally, not physically," Nelson said.

Please see **VIOLENCE** on 6

Former Husker suspect in murder

■ The death of an Omaha man results in the arrest of Abdul Muhammad, who played football for NU from 1991 until 1994.

BY JILL CONNER

A former Nebraska football player remains in jail for suspicion of the murder of Robert Paylor IV. Meg Fricke, a spokeswoman for the Omaha Police Department said Abdul Muhammad, 28, turned himself in to police Saturday night for questioning about the murder that occurred earlier that same evening.

Muhammad played football for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from 1991 to 1994 and later worked for the UNL Athletic Department as an undergraduate assistant coach.

Fricke said the murder occurred shortly after 5 p.m. Saturday evening at 4517 Jaynes St. in northwest Omaha.

Paylor's wife, Shirley, said she went outside to check out what she thought were firecracker

sounds and found her husband on the front steps of a house a few doors away.

Shirley Paylor said she held her husband's head in her arms as he died.

Fricke said Paylor was taken to St. Joseph Hospital where he was pronounced dead, a result of the bullet wounds.

After Muhammad came to the police to talk about the crime, he was booked around noon on Sunday, she said.

"He's been arrested, but the county attorney hasn't filed any formal charges," Fricke said.

Paylor was involved with gangs and served time in prison before he changed his ways, she said.

Fricke said Paylor still had a bullet in his buttock, the result of a drive-by shooting in Compton, Calif., in 1993.

Paylor was a member of the Mad Dads G Crew program, a support group for former gang members.

"He always tried to change, but things were catching up with him," his wife said.

Fricke said Muhammad had been arrested

"He's been arrested, but the county attorney hasn't filed any formal charges."

Meg Fricke

Omaha Police Department

before in Omaha.

Although he paid a fine for carrying a concealed weapon in 1997, Fricke said Muhammad was placed on probation in 1997 after he was convicted on a separate drug charge.

His probation ended in 1998, she said.

Former Husker football Coach Tom Osborne would not comment about Muhammad's arrest on Monday evening.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Food pyramids used to teach students about nutrition

■ ★□◆▲※ dining services are using the creations to demonstrate that good health means bal-

BY MARGARET BEHM

Pyramids are being built, not in Egypt, but right here on campus.

As part of National Nutrition Month in March, food guide pyramids are being built on campus out of donated food.

Pam Edwards, assistant director of Housing Dining Services, said all of the housing dining halls on campus and Burr-Fedde Residence Hall would have food guide pyramids.

The program was organized by the good Nutrition counts committee. The committee is made up of seven staff members from housing dining services.

The staff of the dining halls will build the pyramids to mirror the actual Food Guide Pyramid.

The pyramids will be displayed on stages that were constructed in all the dining halls. Burr-Fedde, which doesn't have a connecting dining hall, also will be displaying a pyramid inside the residence hall.

The pyramids will be on display until March 28.

There are grocery carts inside the entrances of all the dining halls in which non-perishable food items can be donated.



Jennifer Lund/DN

Students in Harper/Schramm/Smith can add to the food pyramid in the dining hall. Residence halls are collecting canned food for the Lincoln Food Bank.

Everyone is encouraged to donate non-perishable food items, Edwards said.

"This isn't just a student event," she said. "It could encompass the whole university."

All the food will be donated to the Food Bank of Lincoln after March 28.

The residence hall that collects the most items will receive the "You CAN and DID make a difference award." This is the first year the award will be given. The award will be presented by

Wende Baker, an executive director of the Food Bank of Lincoln Inc.

The purpose of National Nutrition Month is to remind people that they are what they eat, Edwards said.

"It's to encourage and educate the public to develop healthy lifestyles," she said.

The Food Guide Pyramid is a guide to use so that people remember to eat a variety of food, Edwards said.

Please see **PYRAMID** on 5

Both parties working for soft money reform

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — With a blend of street theater and speechmaking, the Senate raised the curtain Monday on the free-wheeling debate over legislation to limit the role of money in politics.

"It's time to end business as usual," said Sen. John McCain.

"If people think money in politics is so pernicious, they should change the First Amendment" and its guarantee of free speech, countered Sen. Mitch McConnell, McCain's foe through long years of political sparring over the issue.

The debate marked the sixth time since 1995 that McCain, Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and other lawmakers have pushed a campaign finance measure to the Senate floor. Two weeks were allotted for debate, a departure from previous years when Republican leaders set out to kill versions of the bill as quickly as possible.

There was agreement on all sides that predictions on the outcome were futile. "I think it would be easier to predict who's going to win the NCAA (basketball) tournament," said McConnell.

The legislation would ban so-called soft money, the loosely regulated, unlimited donations that unions, corporations and individuals make to the political parties. It also would restrict certain types of political advertising broadcast within 60 days of an election or 30 days of a primary.

Together, the two parties raised more than \$480 million in soft money in the last two-year election cycle. Separately, candidates of both parties were bombarded with attack ads financed by outside groups, com-

"I think it would be easier to predict who's going to win the NCAA (basketball) tournament."

Mitch McConnell

senator

mercials that escaped disclosure because they did not expressly advocate the election or defeat of any individual politician.

A rival measure, advanced by Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., and encouraged by the White House, would limit soft money donations but not ban them. It also would raise the limits, unchanged since 1975, on donations that individuals may make to candidates.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi, a supporter of past filibusters against versions of the bill, told reporters that if anything passes in the Senate "it will be an amalgam of those two bills and other ideas that are pending out there."

Prior to the debate, McCain and Feingold staged a bit of senatorial street theater, walking from the Capitol to the front steps of the Republican National Committee headquarters building and then to the Democratic headquarters.

"If we fail to pass this bill, history will remember that this Senate faced a great test and we failed," Feingold said after formal proceedings had begun on the Senate floor.

Please see **REFORM** on 6