

# Daily Nebraskan

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## Regents resolve to remain elected

By Pam Alward

The UNL Board of Regents approved a resolution Saturday to oppose any legislative action that would make the board an appointed body.

State Sen. Karen Kilgarin of Omaha proposed a legislative resolution that would create constitutional amendments placing the regents' under control of the Nebraska Legislature at the start of the 1984 legislative session.

"Article VII, section 10 already provides that the authority and responsibility of the Board of Regents to govern the University shall be 'under the direction of the Legislature,'" a resolution passed by the board stated.

The resolution also said the Board of Regents has always acknowledged that the Legislature has complete control of the money which is to be appropriated to the university from the general revenues of the state.

It also states that the best interests of the state are represented by elected Regents who are directly accountable to Nebraskans.

Regent Edward Schwartzkopf of Lincoln, newly elected Chairman of the Board, said that appointing regents to the board would interfere with representative government, where the people have to choose

their regent.

Student Regent Matt Wallace agreed, saying elected regents feel a sense of obligation to the taxpayers which appointed regents may not feel.

"The system we have now is working very well," Wallace said.

Regent Nancy Hoch of Nebraska City said the regents have more time to keep better informed than have the legislators with their many responsibilities.

Wallace also mentioned the time factor. Regents "spend a great deal of time" on their duties which the legislators simply cannot do, he said.

Regent James Moylan of Omaha said policy decisions need to be made monthly, which legislators also do not have time to do.

"I think history has shown the university system requires a separate board of policy-makers for educational matters over the course of the whole year," he said.

LR225CA calls for the regents to be appointed by the Governor with the Legislature's approval. The amendment is co-sponsored by Sen. David Newell of Omaha and Sen. James Pappas of Hershey.

A second Kilgarin amendment, LR238, would eliminate the board and the State College Board of Trustees, and place control of all Nebraska colleges and universities under absolute legislature control.

The Legislature should have control of the boards, Kilgarin said, because the senators are "obviously closer to the people."

"We have smaller districts," she said. "We are much more visible." Consequently, they can respond better to what the public wants at the university, she said.

Until the 1977 Supreme Court decision which set the regents in control over the university, the Legislature controlled the university for 105 years through legislative oversight, Kilgarin said.

In that time, the Legislature never "attempted to meddle in the inner workings of the university," Kilgarin said. However, the Legislature could listen to public opinion, and did have the ability to specify where the total dollar amounts would go, she said.

The amendment is now being heard by the Constitutional Revisions and Recreation Committee. A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, 1:30 p.m., in 1019 Capitol.

If the amendment passes in committee, then in the Legislature as a whole, the public must vote on it before it is added to the Constitution. It is ultimately up to the voters to accept or reject the idea of a Legislature-controlled board, Kilgarin said.

Last year a Kilgarin-sponsored amendment to regain legislative oversight over the board failed in committee 4-3.

## Wick brick battle burgeons

By Jonathan Taylor

Despite the threat of a lawsuit, John M. Miller, executive vice-president of the UNL Alumni Association, said a new contractor may be picked for the Milton I. Wick Alumni Center this week.

Miller said the Universal Surety Co. has taken over the building and is responsible for picking the new contractor. Miller said he hopes the Wick Center still can be completed by early summer.

Harold G. Wright, the former contractor for the Wick Center said Friday he plans to file a lawsuit claiming breach of contract against the UNL Alumni Association. The association terminated the contract of the Harold G. Wright Co. Dec. 2.

Wright said the main reason the Alumni Association terminated his company's employment was incorrect masonry work toward the rear of the building. He said the Alumni Association breached the contract by declaring his company in default. The suit will not be filed within the next 30 days

in order to give the Alumni Association a chance to negotiate.

The brickwork had been completed for several weeks and was first noticed by an Alumni Association member. "In my opinion, and in the opinion of three different independent experts, it (the problem with the brick) was insignificant," Wright said.

He said the mistake would not affect the building structurally, but would affect the building's appearance. "To look at the building... you couldn't find it (the problem of the bricks)," Wright said.

Miller said the contract had a performance bond which guaranteed the Wick Center be completed as designed.

Wright said he was told to tear down the incorrect masonry work and "do it over and over again," until it came out right. He also said there would be a problem matching bricks and mortar with the surrounding area. Wright called the repair an "impossible job."

He said the present defect is not noticeable, but would be if new bricks were installed. The new mortar would also be a slightly different color because the temperature and humidity would not be the same as when the original mortar was mixed.

## State senators back drinking age raise

By Brad Kuhn

The Nebraska Legislature gave first-round approval Jan. 12 to LB56, a bill that would raise the legal drinking age to 21 on Jan. 1, 1985.

Because of a grandfather clause, persons who are already 20 years old at that time will still be allowed to drink legally.

Before becoming law, the bill must pass two more floor votes before going to Gov. Bob Kerrey for approval.

Bill sponsors Sens. William Nichol of Scottsbluff and Howard Peterson of Grand Island said raising the drinking age would reduce the number of drunk-driving fatalities in Nebraska.

Nichol said studies show at least 60 percent of the fatally-injured teenagers have alcohol in their blood. Michigan and Illinois have had decreases in the number of drinking and driving incidents involving young people since they raised their drinking ages, Nichol said.

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Dave Trouba/Daily Nebraskan

## Only five trips left...

Is this a spin-off of the bag lady? Not really. Paul Schumacher, a junior business major, is one of the horde of students who moved his belongings back to UNL Sunday afternoon. Students have been moving since Wednesday. Schumacher lives in Abel Hall.

Monday

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