

# Daily Nebraskan

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Monday, January 11, 1981

Vol. 108, No. 1

Lincoln, Nebraska

Copyright 1982 Daily Nebraskan

## Railroad, safety officials enforce trespassing laws

By Ward W. Triplett III

Unnecessary safety risks by students crossing railroad tracks running west across 14th Street has prompted railroad officials and Nebraska safety officials to begin enforcing trespassing violations.

According to Charles Faulder of the Nebraska Public Safety Commission, people who cross the railroad tracks at points other than designated crossings may be subject to arrest in the future.

"We are concerned with the safety of the students," Faulder said. "We want to start taking preventive measures now to ensure that the type of risks students have been taking with the trains stop before someone is seriously injured or killed down there," Faulder said.

Complaints directed to campus security by conductors and engineers of the Missouri Pacific Railroad were the reason for the emphasis of the trespassing law.

"Engineers often make up trains in that stretch of track, which is perfectly legal for them to do," Faulder said. "But there has been a problem with students crawling under or between the trains to get to the other side. When that happens, the engineer can look back and not see anyone underneath the train and start moving," Faulder said.

### Point emphasized

To help emphasize its point, the railroad invited Faulder and Nebraska Public Safety Commissioner Harold Simpson to ride with them on an engine pulling a train on the 14th Street to 17th Street stretch. In two hours, Simpson said, they saw more than 50 people going under the end cars on the train.

"What really got to me was one guy was hoisting his bicycle over the couplings of two cars," Simpson said.

"That is absolutely ridiculous when you don't know when the train is going to start up again," Simpson said.

The trains' habit of moving back and

forth on the tracks is admittedly a hindrance to students, Faulder said, but the railroad cannot legally block the crossing for more than ten minutes, so students should still go to the crossing.

Paper signs will be placed on several poles along the train tracks to warn students of the trespassing violation this week, and they will be replaced with permanent signs later in the year.

Terry Kubicek, executive secretary of the safety commission, said anyone placed under arrest by campus security or railroad agents could be subject to criminal trespassing charges or civil charges.

"The penalty would be up to the frequency of the action, the vigor of prosecution and the judge," Kubicek said.

### Civil damages

"If the railroad wants to set examples, they could ask for \$100, \$200 to \$500 in civil damages. A first offense wouldn't be anywhere near that, but they could still seek nominal damages," Kubicek said.

The rule, which would stand even if there were no train engines anywhere on the tracks, would cut off a short cut route students going to and from the Harper-Schramm-Smith residential complex have come to use frequently.

"We know it will be hard to break peoples' habits," said Faulder. "But we somehow have to impress on them that they're trespassing, and it is dangerous to their health."

Although Faulder was not aware of any injuries that had occurred on the university campus, he said the situation was right for one to happen.

"Unfortunately, sometimes that's what it takes, but we want to stop this before anything like that happens," Faulder said.

"Our views are totally from a safety standpoint," Simpson said. "We're not worried about the lawsuits in his office, but about the health of people trying to cut through there to save a minute or so," Simpson said.

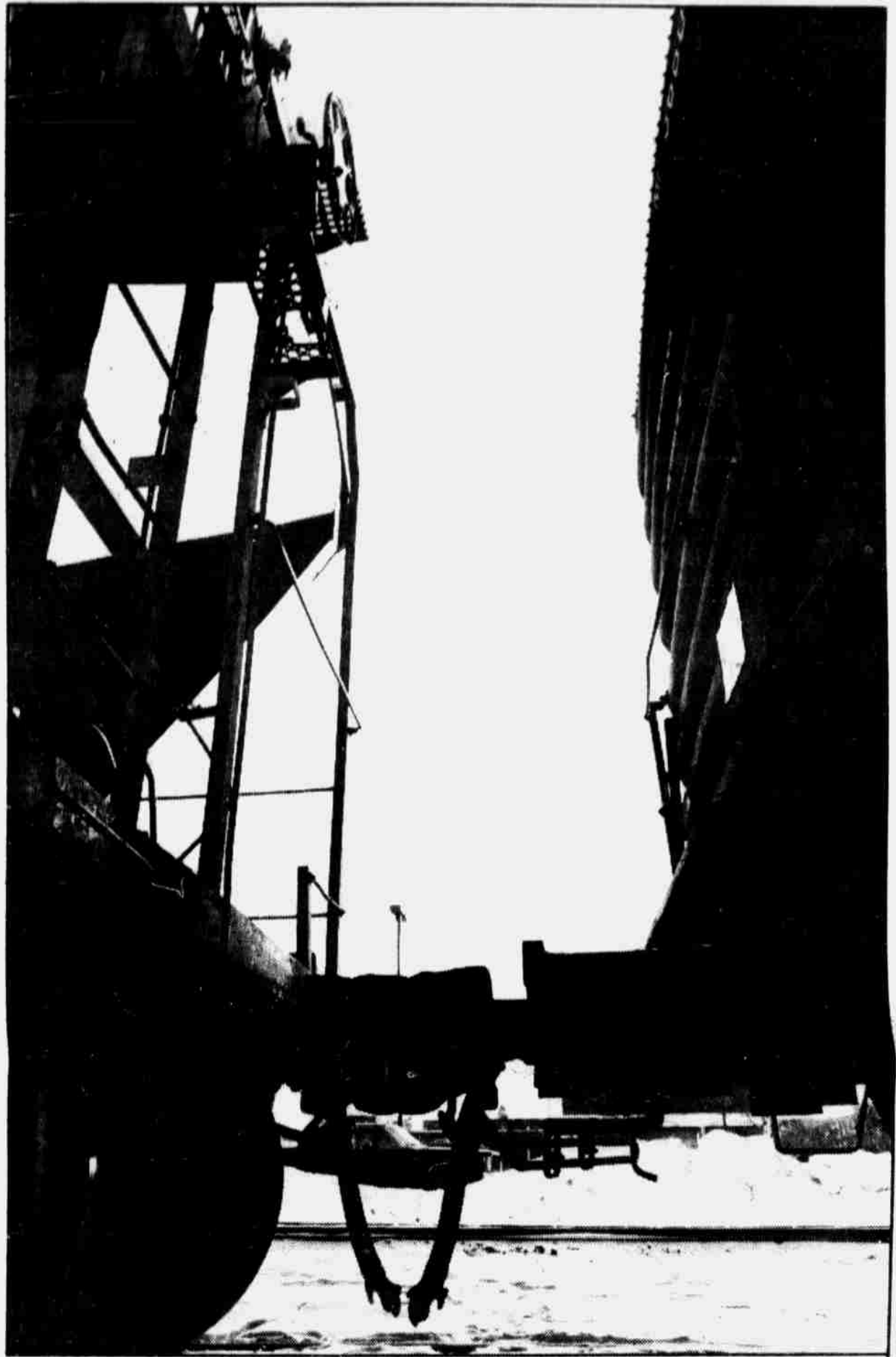


Photo by Jodie Fields

The space between these Missouri Pacific railroad cars near 14th Street will be off limits to students when railroad officials begin enforcing trespassing laws.

## Several state legislators optimistic for vet school funds

By Alice Hrnicek

Although the requested \$14 million in federal funds for the proposed regional veterinary school at UNL is in doubt this year, several state senators said the Nebraska Legislature should continue its plan to allot \$1.3 million for the project.

Agriculture Secretary John Block last week said he would not seek the federal aid because of the economy in spite of a federal study showing the need for the school.

But Sen. Maurice Kremer of Aurora said state money should be available as a "show of good faith." That would make the federal government more likely to grant funds within the next several years to help with the \$29 million project.

"If we don't have it available, that might be a deterrent (to federal funding)," Kremer said.

Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly, appropriations committee chairman, however, warned that a commitment of state funds would bind up money that could be used for more immediate purposes because the state would have to wait for Congress to act before it could use its money.

In 1981 the Legislature passed a bill that would start construction of the school if at least two other states, the federal government and private industry commit funds to the project by Dec. 31, 1983.

The Legislature also allotted \$1.3 million as part of the state's share during the 1981-1982 fiscal year.

However, during November's special legislative session, Gov. Charles Thone requested that the funds be cut because they would not be needed before June 30.

Thone is expected to include the \$1.3 million in this year's budget request, despite the threat to federal aid.

The Agriculture and Environment Committee will attempt to extend the deadline for federal aid by one year

to Dec. 31, 1984 through LB648.

UNL is going ahead with the project by advertising for a vet school coordinator, said Howard Ottoson, acting vice chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The coordinator, whose salary will come out of \$120,000 already committed by the Legislature, would plan the development and operation of the interstate vet school program, he said. Applications are due Feb. 1.

Kremer and other senators are placing their hope for federal support in U.S. Rep. Virginia Smith and U.S. Sen. Edward Zorinsky, who, are seeking money from Congress.

Continued on Page 8

## Zorinsky, Smith fight slim odds

By Mary Louise Knapp

Chances are slim that the proposed regional veterinary college to be constructed at UNL will receive federal financing this year, but supporters of the college said Friday they are still hoping to get the funds.

Agriculture Secretary John Block announced Wednesday that he would not recommend federal help for the school because of federal budget constraints. Supporters of the project had asked for \$14 million in federal aid.

U.S. Sen. Edward Zorinsky said he has begun exploring possibilities for the immediate funding of the \$29 million vet school. Zorinsky said when the U.S. Senate reconvenes this month he may offer an amendment to one of the 1982 appropriations bills to make construction funds available.

If federal funds are not forthcoming by the end of the year, Zorinsky said he will offer an amendment to the 1983 agriculture appropriations bill to provide \$13.3 million in matching funds for initial construction of the college.

"The USDA most recently concluded study indicated a need for a vet school," he said.

Zorinsky said he is investigating the possibility of using funds which were previously budgeted into the amended 1981 farm bill to help finance the school.

"I am impressed by the private sector and state commitment (to the veterinary college) but I feel I have to make this effort," Zorinsky said.

Nebraska has pledged \$1.3 million in state funds for the project, and private supporters have given almost \$2 million, he said.

Zorinsky said that Block's announcement revealed the "low esteem" that the federal government holds for agriculture.

"I'm not real optimistic . . . it's very difficult now with additional budget cuts and belt-tightening," he said.

Rep. Virginia Smith of Chappell, who supports the college, will consider congressional appropriation of funds for it, said a staff assistant in Smith's Washington office.

Smith, who has been traveling in the region, could not be reached for comment.

Continued on Page 8

## Inside Monday

**And the Walls Came Tumbling Down:** Or they will, when the old Cornhusker Hotel is demolished in February . . . . . **Page 7**

**Fond o' Fonda:** Jane Fonda speaks to the press at the premiere of *On Golden Pond* . . . . . **Page 10**

**Hog Heaven:** The Arkansas Razorbacks defeated Nebraska 51-50 in Saturday night basketball action at the Bob Devaney Sports Center . . . . . **Page 12**