

# Higher education treated as 'sacred cow'—DeCamp

By George Miller

Saying higher education in Nebraska is treated as a "sacred cow," State Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh called Tuesday night for a closer look at Nebraska's needs for higher education.

DeCamp made his comments to about 30 persons at a UNL Young Republicans meeting where he participated in a panel discussion with Sen. Frank Lewis of Bellevue and Harold Simpson of Lincoln.

DeCamp said the fight for more money for various colleges around the state "becomes a contest of population bases."

Nebraska, with a population of about one and one-half million, might be able to support only one center of quality higher education, he said.

"Maybe we have to recognize that costs are skyrocketing and quality (of higher education) is going down," DeCamp said. The whole thing (higher education) has to be subjected to the same scrutiny you would give anything else."

State colleges are intended to be supplementary to the University of Nebraska, DeCamp said, adding that he wondered how many of the colleges could justify their existence.

"You automatically assume it will cost additional money to improve standards (of higher education in Nebraska)," DeCamp said. "I say step back and examine the whole picture—whether the same amount of money (currently appropriated to higher education) can be spent more effectively."

Lewis said all areas of the state are "parochial" when it comes to college education. On trips to state college campuses, he said, administrators tell him they feel they have the best facilities in Nebraska and that more state money should be directed their way.

If UNL's faculty members were unionized, Simpson said, they would not have had any effect on funds appropriated by the Legislature to UNL.

Last week, faculty members declined to join the American Association of University Professors and to enter into collective bargaining with the UNL administration.

Simpson said the faculty union could have done "what they darn well pleased" with the administration but that the administration would have had to go to the Legislature for money the same as before.

## Love damage set at \$150

Damage by vandals at Love Memorial Library early Tuesday morning will not be cleaned for a few days, said UNL Physical Plant Director Harley Schrader.

Schrader said a wastebasket of cigarette butts and trash was strewn over tables and the floor in the library's new wing sometime between midnight and 5 a.m. Tuesday. A faucet was broken off a restroom sink, "and they tried to rip another off the wall," Schrader said. He estimated damage at \$150.

Some students also are not cooperating with custodial efforts to enforce rules forbidding eating, drinking and smoking in the library, Schrader said.

"If they want to live like that, let them do it for a while," he said, conceding that the vandal may not have been a UNL student.

A Campus Police official said no suspects were being sought.

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