

Daily Nebraskan

Friday, February 17, 1984

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 83 No. 103

Regents' agenda: rates, restoration

An increase in room and board rates at UNL is one of the proposals to be discussed at Saturday's 10 a.m. NU Board of Regents meeting.

The regents probably will approve an annual increase of \$65 for residence hall room and board rates during the 1984-85 school year semesters. The cost will increase from \$1,860 to \$1,925.

A possible increase of \$1 for the price of next year's single game football tickets will be discussed by the board.

The regents probably will approve renovation designs for Bessey Hall and the University Health Center.

The regents are expected to approve a plan for restoration of the NU Medical Center's parking facilities which would cost an estimated \$1,450,000.

The board plans to authorize two contracts to buy \$410,000 worth of land for UNO.

The replacement of equipment for the medical center's heart station and radiology department, currently estimated at \$572,000, also is scheduled for approval during the meeting.

Kerrey stresses outdoor activity

By Patty Pryor

Gov. Bob Kerrey, known for his firm belief in healthy lifestyles and physical fitness, announced the Governor's 1984 Outdoor Conditioning Camp at a press conference Thursday.

"This is an attempt to get Nebraskans outdoors, an attempt to get Nebraskans involved in physical conditioning and to get Nebraskans involved in an assessment of their own lifestyles," he said.

Sponsored by the Governor's Office in conjunction with the Game and Parks Commission, the Department of Health and the Nebraska National Guard, the April 27-29 camp will take place at Platte River State Park near Louisville.

The National Guard training camp in Ashland also will be used for intensive sessions on compass orientation, survival, first aid skills and rappelling.

In addition to volleyball, softball, bicycling, horseback riding, archery and a five-mile jog-walk, participants will help build a permanent "Fit 'n Fun Trail" in the park.

A \$90 registration fee covers lodging, meals, instruction and use of equipment. Camp participants must be 18 or older, unless accompanied by an adult.

Kerrey said the camp originally was planned to last a week, but was cut down in an effort to attract more participants.

It probably will become an annual event, "unless I get impeached," he said.

The camp may eventually take place in the fall, too, possibly in Chadron State Park.

"I want to encourage everyone to sign up as quickly as possible," Kerrey said, "because it's going to be a good time."

In another announcement, Kerrey said he and Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler mailed a letter to President Reagan urging him to postpone deployment of the MX missile in their two states.

Such a postponement would be well-timed in light of the change in Soviet leadership, he said.

The letter reads in part: "A unilateral offer to postpone deployment of the missile for one year may be read as a clear signal by the Soviet Union that our countries should jointly strive to keep the peace in a more settled world."

A postponement would be helpful in balancing the federal budget, Kerrey said, and in allowing the states to study the environmental impact of deployment.

Campus 'a hotbed of germs'

By Deb Pederson

Students who bite fingernails or chew pencils help spread influenza and the common cold, said the University Health Center medical director.

"Students spread out geographically and get exposed to a variety of exotic germs," Dr. Gerald Fleischli said. "Then they bring back the germs and share them. Campus is like a hotbed of germs."

In a study done at a university health center, Fleischli said, the researchers took time-lapse photographs of graduate students in class and noted how many times each chewed a pencil or fingernail. The figure then was compared with how many times the student had been treated at the health center. The experiment showed that the higher the incidence of pencil chewing or nail biting, the higher the incidence of sickness.

Influenza and the common cold are caused by different viruses. The symptoms are similar, but they vary in intensity, Fleischli said.

Fleischli said influenza is subdivided into hundreds of varieties. The two main categories of influenza are Type A and Type B.

"Once a person has a specific type, he is immune to that type, but he still can get other types," Fleischli said.

There are two methods of general treatment for influenza and colds; systematic treatment and body build-up, he said.

Systematic treatment uses medications such as decongestants and antihistamines.

The medications have side effects so there is a trade-off between the side effects and the symptoms.

Aspirin and Tylenol are not really needed with a low-grade fever because the fever helps the body fight the virus, he said.

Body build-up is the more important category of treatment, Fleischli said. Body build-up has three components — good nutrition, fluids and rest.

Maintaining good nutrition helps the body fight the virus and a mild increase in vitamins also may help, he said.

Fluids help flush out toxic by-products and replenish body fluids, he said.

"The most important and hardest thing to do is rest," Fleischli said. "Rest lets the body focus its fighting ability to fight off the invader. If this isn't done, the virus will linger on."



Tom Lauder/Daily Nebraskan

U.S. nears 'scientific illiteracy'

By Jim Rasmussen

The crisis in science and mathematics education has increased to the point that the United States is "rapidly becoming a scientifically illiterate nation," said a UNL physics professor Thursday.

Eugene Rudd, professor of physics and astronomy, said high school enrollment has declined steadily in physics, chemistry and mathematics courses nationwide.

A 1982 study showed that only 20 percent of graduating high school seniors had taken physics at some point, compared with 95 percent in 1895. Similar declines have occurred in math and chemistry courses, he said.

Rudd gave two probable reasons for the enrollment declines. First, he said, high schools offer many elective courses. Students tend to think physics and chemistry are difficult subjects, and choose other courses, he said.

"As long as a student can get the same credit for driver's ed as for phys-

ics, why not take the 'easy course?'" Rudd said.

The second reason for the problem, Rudd said, is the shortage of qualified teachers in the sciences. This problem has worsened in recent years, as teachers have left the schools for higher paying jobs in industry. Five times as many physics teachers leave for this reason than to retire, Rudd said.

In Texas, Rudd said, teacher salaries averaged \$21,000, while salaries in the applied sciences averaged \$41,000.

"It's easy to see why teachers are leaving," he said.

Local school boards often find it difficult to replace those teachers, Rudd said. According to a September 1983 article in *Physics Today* magazine, 63 percent of the high school physics teachers in Iowa do not have a college major or even a minor in physics.

Rudd said he recently went to a meeting of the Nebraska Association of Physics Teachers. Teachers said they were being forced to teach physics or chemistry, even though they hadn't had a course in those subjects, Rudd said.

The lack of qualified teachers probably hurts student interest, worsening the enrollment problem, Rudd said.

While qualified teachers are leaving, virtually no qualified replacements are coming from colleges, Rudd said. According to the *Physics Today* article, 65 percent fewer students train for science education than in 1973. Of all the students at Iowa's 27 colleges and universities, Rudd said, only two people are majoring in science education.

The reason for this low number, he said, is probably money.

Giving more money to teachers could be a solution, Rudd said. Local school boards and state governments must raise salaries for physics and math teachers to compete with salaries in industry, he said.

Until then, Americans can expect the quality of education to continue to decline, Rudd said.

One stumbling block to raising salaries for science and math teachers, Rudd said, is that local teacher's unions should realize the demand for science teachers makes higher pay a necessity, he said.

Friday

Inside

• The NU Board of Regents plans to follow through with faculty salary increases recommended by its Agriculture 2001 committee Page 6

• Disco Ranch discovers that sometimes less is better Page 8

• UNL's three All-American wrestlers are depended on, but never feel put upon Page 10

Index

Arts and Entertainment..... 8
Classified 14
Crossword 15
Editorial..... 4
Off The Wire 2
Sports 10