

# Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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**Weather:** Today, snow and blowing snow with periods of freezing rain possible and a high of 31 (-1C). Friday night, snow and freezing rain making travel hazardous, low 24 (-4C). Saturday, snow ending with a high of 32 (0C).

Bob Brubscher/Daily Nebraskan

The Sower visits small towns...Inside

Swimmer rides high wave back...Page 12

## UNL officials create courses to satisfy high student demand

By Gene Gentrup  
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

A high demand for courses has prompted UNL officials to create an additional 104 course sections for the 1985 spring semester.

UNL Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Robert Fergason said Thursday that about \$180,000 has been taken from a number of funds — most coming from the university's equipment fund — to accommodate more than 2,900 course requests for UNL students.

"It's a little gambling on my part," Fergason said. "By introducing more sections we're hoping students will register for classes they wouldn't have originally registered for in the first place."

Fergason said if tuition from the classes does not cover the expenses for additional courses, more money will have to come

from the equipment fund to cover the deficit.

The new funds have created 27 new sections in the Arts and Sciences College, including classes in art, English, speech communication, geography, computer science and mathematics. The 27 new sections are open to about 930 students.

The College of Business Administration has opened 40 new sections that will accommodate 1,320 students. Classes have opened in accounting, economics, finance, management and marketing.

The School of Journalism has opened 28 new sections for the spring semester. The new classes will accommodate 400 students and include classes in advertising, broadcasting and news-editorial.

Ten additional sections have been opened in the Teacher's College. New classes in business education will accommodate about

250 additional students.

"There are too many students that are unable to get the classes they wanted due to full sections, and this does not allow them to progress toward their degree," Fergason said.

He said the bulk of the new sections will be taught by additional instructors instead of increasing the teaching load of existing instructors.

Fergason said he asked college deans to estimate what they thought their college could handle in terms of hiring quality instructors in addition to finding the available teaching facilities.

He said sections are filling up and should reach capacity.

Fergason said he was feeling pressure from colleges to open new sections, and said the additional sections may be made permanent, pending a successful registration.

more than 5,000 students who must cross one or both streets to get to class, Coffey said. Despite the 35-mph speed limit on 17th Street, cars often pass Nebraska Hall traveling 40 to 50 mph, Coffey said.

The arteries also split residence halls, the Scott Engineering Center and Nebraska Hall, Coffey said. Rerouting traffic would unify the campus, he said.

University architects have considered closing sections of both streets and opening them to two way traffic, Coffey said.

The university plan also would give campus traffic better access to buildings and parking lots, Coffey said. Because 16th and 17th are one-way streets, most people have to drive around the block to get where they need to go, he said.

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*Some want attorney general to 'pay'*

## Defense attorney proclaims Douglas' innocence

By Brad Gifford  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Defense Attorney William Morrow told jurors Attorney General Paul Douglas is innocent of the charges against him and should not be found guilty simply because some people want him to "pay" for the fall of Commonwealth Savings Co.

Morrow told the Lancaster County District Court Thursday in his closing arguments that the case against Douglas is "weak." He told the jurors that the charges Douglas faces stem from alleged incidents that occurred after the fall of the financial institution.

Assistant Prosecutor Vincent Valentino, whose arguments preceded Morrow's, told the eight men and four women jurors to "use your logic and common sense." He said that the jury has more than enough evidence to convict Douglas on both charges against him.

Douglas is charged with perjury, a felony, for allegedly lying to the Legislature's Special Commonwealth Committee about:

- The amount of money he received from Marvin Copple, former Commonwealth vice president. Douglas testified that he received \$32,500 from Copple for private consulting involving the development of some Fox Hollow property. He later said that he had received \$40,000, but had forgotten about a payment of \$5,000 and that the other \$2,500 was written off as an expense.

- The influence Copple had on his actions as attorney general. Copple testified that Douglas pushed a zoning change through the Lincoln City Council which enabled Copple to develop some property he had purchased. Copple also said that Douglas persuaded a U.S. attorney to drop charges against James Gillette,

Copple's son-in-law.

- Whether he paid taxes on the money he received from Copple. Douglas recorded only \$32,500 income from Copple, which he paid taxes on. But the other \$7,500, not on his 1980 return, was not taxed. If, as Douglas said, \$2,500 of that amount was an expense, he would have been liable for taxes on the other \$5,000. Instead, he received a tax refund in 1980.

Nebraska law states that it is not enough to show that Douglas' statements are false. The prosecution must prove beyond a doubt that Douglas knowingly and intentionally made the statements.

Douglas also faces obstruction of government operations charges for telling Copple about an FBI investigation into possible wrongdoing at Commonwealth.

Testimony concluded early Wednesday afternoon, and the jurors were sequestered early Thursday afternoon following the closing arguments.

Morrow told the jury that the case has boiled down to his client's word against that of Copple. Morrow stressed that theme throughout the proceedings.

Morrow said Douglas had a good record as a public servant, and he said Douglas is "a human being just like you and me, who makes a lot of mistakes."

Morrow told the jurors that Copple may be trying to pin some of his blame on Douglas. Copple faces theft charges in February for allegedly stealing \$500,000 from Commonwealth, but received partial immunity from future charges in exchange for his testimony. Morrow asked the panel if Copple might be escaping penalties for other charges by testifying against Douglas.

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*Take one last look . . .*

Stormy clouds roll in over Western Nebraska farmland as winter prepares to cover everything in time for a white Christmas.

Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan