

Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Weather: Mostly sunny, warm and humid today with a high of 77 (25C). Clear tonight with a low of 50 (10C). Sunny and warm Friday with a high of 84 (29C).

Bob Brubacher/Daily Nebraskan

In your ear with a cockroach...Page 2

Huskers top Shockers in Grain Bowl...Page 14

Pedestrian injured at controversial crossing

By Lauri Hopple
Campus Editor

Crossing 10th Street near UNL's 501 Building is dangerous, say several people at the university — including one student who was hit by a car as she crossed Tuesday.

However, a Lincoln engineering official said preliminary reports from a study by the city indicate it is not a high-risk area.

Fusun Sayood, a graduate chemistry student at UNL, was hit by a car traveling north on 10th Street on Tuesday as she crossed there. Sayood, who was inside the crosswalk when the car hit her, according to a Lincoln police report, was taken to Lincoln General Hospital for minor injuries to her left thigh.

Linda Masser, a representative on the Campus Safety Committee who works for the Nebraska Office of Personnel, said the group decided earlier this year to request a study of 10th Street by the city of Lincoln because group members think the crossing is dangerous.

The committee acted on a motion from Laura Brix, a former ASUN senator and a representative on the committee. Brix was concerned about the "hazardous crossing," Masser said, and suggested the city install a traffic light or pedestrian walk signal.

Masser said the bright yellow signs that mark the crossing are not enough.

"If you're a pedestrian you know that those signs don't mean cars will slow down or even stop," she said.

Kahlid Sayood, Fusun's husband, also said he thinks the crossing is dangerous. Mrs. Sayood was under medication Wednesday at home and declined to comment.

Mrs. Sayood works in the chemistry department and uses Parking Area 10 on the west side of 10th Street. Thus, she must cross the street at least two times a day, said Sayood, who is an assistant professor of electrical engineering at UNL.

Other faculty members who use that lot and cross there also are concerned about the danger and have been complaining about it for years.

Sheldon Schuster, an associate professor of chemistry, said the depart-

ment is "really upset about Fusun getting hit."

Because of the split to Interstate-80, cars that go by the 501 Building often speed up instead of slowing down for pedestrians, Schuster said. Even police don't stop, he said.

"It's absurd," he said. The report by the city's Traffic Engineering Department shows there are between 2,500 to 3,500 pedestrian crossings every day on 10th Street from the 501 Building to Avery Avenue.

John Tobin, a city traffic engineer, said the department is studying the area at the request of Ray Coffey, UNL's business and finance director.

According to Massey, Coffey wrote a letter to the traffic department at the request of the Campus Safety Committee.

Tobin said the department has been studying the area since the director received the letter March 25.

The study includes the pedestrian count and a traffic gap analysis, in which the department estimated how much time people have to cross between cars. The cars travel at about 35 mph, he said.

"Generally speaking, it's not a high-accident area," Tobin said.

The department's research shows that in the last three years, one pedestrian has been hit, he said. Other accidents involving motor vehicles only also have occurred there, but not many, he said.

Considering the number of crossings each day, the number of accidents is low, he said.

Tobin attributes the low rate to the area's openness. No curbside parking is allowed there except for one lane on the street's west side in front of the 501 Building, so cars and pedestrians usually can see each other well, he said.

Although the department won't take any recommendations for another week or two, Tobin said, the department will be cautious about putting in pedestrian crossing lights. The lights are expensive and usually are unused, he said.

He said a similar situation caused the department to put in a pedestrian light at the intersection of 17th and S streets, but pedestrians rarely use it now.



Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

Gifford displays a divining rod in front of his Banner County farm.

Witcher's craft

Farmers divine water sources

By Brad Gifford
Staff Reporter

Some people in Nebraska still practice witcher's craft.

That's not a typographical error.

Witcher's craft. Not witchcraft.

Wipe that vision of a woman wearing a pointed black hat, hunching over a bubbling black kettle. Witchers don't believe in witchcraft. But they do believe they can find underground water by walking through fields and pastures with sticks in their hands. When the stick, called a divining rod, pulls down or inward, the witcher marks the spot as a drilling site.

Witchers and geologists alike are baffled by the force that pulls the

rods, but witchers truly believe they are finding something water-related. Geologists aren't so sure.

The American Heritage dictionary defines divining rods and sticks or branches that "allegedly indicate subterranean water or minerals by bending downward when held over a source."

The word "allegedly" appearing in something as definite as a dictionary shows just how hard-pressed science is to explain the phenomenon. Witchers should take heart since the book at least acknowledges that the rods do bend downward.

Two UNL geology professors say only human manipulation either conscious or subconscious, moves the rods.

"There are several physical prop-

erties — electricity, magnetism, gravity — but changes in them are so subtle that even the most sensitive instruments could not detect them," said Daryll Pederson, a hydrologist at the Conservation and Survey division.

Pederson reasons that witchers pick up topographical cues like peaks, valleys and naturally carved ditches — all things that indicate prime drilling sites. Either the witcher knows geology and that certain physical characteristics are associated with underground water, or he has had some success in areas with like characteristics and therefore expects to find water.

Wherever a witcher expects the rods to go down, they usually do, he said.

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Students face home farm crises

By Gene Gentrup
Senior Reporter

UNL freshman Karen Graybill said she "doesn't know what to expect" when she returns to her family's Clarkson farm this summer.

Late last year Graybill's grandfather died shortly after he filed for bankruptcy on his farm. Now the bank is threatening to take away even more from her grandmother, on a farm where her unemployed mother and disabled father live.

"I felt helpless down here," said Graybill, a dietetics major. "I didn't know what was going on at home. I'd go home every weekend."

Every weekend Graybill's mother and an aunt and uncle from Columbus would join her, and they would all help out with the chores at her grandmother's house.

The only income for Graybill's family

is her father's disability checks, which are paying for her college education.

Before her grandfather died, Graybill's Uncle Leonard, who worked with her late grandfather, had incurred debts

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on machinery and other farm items. The local bank now is claiming that even though the farm was willed to Graybill's grandmother, Leonard should be the rightful owner because he runs it. Graybill said she thinks the only reason the bank claims this is because it wants to claim the goods willed to

her grandmother.

"Grandma's trying to fight for it," she said.

Farm experts say Graybill's family farm situation is a familiar one in Nebraska.

Debra Schroeder, a Cuming County home economics extension agent in West Point, said many farm families there are "tightening the belt" during the current agricultural crisis.

"Families are making their money do more," she said. And they're making more of their churches and family communication, Schroeder said.

She said farm students returning home for the summer should expect to see better communication in their families and should try to communicate better themselves.

"Depending on the amount of communication, it could make or break-up a family," Schroeder said.

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Legislature approves arms control resolution

By Jonathan Taylor
Staff Reporter

The state Legislature on Wednesday adopted a resolution that pledges the senators' support of the Geneva arms control talks and urges negotiations for a bilateral freeze between the United States and the Soviet Union, "as the first step towards mutual reductions in nuclear weapons."

According to the resolution, the Legislature suggests that the freeze cover testing, production and further deployment of all nuclear weapons. An amendment that was proposed by Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln and passed Wednesday also recommends the freeze be monitored and verified by "on sight" inspections.

The 27-16 vote to adopt LR88 also requires Nebraska Secretary of State

Allen Beermann to send copies of the resolution to President Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, Congress and the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

Sen. Tom Vickers of Farnam, one of the nine senators who sponsored LR88, said the resolution simply conveys a statement to Washington that "Nebraskans are concerned about the arms race." It will have the same effect on the federal government, Vickers said, "as if a village board notified us of a similar decision."

In the resolution, the Legislature acknowledged that "current plans of the United States and the Soviet Union together call for the production of at least 20,000 additional nuclear warheads."