

**Weather:**

Partly cloudy today and a bit warmer with a high in the upper teens. Light northerly winds turning southerly by midday. Clear tonight with a low around 8.

**UNL radio station plays hits and more**

Arts and Entertainment, page 12

**Minority coaches rare in Division I basketball**

Sports, page 10



# Daily Nebraskan

February 12, 1986

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 85 No. 100

## Attorney general's ruling could hinder student vote

By Todd von Kampen  
Senior Reporter

An unfavorable ruling from Attorney General Robert Spire has "cast a pall" over a constitutional amendment that would give student regents one combined vote on the NU Board of Regents, said Monroe Sen. Lee Rupp.

Spire said in an opinion released Tuesday that LR306CA violates both the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article VII, Section 10 of the Nebraska constitution. A separate opinion held that the federal principle of "one man, one vote," which says that all votes in an election must have equal weight, does not apply to selection of regents.

ASUN President Gerard Keating, who had asked for an opinion on the "one man, one vote" rule, said the opinions would not stand in the way of student efforts to pass the amendment.

But Rupp, chairman of the Legislature's Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee, said senators probably would let the amendment die. "Once that seed of doubt is introduced," Rupp said, "many of the mem-

bers probably would say, 'Let's go on to other things.'"

Opponents of the amendment, co-sponsored by Neligh Sen. John DeCamp and Ord Sen. Carson Rogers, said it would violate "one man, one vote" because it would give students two chances to vote for regents with full voting power. The Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee advanced the amendment to the full Legislature Friday instead of waiting for Spire's opinions.

Spire ruled that the "one man, one vote" principle does not apply to selection of an agency's members unless the agency has the power to make law. The Nebraska Supreme Court ruled in 1951 that the NU Board of Regents is an administrative agency with the power to make rules and regulations in its areas of responsibility, he said.

But Spire said the amendment violates the "equal protection" clause of the 14th Amendment because it makes an "arbitrary and invidious" distinction between regular and student regents. To overcome that problem, he said, the amendment would have to give each student regent a full vote rather than part of a collective vote.

The amendment also would contradict a provision in the Nebraska constitution that limits board members to between six and eight regents, Spire said. Giving each student regent one vote, he said, would increase the number of regents to 11.

Keating said the opinions give senators no reason to oppose the amendment because the "one man, one vote" question has been settled. Spire's objections to the bill, he said, can be overcome by floor amendments to LR306CA.

"All we have here is technicalities involving the wording of the (state) constitution," Keating said. "That's what we're trying to do — change the constitution."

But Rupp said many senators might be reluctant to settle the amendment's problems now because the legislative session is almost half over. Many senators might be unwilling to give student regents each a vote, he said.

Unless DeCamp makes the amendment a priority bill, Rupp said, the amendment is unlikely to come to a floor vote this session.

DeCamp was unavailable for comment Tuesday.



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Ediger, left, and Kaufman face a right-of-way question on the wheelchair ramp outside the Nebraska Union.

## Daily problems faced Handicapped students: Attitude is it

By Kent Endacott  
Senior Reporter

Sometimes Jerry Ediger has an uneventful ride from class to class. But when it rains or snows, anything could happen as he moves along in his wheelchair.

"When it's wet my brakes don't work," said Ediger, a freshman journalism major who suffered a neck injury in a high school football game. "I forget and go cruising down the ramp. About halfway down I try to put on my brakes and nothing happens. Last time it happened I hit a car. But it was kinda fun."

Ediger, like UNL's other 250 handicapped students, faces everyday problems peculiar to handicapped people. But with the help of friends and the Affirmative Action Office, he says, he "gets along fine."

Getting along, for most of UNL's handicapped students, means a 3.0 grade-point average or above, says Colleen Daniels, affirmative action/equal employment opportunity specialist.

"Most handicapped students are very dedicated," she said. "There is one handicapped student on a Regent scholarship and six with 4.0s."

The Affirmative Action Office will provide any service necessary to help students get their degrees, Daniels said.

The office also handles complaints of discrimination against students. But Daniels said, complaints are rare.

"If there is a complaint against a professor, it's usually that they don't know how to talk to a handicapped student. Like looking at a deaf student's interpreter instead of the student when he talks. But it is not

common — less than one-half of a percent. And professors are really great about it."

But generally, handicapped students are just like other students, said Rod Kaufman, a senior business management major who suffered a neck injury in a motorcycle accident.

"I don't think we should be classified as a minority," Kaufman said. "If you have the right attitude people will accept you."

Ediger said he is often amused at the way people react to his wheelchair.

"When I went to buy my books at the beginning of the semester, the lady started screaming in my ear like I was deaf. 'Forty-eight dollars and ninety-five cents, please,'" he said. "There were some guys from high school standing behind me, and boy they thought that was funny."

Kaufman said he tries to educate people about spinal injuries whenever possible.

"Once I get them comfortable with the chair, I try to tell them about spinal cord injuries and how easily they can happen to anybody at any time," he said.

Ediger, who is regaining movement in his limbs and hopes to walk again, says he does not consider himself handicapped, and still plans to pursue his goal of becoming a football coach.

"It's not a handicap, it's an impairment," he says. "You have to have that kind of an attitude."

"That attitude extends to Nebraska football games," Kaufman said. "We sit in the north end zone. It has its pluses and minuses. At least you can see the holes open up."

## Budget cut evaluating plan OK'd

By Linda Hartmann  
Staff Reporter

UNL Faculty Senate members Monday approved procedures for evaluating proposed budget reductions.

The procedures, presented by the Academic Planning Committee, will establish an ad-hoc committee to study the effects of budget cut proposals on UNL programs.

Faculty Senate approval was needed before the committee could begin meeting. ASUN senators approved the document Feb. 5.

The committee proposal was revised after meetings with the Executive Committee to clear up some objections.

Faculty Senate President Desmond Wheeler said the proposal did not leave enough time for UNL Chancellor Martin

Massengale and the NU Board of Regents to make final budget decisions before the Legislature adjourns around April 22. The ad-hoc committee is expected to present its recommendations on budget cuts to the chancellor March 31.

Senate Secretary George Tuck said the deadlines in the proposal do not provide much time for decisions, but do allow the committee to speed deliberations if possible. The committee cannot get around the time constraints, he said.

The proposal also provides opportunities for those directly affected by the proposed budget reductions to testify before the ad-hoc committee. Wheeler objected to the original proposal, he said, because it did not call for

open hearings on the effects of budget reductions.

The committee consists of:

- Academic Planning Committee members
- representatives from Student Affairs
- representatives from Business Affairs
- Two graduate and two undergraduate students from the ASUN Academic Planning Committee.

The committee meets today at 3 p.m. in the Great Plains Room of the East Union.

Students and faculty and community members have until Feb. 21 to present written responses to the committee. They also can request a meeting with the ad-hoc committee.

## Museum director candidate sees potential, limitations

By Gene Gentrup  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska native Hugh Genoways will face a difficult financial situation if he is approved as the new director of the University of Nebraska State Museum, interim director John Janovy said Tuesday. Museums across the country face similar problems, Janovy said.

Genoways, formerly of Scottsbluff, was recommended Monday to succeed Janovy, who has been the museum's interim director since 1984. Genoways' appointment must be approved by the NU Board of Regents.

Genoways is curator of mammals at

the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh.

"The resources of this institution (museum) are enormous," Janovy said. Genoways "is well aware of the potentials and limitations" of the museum, he said.

Genoways said in a telephone interview Tuesday that he is seeking the Nebraska job for "professional growth."

Genoways, who toured the museum in October, said he plans no immediate changes for the museum, but said it will be important that he and his staff plot new goals.

See **DIRECTOR** on 6

### Setting it Straight

A photo titled "Cyclist injured" (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 11) incorrectly identified the driver of the car.

UNL police officer Al Broadstone said the car is registered to Robert Becker, the father-in-law of the driver, who refused to be identified.

Broadstone said the car was stopped and had nothing to do with the cyclist's injury, as was thought at the time of the accident. The cyclist apparently slipped and landed on the pavement.

Although the bicycle slid beneath the car, police said, the cyclist and car did not make contact.

The accident occurred on the west side of the Nebraska Union.