

WEATHER: Mostly sunny but cold Friday with a high in the mid teens. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph. Mostly clear and not as cold Friday night with a low 5 to 10 above. Partly cloudy and not as cold Saturday with a high around 20.

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New franchise has union employees worried about jobs

By Amy Edwards
 Staff Reporter

Plans to replace Union Square with a fast-food franchise have placed the future of many longtime employees in jeopardy.

Many don't like to think, much less talk, about what the coming months will bring.

Dorothy Williams, a five-year employee, says she doesn't know whether she will be given another job at the university or left to fend for herself. Williams has been told the university will try to provide her with another job.

But, she said, "with all the cutbacks and employee cutbacks the university has been making, it will be difficult to find another job here at the university."

Lois White, a three-year, temporary employee at Union Square, said she will certainly lose her job. She receives no benefits now as a temporary employee, but she's worried about finding another job.

"If you don't know the right people, even if you do have the skills, it's hard to find the right job," White said.

Union Square employees have been told that they may apply for a job with the new franchise but will be given no preference. They have been encouraged to look for work elsewhere and many have begun to do so, Williams said.

"When the time comes, we'll just have to wait and see what happens," Williams said.

Daryl Swanson, union director, said union officials are working to get the Union Square employees priority for other university jobs.

"Specific layoff policy permits the university to give current permanent employees preference for any jobs



Dave Bentz/Daily Nebraskan

Union Square employee Dan Dolan may lose his job later this spring when the Union Board announces the fast-food franchise to replace Union Square.

available even before openings are posted to the public," he said. Swanson said that the timing of the layoffs will not be too bad because it will come in the summer, when the Union Square is normally closed. This will give the employees time to find work before the fall semester. Several jobs may be open in the campus food services in the fall semester, Swanson said.

Jeff Fishback, president of the Union Board, said the university will try to place Union Square employees with the new franchise, but, he said,

"because it is a privately owned franchise, we have no control over decision-making processes of hiring and firing employees."

Union Square employees may not want to work with the new franchise, Fishback said, because they are not likely to receive any of the benefits the university offers permanent employees, like vacations and sick leave.

No decision or dates concerning the franchise have been made. Swanson said the university is doing its best to keep Union Square employees informed

and has assured them of jobs through the spring semester. The five permanent employees of Union Square (the rest are temporary), will be put on the priority list for university work, he said.

In the meantime, Union Square employees, like Dan Dolan, just keep selling fries, bagels, hamburgers and tacos and wonder how long it will last.

"I would be very upset if I had to leave this place, I've been here six years and love this, I enjoy the students," Dolan said.

Senate's surprises: gay poll, booze, etc.

By Merry Hayes
 Staff Reporter

Wednesday, in a night of controversy and extended debate, ASUN senators passed bills that would add a gay/lesbian survey to ASUN's electoral ballot, advocate serving alcohol at ASUN installation and change the senate's name.

That's right, ASUN no longer exists — it's "UNL Student Government" now. One reason given in the bill was that many students rearranged its letters to form a variety of undesirable acronyms.

In the middle of all this, ASUN Speaker Jerry Roemer resigned and Doug Weems was named his replacement. Roemer will remain a member of the senate. (See related story.)

Thursday, senate President Chris Scudder said she planned to veto the bill proposing that alcohol be served at the officer installation.

She is undecided on the other controversial bill, designed to measure student support for the proposed UPC Gay/Lesbian Programming Committee.

The bill proposes that the following questions appear on the next senate electoral ballot:

1. Are you a homosexual?
2. Do you favor the funding of a gay/lesbian council with student fees?
3. Would you attend the events of such a council?

Weems, the bill's sponsor, said its purpose is to respond to the controversy generated by the proposed creation of the UPC Gay/Lesbian Council. Council.

Roemer said if this survey is put on the ballot, it will be either manipulated or ignored. He said the question asking if students would attend the events of such a council is irrelevant, and that very few people would say yes to this question because the program is designed for a minority.

"That doesn't mean that the committee doesn't need it," he said. "That just means that you have to recognize that this is a minority program."

Roemer said that by putting this survey on the ballot, the senate is "killing the Gay/Lesbian Committee before it even gets off the ground."

Weems said the ballot surveys will not be "100 percent accurate." But, he said, "as long as there is information to be gained, any survey doesn't do any harm unless they're worried about the information."

Scudder said she may veto the bill and submit her own revised bill.

She said she does not think the question, "Are you a homosexual?" is relevant.

"The only really important question is 'Do you favor using student fees for the committee?'" she said. "Whether you're gay or not, you still pay student fees."

Scudder said she plans to veto a senate bill in favor of allowing alcohol at the installation of senate executives and senators.

Weems, the bill's sponsor, said the ASUN installation is of equal importance and magnitude to Gov. Kay Orr's inaugural ball, at which alcohol was served.

He said the bill would "make a statement for students."

Sen. Jeff Warren said this bill would

See ASUN on 3

Oldfather: everyone knows it's windy

By Jen Deselms
 Senior Reporter

Brenda Babcock, a secretary in the Actuarial Science Office, Burnett 311, had been in her new office only a week when she noticed the phenomenon.



On Wednesday Babcock looked out the window and saw that the sky had turned black. The wind howled, introducing her to the force that makes students seek shelter in Burnett on cold winter evenings. The Oldfather wind tunnels.

The wind tunnels that exist on both sides of Oldfather Hall are caused by the vast difference in height between the closely built buildings in the area — Bessey, Oldfather and Burnett, said Kim Todd, campus landscape architect.

Wind blowing from the northwest speeds across the open field in front of Memorial Stadium meeting no resistance, she said. Then, when the high

Books and balance imperiled by wind tunnel

speed wind hits Bessey it's forced to scoop up and over Bessey, causing the air layers to be compressed and the speed to increase even more, Todd said.

The effect is compression, like "squeezing a tube of toothpaste," Todd said.

What happens next has been known to send students scrambling after papers and falling flat on their faces.

Because the space between the buildings is tight, the large volume of air becomes trapped in a small space and can't leap over Oldfather. Instead, the compressed air tries to escape so it can spread out again and shoots down the sidewalks on both sides of Oldfather, Todd said.

Although people agree on what causes the wind tunnels, they probably won't agree on how to solve them, she said.

Ideally, Todd said, the space between the buildings could be covered or possibly a vertical wind block as tall as Oldfather could be constructed.

Duane Burham, chief design engineer at the Physical Plant, said landscaping and planting trees to break up the wind would be a possible solution.

blow down 13th Street between National Bank of Commerce and the Stuart Building, Todd said.

Wind is always considered during construction of a building to ensure the structure's strength under the worst possible conditions, Burham said.

Although the wind has been described as whistling, noisy and even howling, faculty with offices in Oldfather don't seem to find it distracting.

Jane Heinicke, a clerical assistant in Oldfather 437, agreed that the wind isn't distracting, but it poses a real problem when she wants to open the window for some fresh air.

"It blows all my papers around," she said.

Heinicke said she usually just finds something heavy to put on her papers.

E.L. Homze, history professor, Oldfather 615, said Oldfather must have been a preliminary study for the construction of a wind tunnel for aeronautics engineering.

Homze said the tunnels are challenging and add an element of suspense to the building.

"It's not a ho-hum type of office building, is it?" Homze asked.

'It's not a ho-hum type of office building, is it?'

—Homze

Burham said the Oldfather wind tunnels are not the only ones on campus; another area of high winds exists near Nebraska Hall. Strong winds also

"I think it's sporting," he said. Even more so in a stiff wind, Homze added. Some days it's a real challenge to get to and from the building, Homze said.



Tom Lauder/Daily Nebraskan

And when it's icy, people sometimes fall in the attempt.

Richard Tyler, professor of modern languages and literatures, Oldfather 1209, shared Homze's affinity for the wind.

"Lots of times it just howls out there," Tyler said. "I like it."

Tyler said the wind provides him with a steady sound, kind of like background noise, to work to. But some people don't like it at all, he said.

Tyler said a physics student once told him he could feel the building move, but Tyler never has.