

WEATHER: Monday, mostly sunny and warmer. High in the lower to mid 50s. South wind 5 to 10 mph. Monday night, mostly clear. Low in the upper 20s to lower 30s. Tuesday, mostly sunny and mild. High 55 to 60.

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Inside:

News Digest Page 2
 Editorial Page 4
 Sports Page 6
 Entertainment Page 5
 Classified Page 7

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Rec center revised, will be built in stages

From Staff Reports

UNL officials said Friday they have developed, in consultation with members of the NU Board of Regents, a revised plan that reduces the total project cost of the proposed student recreation center indoor practice field and alters the financing for construction.

The revised plan will reduce the estimated cost of the rec center from \$16.6 million to \$14.9 million, said Jim Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs.

The three phases of the project will be financed through a cash flow program rather than by issuing new bonds, Griesen said.

Officials said that when the original concept was developed there had been no immediate threat to the athletic department budget.

The athletic department has been identified as an area that could receive budget cuts, Griesen said. Since 1984-85, state support to the athletic department has decreased from more than \$1 million to \$390,000, he said.

A re-examination of the plan was prompted by current uncertainty about UNL general fund support, past reduction in support for women's intercollegiate athletics and the Bob Devaney Sports Center, potential for decline in athletic department revenues and general economic conditions, officials said. Jack Goebel, UNL vice chancellor for business and finance, said the revision calls for scheduling construction in three phases.

In the \$9 million first phase, UNL will construct an indoor football practice field, build a recreation/fitness addition on the east side of the UNL Coliseum, build 10 racquetball courts at the north end of Coliseum, renovate the Coliseum swimming pool and reconstruct outdoor tennis courts displaced by the renovation project. A weight/exercise room, previously planned for the renovated Coliseum, will be relocated in the east addition to meet student demand at the earliest possible time.

Phase two will add a redesigned football meeting room in a location not yet determined and four additional racquetball courts in the Coliseum. Phase two's estimated cost is \$800,000.

The third phase will add the balance of facilities described in the original

program statement. Its costs are difficult to predict because of the uncertainty to construction costs.

By reducing costs throughout the center, scaling down and relocating the football meeting room, renovating rather than expanding the Coliseum swimming pool and other measures, UNL officials said, the total project cost estimates can be reduced by \$1.7 million.

Costs for the meeting room have been decreased by \$495,000 for an estimated cost of \$500,000. The estimated cost for renovating the Coliseum pool has been cut in half to \$200,000.

The revised plan meets the same needs described in the original plan, Goebel said.

Under the revised plan, UNL officials still propose to finance all construction from private gifts and football-ticket assessments. No state funds will be involved.

The revised plan requires the UNL Chancellor's Office to re-evaluate the project periodically to determine the most appropriate means to finance remaining portions of the project, Goebel said. He said total funding will be provided as follows: \$5 million in private gifts, \$3.5 million from student revenue bond surplus and funds generated by the ticket assessment.

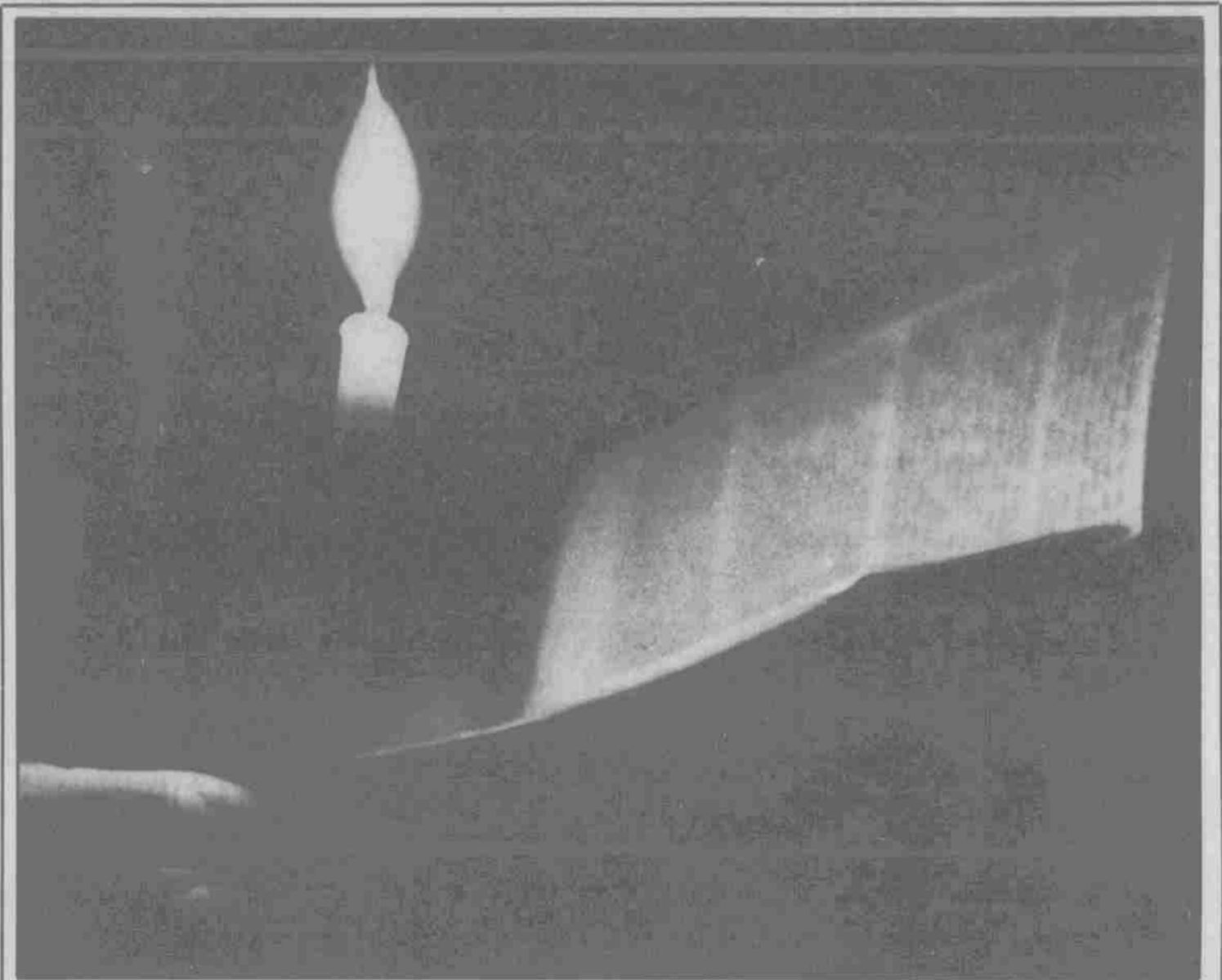
The ticket assessment will be reduced from the originally planned \$5 per game to \$3.50 per game, Goebel said. Operating costs will be financed by an increase in student fees as originally planned. These increases, however, will be phased in gradually as the project progresses.

Griesen said student fees would be assessed according to how much of the project was completed.

Until the project is finished, the athletic department will help pay for the operating and maintenance costs for the practice field proportional to the number of hours the field is used by the department.

The revised plan will be discussed with Nebraska legislators today at 6 p.m. during a hearing on the rec center.

Even though no state tax dollars are being requested to finance construction or operating of the rec center, Goebel said, the plan must be approved by legislators because of the need to borrow funds from the surplus bond account.



Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan

A moment to share

Students and citizens gathered Sunday night to bring a greater awareness to the campus on the issue of AIDS. Sponsored in part by the Gay/Lesbian Student Association, the group of nine people wanted to shed light on the growing concern for the fatal disease. Personal concerns were shared in the group. A sermon from a local church was read, describing the need for a better understanding by the people of the world about AIDS.

Rec center debate continues Scudder expects tremendous student turnout

By Michael Hooper
Senior Reporter

If ASUN President Chris Scudder has her way, it will be standing room only for UNL students at a legislative hearing on the proposed student recreation center/indoor practice field in the East Chamber of the State Capitol tonight at 6 p.m.

Scudder is expecting more than 500 students to show their support of the \$14.9 million project at the Appropriations Committee hearing.

Testifying in favor of the project will be UNL Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Jim Griesen, Scudder, NU foot-

ball Coach Tom Osborne and possibly UNL Athletic Director, Bob Devaney, Scudder said Sunday.

But some students will be there to testify against the recreation center, including Kathleen Neary, a UNL senior political science major.

Rec-center opponents who also plan to testify include Cyndi Halpin, a senior psychology major, and possibly Neary and Erin Brisben, a senior criminal-justice major, Neary said Sunday.

Appropriations Committee Chairman Jerome Warner of Waverly said that after the hearing, the committee will send the proposal as a resolution to the floor of the Legislature for a vote,

according to an article in the Omaha World-Herald Sunday.

Last week UNL officials and the NU Board of Regents revised the original construction and financing plans of the rec center to reduce costs from \$16.6 million to \$14.9 million, and the center will be built in three phases.

In the past week, at least six student organizations have approved of the proposal: ASUN, the Residence Hall Association, the Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council, the Arts & Sciences Advisory Board and the Campus Recreation Advisory Council.

Although it appears that students support the project, Brisben said, many students who live off campus do not. Surveys in ASUN elections have shown students support the rec center, she said, but only about 2,800 students vote in the election, and most live on campus. Halpin said this is only about 13 percent of eligible voters.

"It's only the vocal minority who support the rec center," Halpin said.

Halpin said she, Brisben and Neary collected more than 200 signatures of faculty members and students who are against the rec center. The signatures, which were mostly collected on Friday, will be presented to the Appropriations Committee tonight, she said.

Halpin said she is opposed to the student-fee increase because many students wouldn't use the center.

She said the athletic department should help pay for the maintenance of the center since the football team will use it. Plans call for the students to pay for maintenance through student fees.

Scudder countered saying that the student-fee increase are taxes that will go toward a center that most of the UNL population will use.

"Everybody pays taxes, but it's up to them to decide if they want to take advantage of the facility," Scudder said.

Entrepreneur brings beach to UNL



Buck

By Kim Beavers
Staff Reporter

Who is Buck and what is he doing with those boards by the beach? Is Buck bored with boards by the beach? For the answers to these and other questions, ask Mike Merritt, a senior architecture major, creator of "Buck's boards by the beach" T-shirts and founder of "Bubba Enterprises."

Merritt has sold more than 500 of the nonsensical T-shirts, which feature a fictional stick-man "Buck" and surf shop in Redondo Beach, Calif.

Merritt, who works in a T-shirt and Greek paraphernalia shop and shares Buck's shock of black hair, came up with the idea last summer, because he was bored, he said. He drew up the design and started printing T-shirts.

Later, he expanded his collection to include sweatshirts and boxer shorts. Friends of Merritt's also

have sold the shirt at Kansas, Arizona and Tulane universities.

The design is simple: "Buck" in Ray Bans, holding his board, stands beside a dog above a "Buck's by the beach" slogan handwritten in the sand.

"I was looking for something different, and no one had ever done anything with stick figures before," Merritt said. "So I expounded on the idea."

Cindy Wilson, a freshman advertising major who bought a "Buck," said, "It's one of those kind of T-shirts that you'll wear 10 years down the road."

Todd Oltmans, a freshman architecture major, calls the shirts "creative."

"Buck is a character that is simple and fun at the same time," he said. "Speaking of time, I feel that Buck has tremendous potential in the future to catch on at a national level."

The whole thing started with 10 shirts that Merritt made for fun. He sold all 10 on the way up to his room in Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. The next day he sold 15 more and then sold another 25.

After the strong test-market response at his fraternity, Merritt took his business campuswide.

To promote sales, Merritt plastered the dorms, the Nebraska Union, trees, trashcans and many other places with flyers. He also put several personals in the Daily Nebraskan.

"Blonde girl walking out of Love Library —

Don't want to meet you. Just want to know where you got your Buck's boards by the beach sweatshirt."

Since his T-shirt success, Merritt's interests have begun to stray from architecture.

"I definitely want to get a degree, although I don't know how much I'll use it. I'd like to go into business for myself . . . retail maybe."