

WEATHER: Partly cloudy Wednesday. High in the lower to mid-60s. Wind north 5 to 15 mph. Mostly clear Wednesday night. Low 40 to 45. Mostly sunny and warmer Thursday. High in the lower 70s.

Daily Nebraskan

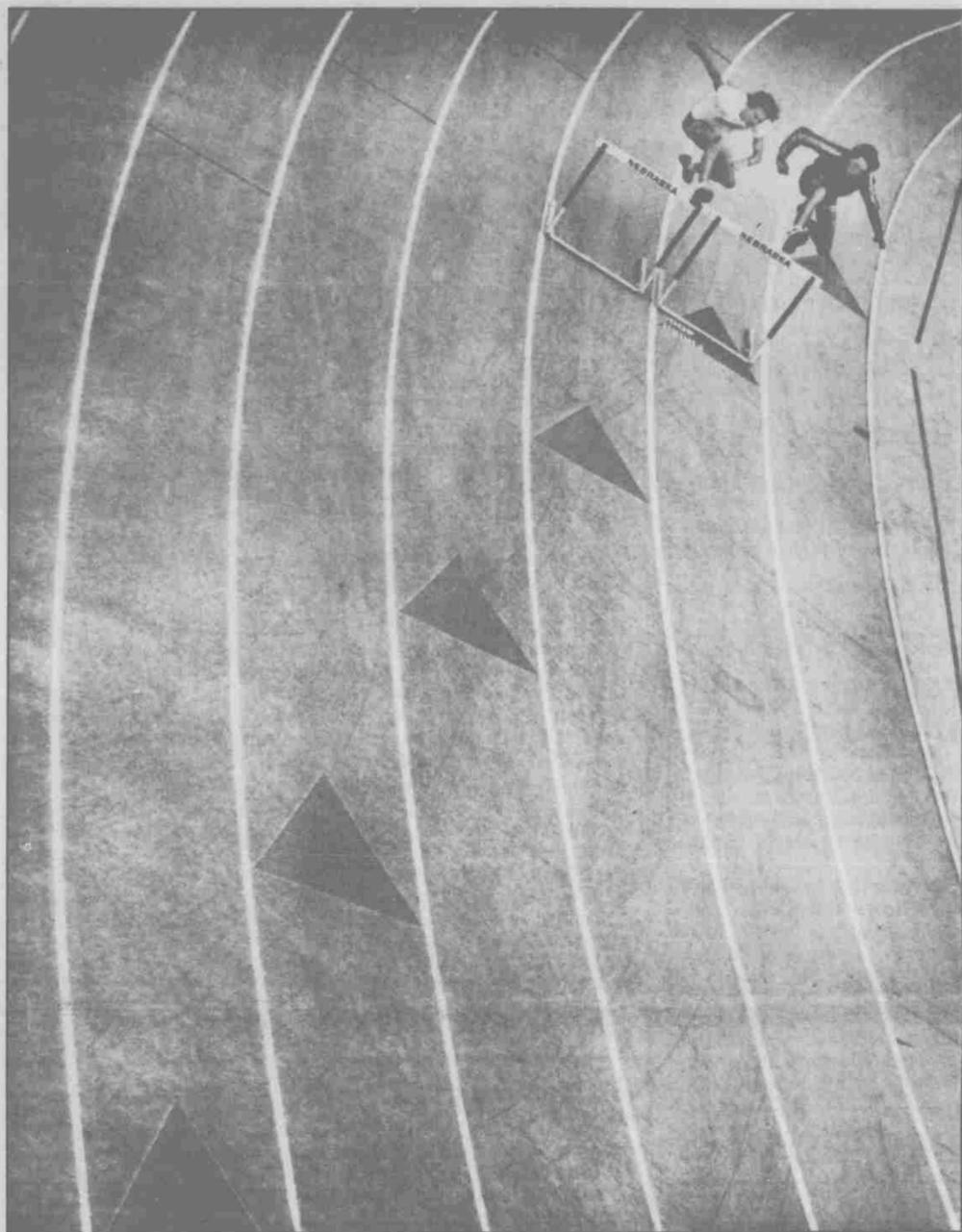
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Inside:

News Digest..... Page 2
 Editorial..... Page 4
 Entertainment..... Page 7
 Sports..... Page 9
 Classified..... Page 10

April 22, 1987

Vol. 86 No. 144



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Around the bend

Joe Kirby, left, and Harald Graham warm up by jumping hurdles before they start their track workout Tuesday.

UNSTA's 2nd chance survives debate round

By Michael Hooper
 Senior Reporter

State lawmakers Tuesday gave second-round approval to a bill that would require the Nebraska Legislature to keep the NU School of Technical Agriculture at Curtis open for the next two years.

On a 28-0 vote, senators advanced LB 656 as amended, which would give \$2.5 million over a two-year period to the NU Board of Regents for maintaining UNSTA. After July 1, 1989, the two-year technical school would separate from the university budget and be governed by a separate board.

Although the NU Board of Regents recently chose to close UNSTA, which reduces the university budget by \$1.2 million, LB 656 would provide the university money from the state's general fund to keep the school open for another two years.

No senator Tuesday opposed the quality and importance of UNSTA, but several senators were concerned about the source of funds for the school.

Sen. Owen Elmer of Indianola said after the vote that while many university graduates leave the state, more than 90 percent of UNSTA graduates stay in the state and benefit it economically by working and paying taxes.

Sen. George Coordsen of Hebron said he had received many letters from UNSTA graduates saying they wouldn't have gone to college in Lincoln if UNSTA didn't exist. Coordsen said the graduates were from western Nebraska and they didn't want to travel all the way across the state to attend the university.

Coordsen said that during the two-year period when the university will continue to run UNSTA, the Legislature will try to see where UNSTA fits in with either the community colleges or the state colleges.

State senators also voted 25-1 to add an amendment that says no state college or community college money would be used to finance UNSTA.

Elmer said that the debate over UNSTA basically boils down to whether or not Curtis is worth funding. "I think 'I think it is,'" he said.

Money for Morrill included in budget

By Michael Hooper
 Senior Reporter

The Legislature's Appropriations Committee Tuesday informally approved a 1987-88 state budget that includes a 2-percent increase in general funds for the University of Nebraska and \$4 million for the renovation of UNL's Morrill Hall.

On a 5-1 vote, the committee approved an amendment that earmarks .5 cents of the 4-cent tax increase on cigarettes to raise \$4 million over a two-year period for an air-conditioning system in Morrill Hall and revitalization of its permanent displays.

The committee's recommendation for the university is \$169.6 million for fiscal year 1987-88 and \$171 million for fiscal year 1988-89. The Legislature's current appropriation to the university is \$166.2 million.

A total of \$880 million is available for appropriations. The committee's budget also includes a 3-percent pay raise for state employees and a 1.6 percent increase in general appropriations for higher education. The total budget recommendation for public education is \$417.7 million for fiscal year 1987-88.

Expected revenue for fiscal year 1987-88 is about \$924 million. About 5

percent of that will be kept in reserve. The amendment that earmarks funds from the cigarette tax increase also includes using 1.5 cents for two other construction projects at Peru State and Kearney State Colleges.

Although the cigarette tax increase, which goes into effect July 1, will not raise the necessary revenue to finance Morrill Hall renovation right away, the amendment assumes financing over a 10-year period. The funding for the projects begins in 1988 but the projects could begin before then if they are approved by the NU Board of Regents and the State Board of Trustees.

Sen. Chris Abboud of Ralston said he understands the need for renovation of Morrill Hall, but he opposed the funding because it will increase the state deficit until all the money is collected from the cigarette tax increase.

The federal government chose to go into deficit spending, and appropriating money for Morrill Hall is the same thing, he said.

Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly, the committee chairman, said that while the money for the project is not already available, it will be eventually.

Sen. Gary Hannibal of Omaha said there probably is no better place to use the cigarette tax money than for the renovation of Morrill Hall.

ASUN officer quits Union Board

By Amy Edwards
 Staff Reporter

John Bergmeyer resigned from his position on Union Board Tuesday night. In a letter addressed to Union Board, Bergmeyer said he regretted his resignation but felt it was the only option for both himself and Union Board.

"It is because of my true respect and concern for the unions and for the

importance of the issues that the Union Board deals with, that I must give up my position to someone who can better give of their time, concern and effort that the Board demands, expects, and deserves," said Bergmeyer. "My main motive for this action concerns only my desire to be the best ASUN 2nd vice president and AGS rush chairman that I can be."

Union Board will notify ASUN of the

opening position and the ASUN appointments board will look at applications for the position.

Union Board also accepted the proposed space allocations for the Unions at the meeting. Union Director Daryl Swanson and Assistant Director Operations Frank Kuhns will decide on the allocations which will go into effect July 1.

Senators sit on Chambers' 5-mph cushion

By Michael Hooper
 Senior Reporter

Bill to raise speed limit to 65 advances with amendment

State senators Tuesday eliminated a 5-mph cushion from a bill that would raise the speed limit to 65 mph on most of Nebraska's interstate system.

On a 32-9 vote, senators attached an amendment to the bill eliminating the 5-mph cushion that would have prevented the assessment of points on the driving records of people exceeding 65 mph by less than 5 mph.

LB430, sponsored by Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha and two other senators, had been up for final approval Tuesday, but senators voted 29-10 to return the bill to second stage of debate, where

they later attached the amendment eliminating the 5-mph cushion.

Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly, sponsor of the amendment, said that the 5-mph cushion would encourage some drivers to exceed the speed limit. This would make the interstate more dangerous, he said, because the flow of traffic would not be the same.

Warner said that a consistent law will make it easier for traffic officials to enforce the new speed limit. Penalties would be issued in a uniform manner, he said.

Senators later voted 36-7 to re-advance

LB430 to final reading.

Two weeks ago, Chambers attached an amendment to the bill that would have allowed speed-limit violators a 5-mph cushion. There now is a 10-mph cushion for those people who exceed the 55-mph speed limit by less than 10 mph.

Violations under the 5-mph cushion would not include court costs in the fines, Chambers said.

After senators approved Chambers' amendment, two weeks ago Gov. Kay Orr threatened to veto the speed-limit

bill.

Chambers said Tuesday that senators bowed to the governor, whom he called "the whip cracker," when they changed their minds about the 5-mph cushion.

"She (Orr) needs to show the wealthy people that she can dominate this Legislature," Chambers said. After Orr threatened to veto the bill with the 5-mph cushion, he said, senators "ran for cover, but I didn't," he said.

Sen. Scott Moore of Stromsburg said he changed his mind about the 5-mph cushion because his constituents told

him there is no need for a 5-mph cushion.

"They feel 65 mph is plenty fast," Moore said.

LB430 would increase the speed limit to 65 mph on most of Nebraska's interstate system. It carries an emergency clause, allowing it to become law almost immediately if signed by the governor.

Officials at the Nebraska Department of Roads have been preparing signs for the 65-mph speed limit on the interstate.

LB430 probably will come up for final approval by the Legislature this week or early next week.