

**WEATHER:** Sunny and warm Wednesday. High in the lower 80s. Wind northeast 5 to 15 mph becoming east 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. Clear and mild Wednesday night. Low in the upper 40s. Mostly sunny and mild Thursday. High in the upper 70s to lower 80s.

# Daily Nebraskan

## Inside:

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

April 29, 1987

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

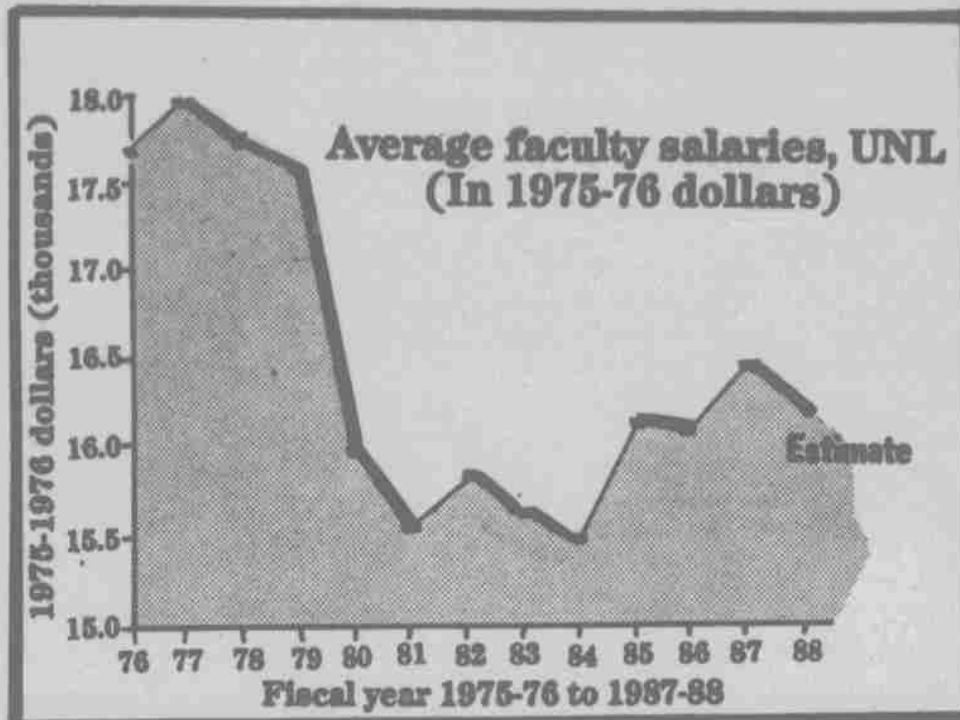
Vol. 86 No. 149

## Pushing the limit



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska Department of Roads workers like this one were already at work Tuesday replacing "55"s with "65"s.



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

## Landis offers amendment for \$9.9 million fund to raise faculty salaries

By Michael Hooper  
 Senior Reporter

In an effort to stop quality faculty from leaving the university for better salary offers, Sen. David Landis of Lincoln has filed a \$9.9 million amendment to a budget bill to increase faculty salaries at UNL.

Charlie Petersen, aide to Sen. Landis, said he expects LB780, the budget package introduced by the Appropriations Committee, to be discussed in first-round debate this week.

UNL salaries now are ranked at the bottom of UNL's 12 peer institutions in the American Association of Universities and Land Grant Institutions, Petersen said.

In the past year alone, the College of Arts and Sciences has lost 19 faculty members, said John Peters, associate dean of the college. Of about 24 professors who received better salary offers from other universities, and counter-offers from UNL, only three remained.

"There's always good people leaving," Peters said.

He said other universities' salary offers are often 30 percent higher than average salaries at UNL.

While AAU universities over the last 10 years have increased annually an average of 6.4 percent, UNL salaries have increased annually by only 3 percent, according to a report from Landis' office.

The most distressing fact, Peters said, is that most of the faculty members leaving the College of Arts and Sciences are top-quality senior professors.

"This can be devastating to a university because you cannot always expect a junior professor to make the same outstanding contribution," Peters said.

Peters said the notion that faculty salaries should be lower in the Midwest because it costs less to live here is untrue. The market for professors is not local, he said. It includes professors from all over the United States including such places as the University of Illinois and Harvard University in Boston.

He said UNL has to bring in the best professors who are able to train professionals and contribute to economic development, so salaries must be competitive with UNL's peer institutions.

The \$9.9 million appropriation in Landis' amendment will be used to provide employee benefits and bonuses besides raising faculty salaries.

## What for Whittier? Administration still plans to make junior high into research center

By Jen Deselms  
 Senior Reporter

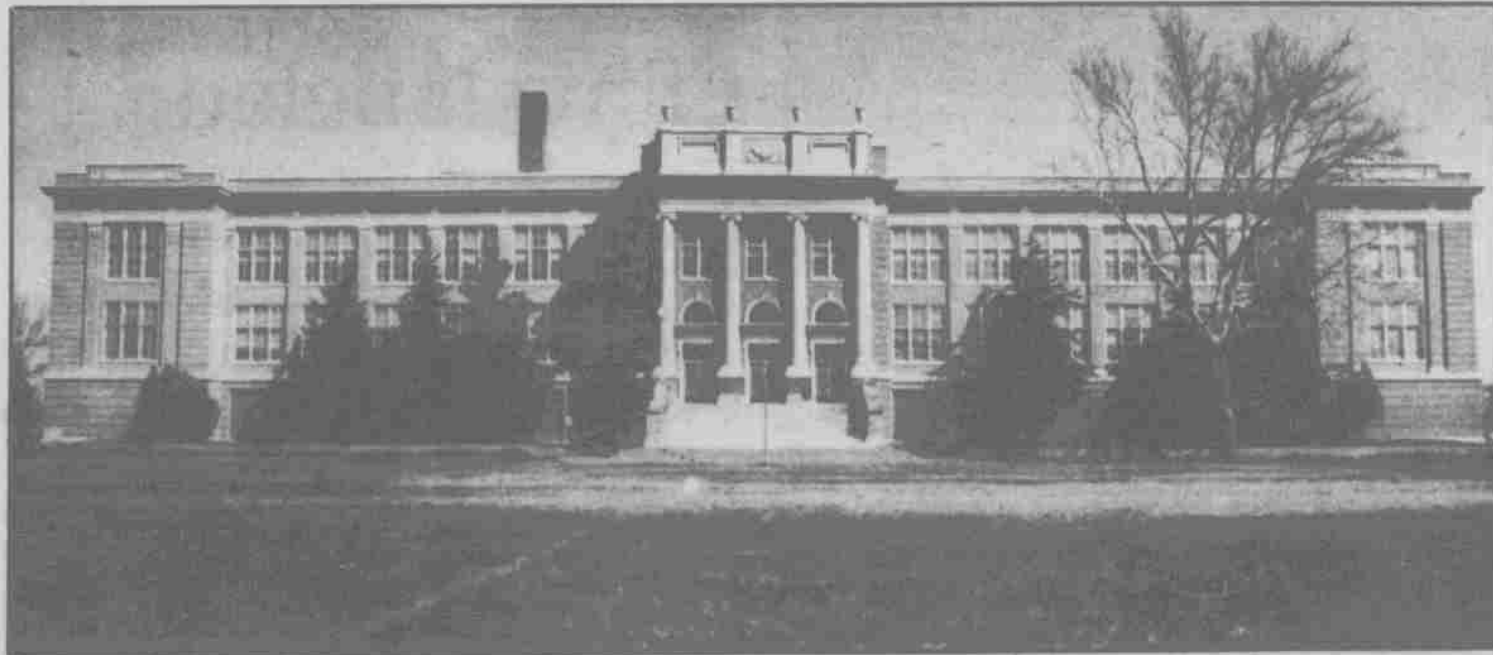
Four years since the university purchased Whittier Junior High School, university officials still are saying they hope to convert the building into a research center—someday.

But today, most of the building at 22nd and Vine streets, is used for storage. It's crowded with castoffs from renovation projects in Bessey and Architectural halls.

However, one step has been taken toward converting the shell of a school, which has been closed since 1977, into a full-fledged research center. The northwest end of the building houses Kamterter, a research office for experimentation with agriculture and biotechnology to advance crop-establishment technologies. The office has been located in Whittier since September 1985.

But in other parts of the building, the heat, electricity and water remain turned off.

At the NU Board of Regents' April meeting, Regent Margaret Robinson of Norfolk said that with all the



broken windows the building "looked like something from a Vietnam War zone."

But the university has spent about \$120,000 on repairs and prevention of more vandalism, said Jack Goebel, vice chancellor for business and finance. Repairs have included a new roof and vandalism-prevention measures, such as boarding up first-floor windows and replacing win-

dows on the upper floors with shatter-proof plastic.

Harely Schrader, director of the Physical Plant, said the building has weathered the extremes of heat and cold and is sound. People do not realize that the building, a \$500,000 purchase in 1983, is an asset, Schrader said. The building not only has potential for the future, but has helped the university in its

current storage role.

The university has limited storage space, and without Whittier, UNL might have had to lease space to store equipment during recent renovations, Schrader said.

Chairs, desks, sofas and lamps line the halls. They cover many of the gaping holes left after Lincoln

Public School officials removed many lockers that once lined the hallways. Many locked classrooms house similar equipment. But most second-floor classrooms are empty, stripped even of their chalkboards.

Academic departments are not the only university divisions using the building as storage. Canoes can be found in the darkness of the kitchen; a shopping cart full of old trophies sits in a hallway.

Vandalism to windows has been a problem in the past, and writing can be found on some of the interior walls. But Schrader said that people who got into the building did little damage.

University officials keep all the doors locked, some with chains on the inside. Someone has written on a gymnasium chalkboard, "I can sleep safe and secure tonight knowing Whittier is locked up tight."

Vice Chancellor for Research John Yost said he has no intention of leaving the potential for research expansion locked up forever.

See WHITTIER on 6