

**WEATHER:** Tuesday, partly sunny. High around 70. Tuesday night, mostly clear. Low 45 to 50. Wednesday, partly sunny and warmer. High around 80.

# Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Community college options weighed

By Mary Nell Westbrook  
 Staff Reporter

As community colleges lose more and more state aid, a plan to change the state's community colleges' support from partial to complete state financing has drawn mixed reviews.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Regent Don Blank said putting all schools "under a similar umbrella" would save on property taxes and make Nebraska's post-secondary education more efficient.

Blank's idea and others will be discussed by a governor's committee studying ways to finance the University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture in Curtis. A date will be set later this week for the committee to meet with Gov. Kay Orr.

State Sens. Chris Abboud of Ralston and Owen Elmer of Indianola said Blank has a good idea, but implementation could take several years.

Higher education must be better coordinated and the only way to accomplish this would be through state funding, Abboud said.

"But income and sales taxes would have to increase to make up for the

nearly \$25 million loss in property taxes," he said.

Currently, Nebraska's six community colleges receive more than \$23 million in state aid.

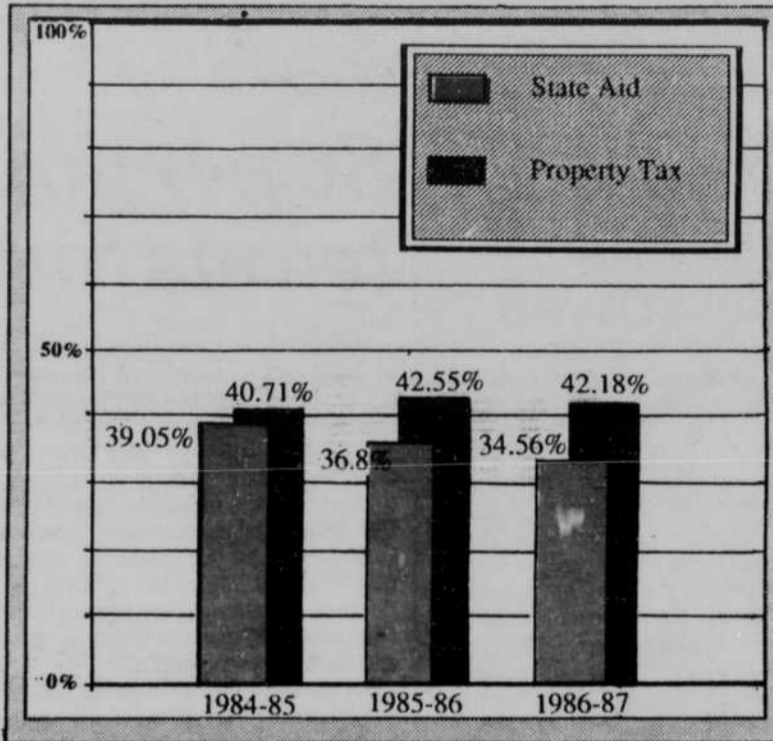
The income- and sales-tax increases would be more uniform and fair than higher property taxes, Elmer said.

During the past three years, state aid has steadily declined each year as property taxes have gone up, said Tom Johnston, executive director of the Nebraska Technical Community College Association.

All six community college presidents said they are opposed to complete state financing of their colleges. The primary reason for this, they said, is a fear of losing local control.

With local control, a community college can respond quickly to immediate area needs and the needs of local businesses. These are things state-financed schools can't do, said William Hasemeyer, president of Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte.

"If a business needs help from an institution like the university, it gets caught up in the bureaucracy," he



Source: Nebraska Technical Community College Association

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

Hasemeyer said his property taxes were \$1,428 this year and only \$83 went to the community college.

John Harms, president of Western Technical Community College in Scottsbluff, said he doesn't want total state aid, but the college needs more financial support.

"I don't think the rural areas and farmers can keep carrying the burden of the high property taxes, especially with the rapid decline in land values," he said.

Johnston said community colleges have tried to keep the burden off property taxpayers by raising tuition instead. Between 1976-77 and 1986-87 tuition went up more than 180 percent at community colleges.

Richard Gilliland, president of Metro-Technical Community College in Omaha, said the state funds would be better used on the university.

"There should be greater emphasis on UNL's research for U S West and faculty salaries should be priority," he said.

The proposal to support community colleges entirely with state funds went before the Legislature in 1984 and it never got anywhere, Gilliland said.

As for property taxes, Hasemeyer said, they would not be reduced that much.

## UNL gets equipment

By Victoria Ayotte  
 Staff Reporter

New equipment will make the University of Nebraska-Lincoln "the key place" for extrusion research, said Steve Taylor, director of UNL's Food Processing Center.

Wenger Manufacturing Co. has donated \$150,000 worth of equipment, service and training to the center.

Extrusion is the mixing and forming of food products under high pressure and temperature. The technology is used to make snack foods such as cheese puffs, breakfast cereals and pet foods.

"We're very honored and excited to work with the University of Nebraska on this exciting project," said John Krehbiel, director of sales for Wenger in Sabetha, Kan. "Without a shadow of a doubt, we feel the University of Nebraska will have the finest food service and food extrusion technology program in the country."

Chuck Schroeder, vice president of the University Foundation, said the donation is actually about 45 percent of the \$262,000 extrusion equipment.

Krehbiel said his company was first approached a year ago by Randy Wheeling, an assistant professor of food science and technology, about buying some equipment.

Extrusion techniques make food processing "much more efficient in terms of energy, space and personnel," he said.

Taylor said installation of the equipment depends on whether there is a place for the equipment on East Campus, because it weighs three tons and requires much electricity. UNL should have the equipment by mid-1989 at the latest, when the new food processing center is scheduled to be completed. The new center will be the permanent spot for the equipment, he said.

UNL will have the only twin-screw extruder in the country, creating an "unparalleled opportunity to do research in this area," Taylor said.

Faculty members will do research with the equipment, but graduate students may also have a chance to use it, he said. Taylor said students with experience in the area will be "better prepared and more employable."

Krehbiel said he thinks the equipment will help the university in "finding ways to add value to agriculturally raised grains — what the food industry is all about."

Gov. Kay Orr thanked Wenger for the contribution in a ceremony Thursday, calling the arrangement "the perfect public-private partnership." Taylor said he thinks UNL's new research capabilities will "help forge university-industry relationships."

## Vendor flavors FarmAid

By Amy Edwards  
 Senior Reporter

Hotdogs, popcorn and Runzas are usual stadium fare, but people who attended FarmAid III Saturday could taste a spicy side of life and promote Nebraska products at the same time.

Art Jimenez, a senior animal-science major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said he used only fresh Nebraska products for his Mexican-food stand at the southwest corner of Memorial Stadium underneath the bleachers.

Fresh products from family and friends, beef from McGinley/Schilz Feedlot in Brule, and beans from the Farmers Co-op Association were donated to make Jimenez's homemade Mexican food.

"With fresh Nebraska products and Mom's recipe, it's naturally good," Jimenez said.

Jimenez said he got the idea to open his own stand from friends. He said he does catering on request and is always being asked to cook for friends.

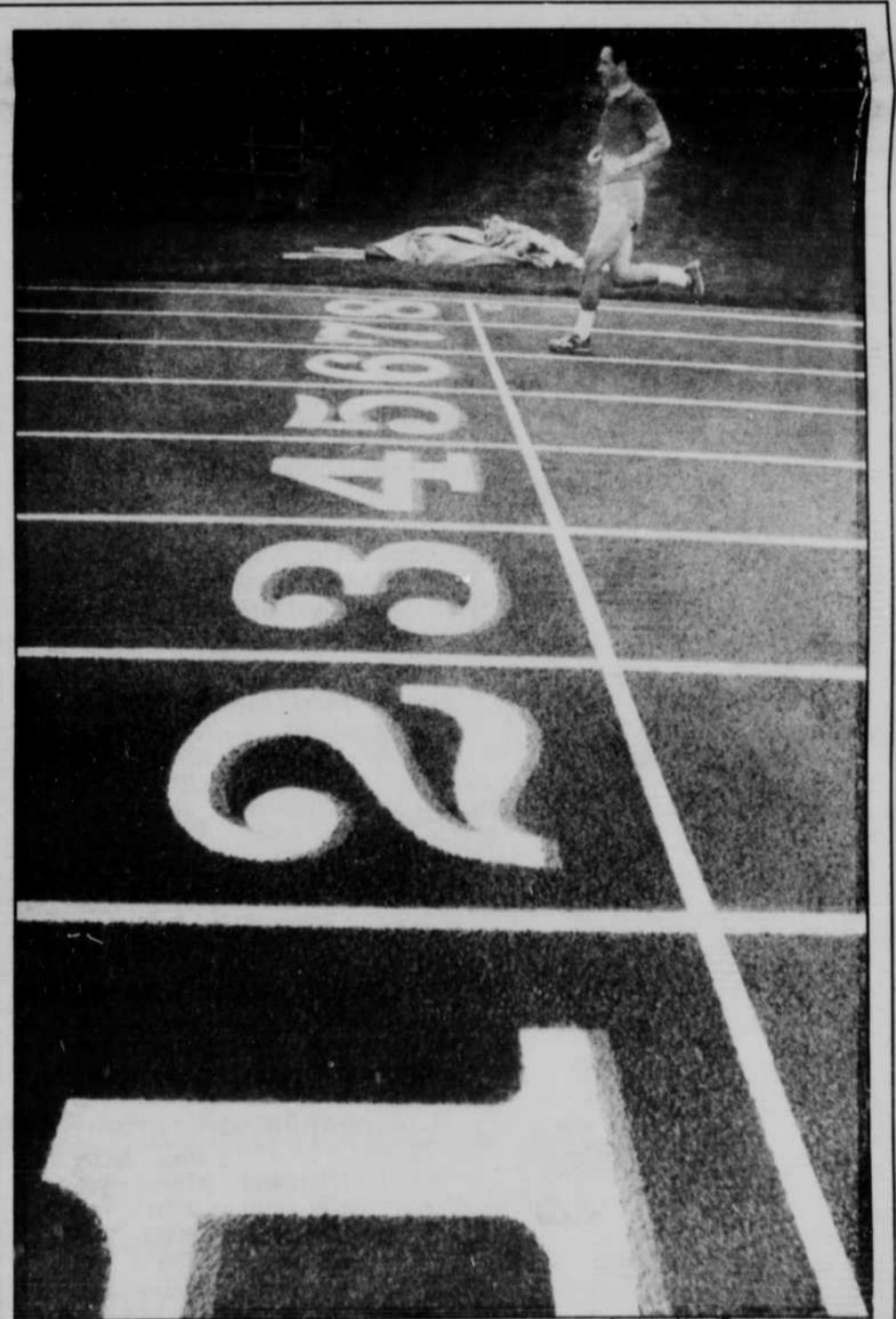
There were two openings for vendors in the stadium. The university awarded the Mexican stand the first spot and Kentucky Fried Chicken the other, Jimenez said.

The Legion Club contributed equipment to the stand to help promote Nebraska products.

Jimenez, who grew up in rural Nebraska, said he wanted to promote the products because he had seen the hard times farmers are going through.

"I think this promotion helps more than people realize," Jimenez said. "By my small promotion for Nebraska products, I feel like I've helped."

See MEXICANA on 5



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Jim Mischnick of Lincoln runs laps at the Ed Weir Stadium Monday.