

# Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Friday

**Weather:** Friday, becoming mostly sunny, high near 25. Friday night, partly cloudy, low near 10. Saturday, mostly cloudy, 30% chance of snow, high 30-35.

**A&E:** Artists have 'lofty' ideas—Page 6.

**Sports:** Nebraska's wrestling team will face some tough competition in the Cowboy Duals—Page 5.

## LB1096 could lower wages, job applications

By Brandon Loomis  
Staff Reporter

Two University of Nebraska-Lincoln employers say a bill before the Nebraska Legislature that would lower the minimum wage of students would not increase the number of campus jobs for students, but could decrease applicants.

The minimum wage for many high school and college students could drop by 15 percent if LB1096 is passed.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Howard Lamb of Anselmo, would allow employers to decrease minimum wage for student-workers from \$3.35 to \$2.85 per hour. The purpose, he said, is to give students more job

opportunities by making them cheaper to employ.

"If certain students don't have the skills to justify the full minimum wage," he said, "they can find a job for a slightly less amount and continue their education."

Doug Zatechka, UNL housing director, said his department is unable to fill all student positions at the current minimum-wage level. Although numbers vary daily, he said, the department is usually 20 or more students short.

Daryl Swanson, director of Nebraska unions, said the unions also have problems attracting enough student-workers.

"We have job openings now, and our positions have not been full since

last fall," he said.

Swanson said that because businesses like McDonald's and Wendy's are affiliated with national chains that follow federal minimum-wage laws, the unions probably would be unable to drop their wages.

Such "spotty compliance" to the law would put any business offering the lower wage at a disadvantage when looking for quality help, he said.

"Somewhere in there is a good idea," he said. "It's just hard to apply in our marketplace."

Zatechka said if the university went to a lower than \$3.35 per hour student wage, while other services nearby stayed at or above it, the housing department would have an even harder time filling its positions.

"That's a fair hunk of money," he said. "I'm sure there are students who would be willing to walk three blocks off campus to get it."

Pamela Dingman, a sophomore mechanical engineering major and former UNL snack bar worker, said she quit her job partly because of the \$3.45 per hour wage.

"I can work at Hy-Vee for \$4.50," she said.

Swanson also said demographics suggest the bill may not be necessary. High school classes in Nebraska are at their lowest populations in years, he said, and there are increasingly fewer applicants than jobs.

Census data from 1980 shows there were 417,882 people 16 and under in Nebraska during that year, down from

479,014 in 1970.

Lamb said students who are already employed probably would not be affected by the bill, because employers would be unable to justify cutting the wages of experienced workers.

Those who would benefit, he said, are inexperienced students who cannot compete for jobs with non-students. He said employers hire non-students over students to avoid schedule conflicts.

Lamb said he expects no opposition to the bill, except from students who feel they deserve the full minimum wage.

"I'm hoping that won't happen," he said, "because they are the people I'm trying to help."

## Life of helping others suits retired professor

By Anne Mohri  
Senior Reporter

Michael Grobsmith, a retired medical administration professor, has decided to return to a career of helping people.

"I don't like being idle," Grobsmith said. "I don't like being in a volunteer social agency. I want to be involved in my field as a teacher or doer or both."

Grobsmith, 73, applied for the Peace Corps and this semester enrolled in an accelerated Spanish course at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

He expects the Peace Corps to contact him within four to six weeks, at which time he'll be sent to a language school.

Grobsmith said the Peace Corps was impressed by his 50-year background in health and is now trying to coordinate his qualifications with a country requesting help in his field. The Corps has told him he may be sent to Guatemala, Belize or Honduras.

He earned his undergraduate degree in medical administration from New York University in New York City in 1940 and his graduate degree from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in 1970. Grobsmith taught at Case-Western Reserve University in Cleveland and retired from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana two years ago.

He said he's been interested in

Central America since he visited his aunt in Cuba in 1932. When he was 18, he said, he saw student and liberal protesters shot by the regime of Fulgencio Batista.

As a member of the American Public Health Association, Grobsmith and 17 other physicians, nurses and administrators traveled to Nicaragua for three weeks in 1985. The group studied how the civil war in Nicaragua was affecting health care there, he said.

Only three years earlier, Nicaragua received the United Nations prize for having made great strides in health care, he said.

Grobsmith said the Contras bombed Nicaraguan medical posts and killed a number of medical personnel, including volunteers from Canada, France and East Germany.

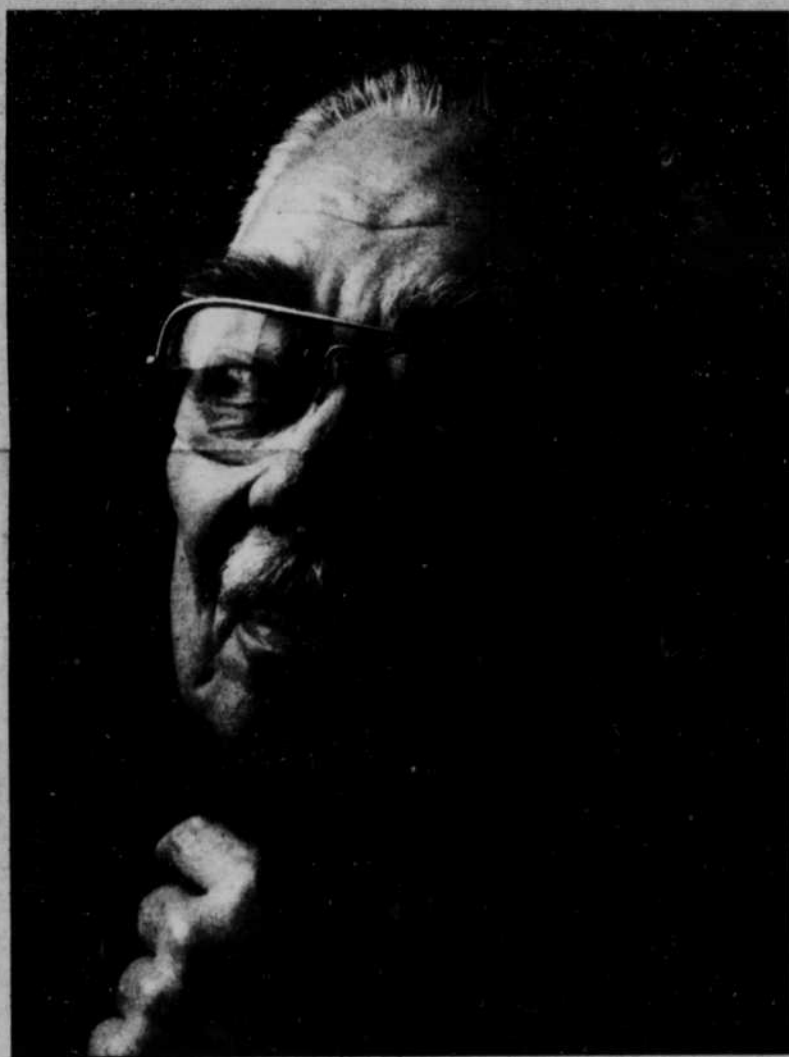
The amount and quality of health care in Nicaragua decreased and infant mortality increased as a result of the bombings.

After returning to the United States, the group published a report and condemned aid to the Contras.

"We lobbied senators and others, saying the war had to stop by not supporting the Contras anymore," Grobsmith said.

"United States policy has inflicted severe damage on their democratic aspirations and then on their economics, and has kept them in poverty and kept their governments unstable."

Grobsmith was born in Warsaw,



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Grobsmith

Poland, in 1914. Before his birth, his father fled Poland to avoid the draft. When Grobsmith was 4, his father sent for his family to join him in America.

He served as a medic for 4 1/2 years in the U.S. Air Force paratroops and glidertroops during World War II.

## RHA approves increase proposal for housing rates

By Janel Fuhrman  
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Residence Hall Association approved a proposal Thursday night to increase the room and board rates by \$140 for the next academic year.

The approved 1988-89 Housing Rate Study still requires the signature or veto of the RHA president, but if he fails to act within two weeks the document will move to the next step of approval, RHA President Russ Johnson said.

"I will not be signing or vetoing the bill," Johnson said. "I'm on the side of the residents who cannot afford the increase in room and board. I am neither rejecting or approving this bill."

The NU Board of Regents will consider the rate study at its February meeting.

The Committee on Residential Enhancement and the Division of University Housing's proposal requested an 11.4 percent increase in wages for housing employees along with an anticipated 45-cent increase in the minimum wage.

Doug Zatechka, university housing director, said salaries have to go up.

"It is more difficult to hire and keep qualified workers for housing if we do not," he said.

If the present room and board rates are not increased, Zatechka said there would be a \$560,521 budget deficit for

See RHA on 3

## Fewer ASUN senators leave positions

By Micki Haller  
Senior Reporter

While fewer ASUN senators have vacated their seats this year than last year, some reasons for leaving remain the same.

Laura Schabloske's resignation Wednesday from the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska increased the number of senators leaving to 10 this term. Four graduate senator positions were never filled because of lack of interest.

Last spring the Daily Nebraskan reported that 18 senators left office before their term expired.

"Actually, we're doing pretty

good," said John Bergmeyer, ASUN first vice president.

Senators this year and last cited other commitments and apathy in the senate when resigning.

ASUN President Andy Pollock said he agreed that the senate had some apathy, but he said it happens in every group.

In Schabloske's resignation letter, she cited apathy, indecisiveness and party politics in the senate as reasons for withdrawing.

Schabloske, former arts & sciences senator and Communications Committee chairwoman, said during her term and a half on senate, she hadn't seen anything happen. She said the

senators were unable to make strong stands and many would not get involved with the issues.

"I believe in ASUN — it has the potential ... the group itself can do a lot," she said.

"They're not, right now, representing the students," she said, pointing out that less than five senators are non-greek. Schabloske is a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Lori Nedrow, a former senator for the business college, said she left ASUN over Christmas break because of other "major time conflicts."

"The reason I resigned wasn't

because of negative feelings towards ASUN," she said.

Machelle Rediger said she had to leave ASUN after three absences because she needed to devote more time to student teaching.

"I could have made the time if I really wanted to," the former home economics college senator said.

Rediger said she wanted to voice her concerns for her college and for East Campus.

However, she said, "I really did not feel involved at all," because she was from East Campus."

The senate will miss Schabloske, Bergmeyer said, because she did an excellent job.

"She went about some things in the wrong way," he said. "If you're in an organization and you're upset with something, you should change it."

Schabloske, also a member of the executive board, said the senate should feel bad because it is "losing one of the two senators who have done anything."

Pete Castellano, an arts and science senator Schabloske praised, said the only solution to the high turnover rate is to get more people interested in ASUN. He suggested offering academic credit for senators and executives.

"(Schabloske's) leaving is an indication of a bigger problem," he said.