

# Daily Nebraskan

Tuesday

Weather: Tuesday, mostly sunny, high of 35-40 with north winds at 5-15 mph. Tuesday night, some clouds, low 15. Wednesday, cloudy, high 35-40.

A&E: Radio is in the hands . . . —Page 8.

Sports: Stephens probably will play despite accident —Page 6.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## New UNL project to emphasize liberal arts

By London Bridge  
and Ryan Johnson  
Staff Reporters

Reading Homer's "Iliad," studying trigonometry and speaking a foreign language soon may be required of every University of Nebraska-Lincoln student.



Reflecting a widespread national change, UNL will undergo a gradual curriculum shift placing more emphasis on the liberal arts, said Robert Furgason, vice chancellor for academic affairs.

A survey taken a year ago by the American Council on Education found that 95 percent of all two- and four-year institutions nationwide overhauled their curriculum in the past few years or were about to do so. UNL is no exception.

Furgason said two years ago, the Chancellor's Commission on General and Liberal Education, directed by G.G. Meisels, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences,

assessed elements that should be part of every student's education.

A second group, the Chancellor's Committee for the Advancement of General Education, directed by Raymond Haggh, music theory professor at the School of Music, was formed to recommend ways to implement the new policy. Last September, UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale put Haggh in charge of the entire project.

Haggh said to work with what he termed a "gigantic task," the 18 members of his committee split into six subcommittees: communication, mathematics, arts and humanities, basic and applied sciences, culture and society, and senior seminars. He said faculty members and students were invited to join the project. Some faculty members joined, he said, but no students.

Furgason said the groups thought the university places too much emphasis on specialization.

"To face future challenges, students must have a broad core of material, knowledge and background in many different areas," he said.

Although employers insist on specific talents and knowledge, he said, most employers today require communication skills. Employers want their employees to have perspectives beyond narrow views imposed on students by specialization. They want the employee to have the ability to conduct critical analyses on many subjects.

To fulfill these requirements, he said, uni-

versities and students need to concentrate more on those areas that will give students a "broader grasp" of issues and events.

Meisels' commission targeted five areas of concentration in its report: culture and society; arts and humanities; basic and applied science; mathematics; and interpersonal communications.

UNL will emphasize these areas by initiating a core curriculum which will require a minimum amount of work in each area.

A college education in these areas will teach students to think critically, combine information, re-examine accepted truths, respect different ways of knowing and stimulate curiosity, the report said.

The new policy is not a matter of every student taking an English course here and there. If the goals of the commission are met, general and liberal education will constitute about one-fourth of a student's class load, or at least 29 hours. These requirements will be distributed throughout the student's college career.

Required courses will reflect the intellectual, social and learning development of the students and will draw on classes previously taken, the report stated. Enrollment in these classes should be restricted, ensuring the separation of freshmen and seniors.

Those 29 hours will not be the same for every student. Furgason said the new system must be flexible for each college. Engineers and performing artists will not take identical classes throughout their college careers.

Haggh said most courses, excluding math, will be interdisciplinary, incorporating different colleges into each class.

For example, in a proposed fine-arts course, he said, he visualizes a course based on attendance in class and at assigned events: productions at the Lied Center, films at Sheldon Art Gallery and viewing different local architecture. The class, he said, would be taught by a panel of teachers from the colleges involved for the first few weeks of the course, after which each department would teach for a period.

Haggh said coherence is important. A student can start a freshman-level math course, he said, without needing any previous body of knowledge. But subsequent courses will build on what a student has learned since starting the program.

A math class is already planned, he said. While all classes are important, he said, this math class takes priority because it can be implemented quickly and easily. He said he would like to see the class started next year on a trial basis. The class will deal with math on a practical level, introducing students to math as used in everyday society.

"A student who doesn't have a math background can take it and benefit from it," Haggh said.

Each class will be proposed through models, which would be sample syllabi outlining course description, requirements and grading

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## Legislature may revoke bill requiring lots to pay towing

By Anne Mohri  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska towing companies may be back in business with the unanimous first-round approval of LB833.

If passed, the bill would revoke the recent Nebraska Supreme Court ruling that made car owners in private parking lots not responsible for the tow and storage fees.

Sen. Howard Lamb of Anselmo said people are parking illegally because they know they will not be towed. Towing companies will not tow because they may not get paid for their services, he said.

Lamb said LB833 will probably pass without a lot of opposition because most people realize the parking situation is a problem that needs to be addressed.

If the bill passes, he said, and a person's car is illegally parked, it will be towed and the owner will have to pay the fee in exchange for the car.

Sen. James McFarland of Lincoln said circumstances should be looked at before a car is towed.

"There are more reasonable alternatives than just to give someone

indiscriminate discretion to have cars towed," McFarland said.

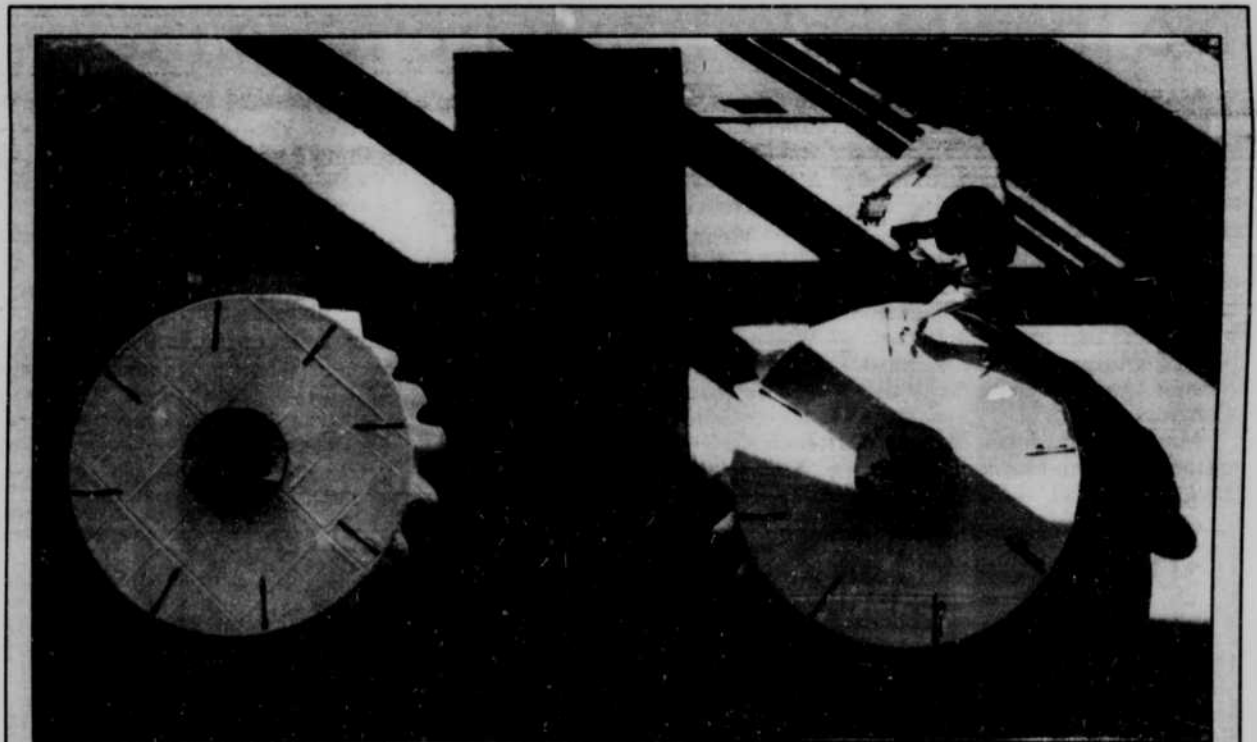
Legislators also gave second-round approval to a proposed constitutional amendment. The amendment, passed 28-5, would allow 17-year-olds to vote in Nebraska primary elections if they turn 18 before the general election.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, sponsor of the amendment, said high school students studying the political elections should be allowed to vote while they have the education and want to vote.

"I believe that if they are allowed in this first instance to vote while the knowledge and awareness and enthusiasm for the system is upon them, we may catch them and they will be participants in the political process from then on," Chambers said.

The final decision for the amendment will be addressed on the November election ballot.

Chamber's amendment was attached to LR248CA, sponsored by Sen. Tim Hall of Omaha. LR248CA, a proposed constitutional amendment, which would change the wording on legislative statutes from electors to registered voters.



Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

### Round the tables

Bob Sildmets, assistant manager of the Nebraska Union's catering department, sets tables in the Sheldon Art Gallery for the annual Chancellor's Spring Gala. The event, which was Monday night, is a chance for the university to show its appreciation of legislators and other supporters and to celebrate spring, said John Peters, associate to the chancellor.

## Mayor expects depot project to attract tourists

By Victoria Ayotte  
Staff Reporter

Lincoln Mayor Bill Harris selected the Arter Group Monday to direct a \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million redevelopment project of the Burlington Northern Depot in Lincoln's Haymarket district.

Arter's proposal was chosen over two other development packages, Harris said.

The Lincoln group hopes to start renovation in the next 120 days and open the depot for business in May or June 1989, Arter said.

The depot is to be called Lincoln Station. The depot will remain, but there may be additions of a theater, a restaurant/lounge, retail businesses that emphasize Burlington's histori-

cal impact on Lincoln, office space and a farmer's market.

**'We are going to have one of the most exciting tourist attractions in the Midwest.'**

—Harris

Harris said Arter's proposal was chosen because Arter showed a willingness to work

with city officials and the current owners of the depot, Glacier Park.

"We are very, very excited by this proposal," Harris said. "We are going to have one of the most exciting tourist attractions in the Midwest."

Rep. Doug Bereuter played a big part in bringing about the depot development project, Harris said.

Bereuter visited with Housing and Urban Development officials to secure their commitment for a \$700,000 grant for the project, a written statement said.

In the statement, Bereuter called the development of the depot and the Haymarket the keystone to development of Lincoln.

Dean Arter, president of the Arter Group,

said Lincoln will have a major role in the development of the depot.

"I think that moving ahead with this project is an exciting example of the city's commitment to development," he said.

Arter said previous redevelopment projects in the area, such as the Haymarket Square and Junction, have shown the potential of the area.

"Many more are perhaps waiting for the depot project to lead the way," he said.

The project team includes the Arter Group of affiliated companies, which will serve as developer, management and leasing agent and construction manager; Erickson/Schulz, which will be in charge of architectural design; and Smith Hayes Financial Services, a financial consultant.