

Daily Nebraskan

Thursday

Weather: Thursday, light morning snow with decreasing cloudiness by afternoon, high in the low 30s with winds from the N at 10-20 mph. Thursday night, clearing, low in the upper teens. Friday, partly sunny and warmer with brisk winds, high near 40.

A&E: Sites to See — Page 5.

Sports: Boxer Sabala ready to make a hit in Omaha —Page 13.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Non-smokers respond 63 percent in favor of smoking ban

By Lee Rood
Senior Reporter

Sixty-three percent of the 748 students that completed an Association of Students of the University of Nebraska survey said they were in favor of a campus-wide ban of smoking in non-residential buildings.

The survey was started more than two weeks ago in conjunction with a proposed administrative change in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's current smoking policy.

Of the 748 graduate and undergraduate participants in the survey, 501 specified they were non-smokers and 68 said they were smokers.

Shawn Boldt, first vice president of ASUN, said he was surprised with the number of non-smokers that took an interest in the survey. Boldt said he had expected smokers to be the majority of participants.

But even of participants, Boldt said, were in favor of banning smoking in various parts of the university.

Students who filled out surveys had the opportunity to express that they would strongly agree, were neutral or strongly opposed a smoking ban in specified areas.

More than 80 percent of the survey participants said they were against smoking in university classrooms and hallways. More than 70 percent said they were against smoking in indoor sports facilities and assembly areas.

In dining areas, 69.5 percent of the participants said they would strongly agree with a smoking ban.

Only a small majority of the participants, 50.5 percent, said they were strongly opposed to smoking in university hallways.

Boldt finished tallying the results of the survey shortly before the ASUN meeting Wednesday night. Now that it is completed,

Boldt said John Goebel, vice chancellor of business and finance, will compare the responses with those of university administrators and professors.

Goebel has been reviewing the university's policy to see if it needs revision. Goebel said in an earlier Daily Nebraskan article that if there are many people on campus against the policy, it may be changed. All changes in the policy would have to comply with the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act passed by the Legislature in 1935.

After Boldt tallied the results of the survey the 1988-89 ASUN senate met for the last time Wednesday night approving a bill recommending standards for hiring foreign teaching assistants.

After many complaints that students have had difficulty understanding the English of many foreign TA's, ASUN Sen. Nancy Clark researched the problem along with the Advisory Committee on International Student Affairs.

Some of the recommended improvements include retaining and enforcing the required score on language competency tests and establishing a procedure to monitor complaints about the spoken English or teaching skills of a foreign TA.

Senators also voted to investigate the possibility of broadcasting an accounting class currently taught by videotape on the Nebraska Educational Television Network or on a Lincoln Cablevision channel.

Currently Accounting 201, taught in the College of Business Administration, has more than 700 students enrolled, senators said.

Broadcasting the course would make it more accessible, they said. To date, students enrolled in the course have only been able to watch reruns of course lectures — outside of its given class time — in the residence halls through closed-circuit television.

Ag director says support systems never allocated to needy farmers

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

Roy Frederick, director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, said Wednesday that agricultural price support systems have never been allocated to farmers who needed it most.

"Because agriculture benefits are applied across the board we have had some people who have very legitimately taken full advantage of these programs, and frankly, they could've lived without them," Frederick said.

Problems for the present price support system stem from the way the program is set up, Frederick said at an ag policy forum in the Nebraska Union sponsored by Omicron Delta Epsilon, the Economics Honor Society.

"We have never had targeted programs in this country," Frederick said. "We haven't been able to get around to talk about that in the U.S. Congress, it's too skittish politically."

Frederick said the price support systems which the farmer needs depends on the size of his operation, and the commodities which the

farmer produces.

"What we have sometimes is a situation where farm programs can provide an opportunity for economic cannibalism in agriculture," he said.

Larry Swanson, a private consultant in agriculture and natural resources, said the farm crisis of the 1980s has been misdiagnosed.

Swanson, speaking to an audience of about 65, said since the 1930s the course of American agriculture has not been sustainable from a resource, energy or financial standpoint.

"We can go on misusing our resource base for years if it pays," Swanson said, "but what happens in this particular case is that it no longer pays."

One example of the current financial course is the collapse of the debt structure on farmers and the rising insolvency of agricultural credit institutions in the past four or five years, Swanson said.

Swanson said he is optimistic and pessimistic about the future of agriculture.

"Agriculture will always have a future, the question is what type," Swanson said.

Experts: Downtown Lincoln needs businesses, parking

By Anne Mohri
Senior Reporter

Downtown Lincoln needs larger businesses and a parking garage to be competitive with urban retailers, according to three downtown redevelopment experts.

A panel met Wednesday at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln college of architecture to discuss redevelopment issues in Lincoln.

Kent Seacrest, a partner in the law firm of Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson, and Oldfather, said if downtown is not redeveloped businesses will go elsewhere.

"Our downtown is not healthy," Seacrest said.

Garner Stoll, director of the Lincoln-Lancaster Planning Department, said several national developers are interested in building a shopping mall on 40th street and Old

Cheney. But the city council will not approve the mall, he said.

Downtown Lincoln needs to attract larger businesses such as Younkers and Dillard's, Seacrest said.

Although the area lacks retail, he said, Lincoln's downtown has potential. He said 25,000 students and others circulate in the downtown area because it is close to UNL and city, county and state offices.

Seacrest said Lincoln has a convention center and hotels and a good public transportation service.

Stoll said public/private business partnerships, such as the Centrum Shopping Plaza, Cornhusker Hotel, Gold's Galleria and the Haymarket Square will improve business.

Dave Erickson, partner in the architecture firm of Erickson-Schulz and Associates, said "the Haymarket has the potential to absorb some of the

dislocated downtown tenants."

More downtown parking will help attract retailers, Stoll said.

A parking garage located on 14th street between O and P streets would attract businesses to the vacant J C Penney and Hovland Swanson stores and the partially vacant Commercial Federal building, Stoll said.

He said chances of leasing these buildings depend on whether or not a parking garage will be built.



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Web of windows

The skylight at Gold's Galleria silhouettes a lone passerby on the top catwalk Monday afternoon.

Foundation to bring speakers to UNL

By Lee Rood
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Martin Massengale announced Wednesday a matching grant that will help open the university to world issues.

Massengale said the Cooper Foundation — UNL Forum on World Issues will bring distinguished speakers to UNL beginning this fall.

The event will be financed with a matching grant from the Cooper Foundation and the University of Nebraska Foundation.

The grants will be allotted to the series throughout a five-year period. The Cooper Foundation will provide \$20,000 and the NU Foundation will supply \$5,000 yearly.

Massengale said the forum will give UNL students and others in the community an opportunity to hear many experts on world events.

While no speakers have been lined up yet, Massengale said, coordinators are looking for experts in world events. He said leaders from various countries will not be excluded from consideration. Some experts, he said, may stir controversy.

Jack Thompson, president of the Cooper Foundation, said the series will not only inform students, but will enable them "to have a relaxed familiarity with the way other people think."

Thompson said if the program is successful after the first five years, he hopes it will continue on indefinitely.

"We hope it will commend itself for long-range financing," he said.

Other schools in the area and individuals in Lincoln will be welcome to attend the lectures, Thompson said.

Massengale said he did not foresee any admission fees being charged for speakers.