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Monday

Weather: Monday, increasing cloudiness and breezy with a 40% chance of thunderstorms, winds from the SE at 15-20 mph, high in the upper 60s. Monday night, cloudy and breezy, 60% chance of showers, low around 40. Tuesday, cloudy and colder with a 50% chance of rain, high in the mid 40s.

A&E: Meanwhile, back at the Ranch Bowl . . . —Page 6.

Sports: UNL gymnasts win Big 8 titles. —Page 5.

Debate to pass, punt athlete pay bill runs on

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

First-round approval of LB1226 by the Nebraska Legislature was a significant victory for the bill's supporters, but some key players in the struggle anticipate the bill will be sacked.

LB1226, if enacted, would treat scholarship football players at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as employees of the university, allowing them to be paid a salary for their efforts on the field.

Legislators advanced the bill on a 26-12 vote last Monday. Two more approvals are required before the bill is sent to Gov. Kay Orr for her signature or veto.

The idea was introduced eight years ago by Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha.

An amendment added to the bill will prevent enactment unless at least four of the other states in the Big Eight Conference region agree to the same legislation. Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma are the other states in the conference.

Nebraska athletic director Bob Devaney said Friday he doesn't think the bill will gain enough support to become enacted.

"I really don't think enough states will pass this thing for it to become reality," Devaney said. "We'd have to explain it to a lot of people, how it would impact the schools involved and everything."

Chambers disagreed.

"I think it has a good chance of passing because the senators now understand the seriousness of the problems concerning NCAA rules," Chambers said.

The NCAA, the governing body of collegiate athletics, prohibits any college athlete from receiving financial compensation beyond the amount paid by his or her scholarship or from anyone except a relative.

If this stipulation is violated, the athlete becomes ineligible for competition. The institution's program can also lose its eligibility.

Chambers has long maintained that his sponsorship of the bill is due to his belief that college football players aren't compensated sufficiently for their time and physical sacrifice in relationship compared to the amount of money generated by the football program.

"I think the same rules should be applied across the board to all students, not excluding the athletes," he said.

These players are generating millions of dollars for their schools' athletic departments, Chambers said, and they can't share in the wealth.

One major problem, Chambers said, is that athletes on scholarship—most of whom require at least five years to graduate because of their athletic practices and travel schedules—aren't allowed to have jobs under current NCAA rules.

"That means that football players have to wait five years before they can have a job in the NFL or elsewhere,"

he said.

Scholarship athletes at service academies—the Air Force, Army and Navy—are paid, Chambers said, and their military service should be considered a job.

Students at service academies, however, are paid for their military service, not for playing football.

Devaney said athletes from needy families can apply for Pell Grant funds. The allowance for Pell Grants for athletes increased from \$900 to \$1,400, and athletes' priorities for Pell Grant money were placed above those of non-athlete students at the NCAA Convention last January in Nashville, Tenn.

Chambers said Pell Grants aren't adequate substitutes for jobs.

"No one places a limit on the outside income of non-athlete students that are on some form of financial aid. They can have jobs," he said. "The money from the Pell Grants just aren't enough."

Another rule Chambers said he disagrees with is what he calls the "keeping the studs in the barn" clause.

"When an athlete transfers to another school and wants to keep playing a sport, he or she has to sit out a year to maintain eligibility," he said. "But when a journalism student transfers from Columbia, you don't have to sit out a year."

In the athletes' case, he said, it's another year they can't have jobs.

Devaney said the main concern he and the athletic department have is with eligibility of the athletes and the

program as a whole. If UNL passed the law and other universities didn't, he said, the Cornhuskers would have no one to play because the players would be professional athletes and would be prohibited from competing on the collegiate level.

"If there were enough schools that agreed, there might be enough pressure put on the NCAA to allow this thing to be OK'd," Devaney said. "But the problem is that so many colleges are pleading poverty these days where their athletic departments are concerned."

Devaney said the payroll required for such a law would be enormous and that most schools would have to decrease the number of their athletic programs to offset the cost.

Devaney said he didn't know how much money would be allotted to each player if the bill were to pass, but \$50 to \$100 a month were the most consistent figures discussed.

Six Big Eight universities recently asked that the \$175,000 limit on the guaranteed visitor's share of game profits be raised when their football teams played at Nebraska and Oklahoma.

"So you can see they're already having trouble with existing funds," Devaney said.

"That's what makes me doubt that other schools would go along with this idea," he said.

UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale said Saturday he had not yet read the bill, but that his support or resistance would depend on its intent.

"If we're talking about some spending money for the athlete to go to a movie or buy a Coke or something like that, that I would support," Massengale said. "But on the other hand, if the bill would have athletes playing a sport just for a salary, then to me it would be out of the question."

Massengale said enactment of LB1226 would present the problem of UNL athletes in other sports also

expecting "their fair share."

"You'll always run across the argument of 'If it's fair to pay one athlete, it's fair to pay another,'" Massengale said.

Of the 19 varsity sports at UNL, Massengale said, only two—football and men's basketball—generate revenue. The other 17 don't make enough money to pay for themselves, he said, and have to rely on the surplus funds from the other two programs to survive.

If the bill is passed, Massengale said, the amount of money required for the payroll could endanger other sports at UNL.

"If what we're talking about would be more than weekend spending money, then we're looking at eliminating other programs, which is not in the best interest of the university," he said. "And I think that eventually, this would begin to cut into academics as well."

"However," Massengale added, "if it were a small amount of spending money for the athletes, that would likely be affordable even to the other non-revenue sports."

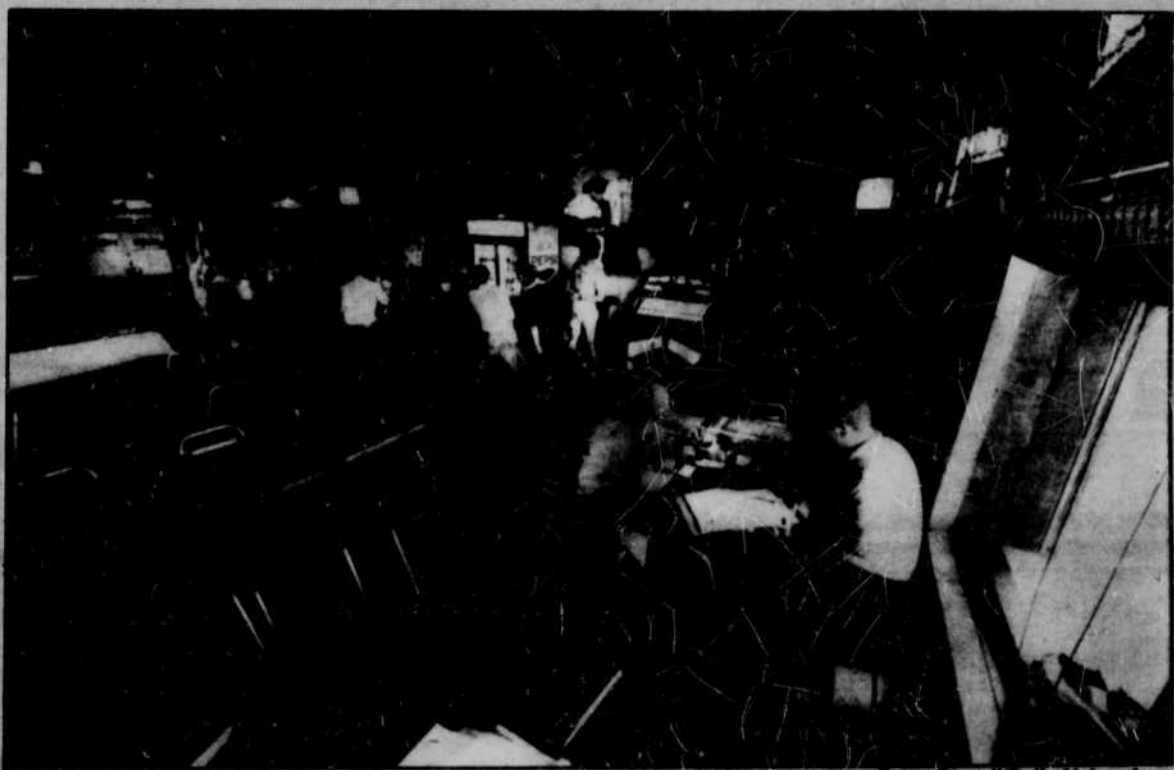
Chambers said the football team's earnings for the Nebraska athletic department are high enough that they could cover any expenses required.

"Their team generates more than enough money to cover any compensation or stipends that can be offered to them through this bill," he said. "The argument of the tax-payers having to go into their pockets to pay for this thing is non-existent."

After the need to compensate football players is brought to the public's attention and people become aware of the need to correct it, then compensation for other sports' athletes and the broader problems can be discussed, Chambers said.

He said one of the most noticeable problems in college athletics today is

See CHAMBERS on 3



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Bar patrons sit around enjoying a day of rest Sunday afternoon at O'Rourke's. O'Rourke's opened at noon Sunday for the first time after the Lincoln City Council passed an ordinance recently allowing on-site selling of beer and wine beginning at noon Sundays.

Downtown businesses await move

By Amy Edwards
Senior Reporter

Business owners who would have to relocate to make room for the Centerpointe project in downtown Lincoln said Sunday they are waiting for a timetable from Mayor Bill Harris before they make plans to move.

Doug McLeese, co-owner of O'Rourke's lounge, 121 N. 14th St., said it's up to the city when the bar will have to move so a 450-stall parking garage can be built between

O. P. 13th and 14th streets.

McLeese said he spoke with Harris and does not know where or when the bar will move.

"We'd love to stay where we are, but if the city doesn't let us we'll relocate downtown," McLeese said.

Harris said Sunday that although there is no definite timetable, he wants to move the project ahead as rapidly as possible.

Harris said the owners of O'Rourke's as well as the owners of Blondie's, 115 N. 14th St., and The Mill, 119 N. 14th St., need a time-

table so they know when they will have to move.

Janie Lane, owner of Blondie's, said she has no definite plans to move the shop until arrangements have been made to begin the project.

The project is the first downtown redevelopment project to be approved by Harris and the Downtown Selection Committee.

Harris said the project will benefit Lincoln by bringing in new busi-

See DOWNTOWN on 3

UNL professor seeking federal research money

By Anne Mohri
Senior Reporter

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor will go to Washington D.C. next month to lobby for \$2 million for leachate research.

Roy Spalding, professor of hydrochemistry in the Conservation and Survey Division, is scheduled to appear before the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee April 11.

The \$2 million requested would go toward research equipment and the two research programs in North Platte and Clay Center.

Leachate research concerns chemical pollution of groundwater, said Irv Omtvedt, vice chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Omtvedt said the proposal has been well received by officials. He said he is optimistic about getting the \$2 million because water quality is a national concern.

Nebraska has a national reputation for its expertise in the area of groundwater contamination from chemicals and fertilizers, and Spalding's work with groundwater contamination has been nationally recognized, Omtvedt said.

Omtvedt said the main concern is to safeguard the use of chemicals in

production practices to maintain environmental quality.

He said the way the chemicals are administered and the amount used determines the amount of pollution that leaches, or filters, through the soil to groundwater.

He said the research would prevent overuse of chemicals and fertilizers. Results of the research would enable farmers to determine the smallest amount of chemicals that would provide optimum production.

Omtvedt said a system being used now is to put the fertilizers or chemicals in the irrigation system with the water. He said the study is to ensure it's being used safely and effectively.

Spalding said Nebraska researchers know more about the location of the groundwater pollution and what causes it than most other states' researchers.

Nebraska probably has some of the worst agricultural nitrate pollution, he said. Several Nebraska cities are having problems, and some of the problems are caused by fertilizer pollution, he said.

Extensive research must be done because of the amount of variables to be considered, he said; for example, the amount of water and rain, the type of soil, the amount of fertilizers and herbicides applied and the time they were applied.